

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

First Session of the Forty-Ninth Parliament (1997)

The Forty-Eighth Parliament of South Australia having been prorogued until 25 November 1997, and the House of Assembly having been dissolved on 13 September, general elections were held on 11 October. By proclamation dated 30 October, the new Parliament was summoned to meet on 2 December, and the First Session began on that date.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Tuesday 2 December 1997

The Council assembled at 11 a.m. pursuant to proclamation issued by His Excellency the Governor (Sir Eric Neal). The Clerk (Mrs J.M. Davis) read the proclamation summoning Parliament.

GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION

The Commissioners appointed by the Governor to do all things necessary to prepare for the opening of the session, the Honourable J.J. Doyle (Chief Justice) and the Honourable R.G. Matheson (a Judge of the Supreme Court) were announced by Black Rod (Mr T.R. Blowes) and conducted to the chairs on the dais.

A message was sent to the House of Assembly requesting members of that House to attend to hear the commission read. The members of the House of Assembly having arrived, the Clerk read the commission.

The Senior Commissioner (the Honourable Mr Justice Doyle) announced that His Excellency the Governor would, in person in this place, declare the reasons for his calling the Parliament together as soon as the new members of the Legislative Council and the members of the House of Assembly had been sworn and the House of Assembly had notified him that it had elected its Speaker.

The members of the House of Assembly and His Honour Mr Justice Doyle withdrew.

MEMBERS, SWEARING IN

His Honour Justice Matheson produced a Commission from His Excellency the Governor authorising him to be a Commissioner to administer to newly elected members the oath of allegiance or receive an affirmation in lieu thereof, also a writ and returns for the election of 11 members.

The oath of allegiance or affirmation was then administered to and subscribed by the new members, who signed the members' roll.

The Commissioner retired.

PRESIDENT, ELECTION

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer): I remind the Council that the time has arrived for the election of its President. I move:

That the Hon. J.C. Irwin be President of the Council.

The Hon. CAROLYN PICKLES (Leader of the Opposition): I second the motion.

The CLERK: Are there any other nominations?

There being no other nomination, the Hon. J.C. Irwin was declared elected and was escorted to the President's Chair by the mover and seconder of the motion.

The Hon. J.C. IRWIN: I humbly submit myself to the will of the Council.

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS: Mr President, on behalf of all members in this Chamber, in particular members of the Government Party, I congratulate you most sincerely on your election to the position of President. Those of us who have known you for some time know of your great love of not only the Parliament but, in particular, the Legislative Council and the position of President, a position which you have now achieved. Those of us who have worked with you both outside and within the Chamber—and I am mindful of a recent debate last session in which a number of members commented on this—know of your great personal integrity. Indeed, on a recent occasion a number of members, and not just from the Government Party, did comment upon that. Certainly, one of the reasons for your being supported unanimously by all members in this Chamber is their respect for your integrity both personally and as a member of Parliament and our belief that you are very well suited to the position of President of the Legislative Council.

Your recent experience as the Government Whip, working with the Hon. George Weatherill, will have prepared you well for the position of President. You will know that the workings of this Chamber are not always easy, but the work of the Whip, together with the work of the President of the day, makes for smooth operations in the Legislative Council. As the Leader of the Government Party in this Chamber I can assure you that you will have our support in terms of trying to make sure that this Chamber continues to work efficiently and effectively.

It is a known fact that in recent years we in this Chamber have demonstrated a willingness to work together and to get on with each other in terms of processing smoothly and efficiently the legislation and other business before the Chamber. As I said, I assure you of our willingness to work with you to ensure that that continues. In conclusion, I again congratulate you and wish you well for the coming four-year period.

The Hon. CAROLYN PICKLES: On behalf of the Opposition, I echo the Leader's remarks. Mr President, you indeed are a man of great integrity, and you are strongly supported in this position by members of the Opposition. We look forward to a very long and happy relationship. The former President, the Hon. Mr Dunn, also came from the country and I am sure that from time to time he would have liked to set a brown kelpie dog among us to keep us all in order. In those circumstances I am sure that you will have the same sense of humour that he had. Indeed, this is a very momentous occasion for you, Mr President, and I believe that the Legislative Council of South Australia has been enhanced by your appointment today and that, likewise, the other Chamber will be enhanced by the appointment of the Speaker. I am sure that at your hands we can expect four years of very fair treatment, and if you do stray I am sure we will let you know! On behalf of all members of the Opposition I extend our congratulations.

The Hon. M.J. ELLIOTT: On behalf of the Democrats I also would like to congratulate you on your election and to pledge our support for you in that role. In the time I have been here we have had excellent Presidents who have impartially filled that position. I have no doubt that you will uphold that position and probably exceed it. We pledge our support to you in your role and to the smooth workings of this Chamber.

The Hon. G. WEATHERILL: Mr President, I also would not like to let this opportunity pass without congratulating you most sincerely. The Liberal Party ought to be congratulated for nominating you to this position in the first place. We in the Labor Party hoped that you would get this position, because you epitomise the word 'honourable'. I have worked with you for the last four years as Whip, and we have not had one problem. I am so thrilled that you have been appointed to this position.

The PRESIDENT: My first task will be to reprogram my brain so that I do not address the Chair when I am sitting in it! Old habits die hard for old conservatives. I take this opportunity to congratulate and welcome those members who were elected to this Parliament on 11 October and who, as we have seen, have been sworn in today. I especially welcome the new members, the Hons John Dawkins, Carmel Zollo and Nick Xenophon, and I welcome back the General MacArthur of South Australian politics, the Hon. Ian Gilfillan.

The Hon. R.I. Lucas: I would have said Nellie Melba.

The PRESIDENT: I thought of Nellie Melba, but this is the other way around: 'I will return'—and he has returned! I thank the Party Leaders and my former fellow Whip, the Hon. George Weatherill, for supporting my nomination and for the words that they expressed. I thank members for the honour—and it really is an honour—of electing me as President. I also thank my wife and family for their wonderful support and for a lot of tolerance at times.

I feel humble standing before members when I consider the calibre of the people who have gone before me while I have served in this place, some of whom have been mentioned today, namely, the Hon. Anne Levy, the Hon. Peter Dunn and the late Hon. Gordon Bruce. I hate to say it, but my memory goes back to the Hon. Sir Walter Duncan, who served as President of this place from 1944, when I was a mere seven years old, until 1962, by which time I was married with a son. Eighteen years is a fair span. The Hon. Les Densley followed him, and he came from the town of Keith in the South-East, where I spent 30 happy years on a farm with a growing family amongst a very inclusive community, from which I have learnt a great deal.

Members are no doubt relieved to learn that they will not have to endure a presidency from me of any longer than four years. I do not think that I or anyone else nowadays could manage 18 years. Whilst promising members that, I will respect and uphold the traditions and practices of this place, which claims an independence in the legislative process. I look forward to working with members to explore ways in which to improve arrangements that are in place for members and staff, both inside and outside this place, in order to improve our performance.

As members know, a number of housekeeping matters need to be resolved as quickly as possible. It is my intention to consult with members beginning later today, and I will communicate my decisions as soon as it is practicable to do so. In conclusion, I look forward to working with all members in making the new parliamentary year a very happy and productive one for the State.

At 11.33 a.m., attended by a deputation of members, the President proceeded to Government House.

On resuming at 11.57 a.m.:

The PRESIDENT: I have to report that, accompanied by honourable members, I proceeded to Government House and there presented myself as President to His Excellency the Governor, and claimed for the Council the right of free access to and communication with His Excellency, and that the most favourable construction might be placed on all its proceedings. His Excellency was pleased to reply:

I congratulate the honourable members of the Legislative Council on their choice of President. I readily assure you, Mr President, of my confirmation of all the constitutional rights and privileges of the Legislative Council, the proceedings of which will always receive most favourable consideration.

[Sitting suspended from 12 noon to 2.15 p.m.]

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

Honourable members of the Legislative Council and members of the House of Assembly:

I have called you together for the dispatch of business.

That is—the Rebuilding of South Australia.

During this term of Government and starting with this session of Parliament, my Government proposes to introduce a number of measures to increase the speed of this State's rebuilding program.

My Government is committed to economic recovery, to rejuvenation for South Australia.

It is a recovery and growth program that must, and will, be achieved hand in hand with the compassion of social responsibility.

Its commitments are clear.

Its program is financially and socially sustainable.

The targets that were set in December 1993 are on track, and remain fundamental priorities.

For my Government in its second term, it is now a question of balance.

It is committed to moving forward with bold measures for this State and its people.

Yet, all policy decisions must still be taken with a weather eye on the State's debt.

The State's debt reduction strategy will continue with equal vigour to that pursued in the past four years.

As will an emphasis on job creation, particularly for our young people.

Attracting new investment into South Australia is also a strategy to be tackled with vigour.

And being able to listen to and act on the unique problems of South Australia's regional and rural communities is high on my Government's agenda.

My Government's commitment for our future is:

- to create an economic climate in this State which encourages and therefore delivers employment growth throughout the State.
- to deliver a secure business climate conducive to expansion.
- to nurture an enviable quality of life for everyone who chooses to live in this State.
- to engender trust in the political process by ensuring a productive level of debate within Parliament, and to indicate by example, that Governments are accountable to the people.
- to show South Australians that public service means exactly that—through restructuring of the public sector so that cost effective, quality service delivery to the people of this State is its first priority.
- to promote tolerance and understanding within South Australia at a time in our nation's history when we appear to be most vulnerable to intolerance and lack of understanding.
- to continue to make decisions in the best interests of the long term future of this State and its people;
 - accepting that minority groups will be listened to but must not be allowed to control the State's agenda; and that Government decisions are made to ensure the best possible outcome to benefit future generations as well as ourselves.

and, importantly,

- to show all South Australians that by its determined goal of a better South Australia, it has listened to and acted upon the message of October 11.

My Government is committed to being focused on the job that South Australians elected it to do.

It is already in the process of implementing many new initiatives.

Already the comprehensive restructure and amalgamations within the State's public service have begun,

Already work has begun to ensure that this State rejuvenates its public sector by employing more young people under the age of 24 than any other State in percentage terms.

Already companies tendering for Government work must be able to show the existence of long term training programs for young people, if they are to be considered.

Already small businesses are being contacted and encouraged to employ and train one young person for at least two years,

supported by a Government jobs program announced before the recent election.

Already plans are moving ahead for the establishment of an Asian language and culture centre in Adelaide.

And our new Asia-Pacific Agent General has been appointed and is at work.

Initiatives with speed is the creed of my Government.

One of the first pieces of legislation to be introduced this session will be a Bill to implement the changes to the composition of the Ministry which were announced by the Premier in October 1997.

The new Ministry is to consist of ten Cabinet Ministers and five Ministers to assist.

The changes have been partially implemented by the appointment of ten Cabinet Ministers.

Once the necessary legislation is enacted, five Ministers, who will not be members of Cabinet, will be appointed.

A Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier will also be appointed.

These changes to the Ministerial structure are bold and innovative.

They are intended to create opportunities for better whole of Government integration and a more effective and unified service delivery at no extra cost to the taxpayer.

My Government has made clear it is intent on taking South Australia into the new millennium as a productive State able to hold its own in the global economy.

As the new millennium approaches, my Government recognises that South Australia is a State in transition, from a rural and manufacturing State to a State with a growing emphasis on valued added production from both its major sectors.

This is particularly evident in the primary industry sector, which is fast evolving from an exporter of raw materials, into a burgeoning food and beverage producer able to supply into the massive markets of Asia.

South Australia is also becoming a State with a fast expanding resource sector—a key to the State's future financial security. There is the expansion of Olympic Dam, the potential of the Gawler Craton, and plans underway to open up the vast mineral wealth in our North.

South Australia now also has an emphasis on tourism for economic growth and my Government has moved with speed to ensure that across all portfolio areas tourism is treated as a key sector.

This can be seen by the Glenelg and West Beach foreshore developments for which legislation is to be introduced this week; by the extensions to Wilpena, by the Barossa tourism transport plan.

By the upgrading of tourism access roads, signposting programs and new information centres.

All these factors which are to affect our State in the next few years, combine to set the policy and legislative agenda of my Government in its second term.

THE STATE FINANCES

Everything that needs to be accomplished in South Australia, and can be accomplished, is predicated on the finances of the State.

It is predicated on achieving a balance between spending to stimulate the economy and critical debt reduction, to reduce South Australia's still massive interest payments on its debt and to facilitate a return to this State's triple A credit rating—a vital outcome to ensure business confidence.

My Government has achieved a substantial transformation of the State's finances in the past four budgets.

In 1994, the Commission of Audit identified the underlying deficit in the non commercial sector at about \$350 million. In 1996/7 that deficit was \$57 million. The 1997/8 budget continues that improvement with an estimated small underlying surplus of \$1 million.

Asset sales across Government achieved sales of approximately \$2.1 billion in just over three years.

Not only were the prices achieved higher than valuation in virtually all cases, but the sales have also generated new employment opportunities and brought new investment into the State, and created new competition.

My Government will now introduce legislation to deal with a number of taxation issues.

The first stage of these measures will be the implementation of initiatives announced before the recent election.

The current stamp duty on cheques drawn on interstate accounts will be removed with effect from the first of January 1998.

This measure recognises the fact that we are a proud export state and business should not be disadvantaged in this area.

The exemption of stamp duty on the refinancing of mortgages by primary producers will be re-instated to enable them to obtain a more competitive deal from the banks.

And exemptions from stamp duty will also be available for people living in rural areas where they are forced by the closure of their local financial institution to move their accounts and loans to another financial institution still operating in their town.

These two measures recognise that the restructuring of the banks has been damaging to the residents and to the economies of small country towns in South Australia.

In addition to these benefits, my Government will be introducing legislation to close off tax avoidance opportunities in relation to the use of trusts to minimise obligations to pay stamp duty and land tax.

Legislation will also be introduced to eliminate avoidance mechanisms involving financial institutions duty and short term dealings.

Any further avoidance schemes which become apparent during the life of the Parliament will also be dealt with in a similar fashion.

These measure are to ensure that everyone pays their fair share of the taxation burden.

Following the High Court decision earlier this year, which cast doubt on certain revenue raising measures, legislation will be introduced to repeal the ad valorem licence fee components payable under the Liquor Licensing Act, the Petroleum Products Regulation Act and the Tobacco Products Regulation Act.

Legislation will also be introduced to facilitate the subsidy scheme for petroleum and diesel fuel which the States have implemented following the increase in the Commonwealth excise charges for petrol and tobacco products.

This session of Parliament is where my Government clamps down on the spread of gaming machines with legislation to be introduced to specifically exclude new gaming machine venues from shopping centres.

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

My Government has drawn together all those areas of responsibility.

This has been done so that nurturing and encouraging a small child in kindergarten, looking after that child through a relevant education, and then either into tertiary education or the workforce, is taken care of under one umbrella area of Government.

This recognises that ensuring the next generation has the skills and the capacity to contribute to society, to be well rounded members of a fast changing workforce, is one of my Government's most vital responsibilities and must be done extremely well.

Early learning difficulties must be noticed and assisted. Curriculum must be relevant to the pace of change in the world. Supporting school leavers into employment is critical. My Government will focus on generating new employment opportunities through its economic development and industry policies such as the \$30 million, three year Youth Employment Package.

This package is directed at promoting vocational education and training in secondary schools; at assisting employers to cover some of the costs in employing a young person; and at providing specific labor market programs which directly link young people to employment.

There is a commitment to excellence in our schools. The early years strategy will continue to have top priority, with funding of at least \$32 million over the next four years.

There will also be mandatory baseline assessment by teachers of all children in their first year at school and my Government will work with other State Governments to develop national benchmark standards for literacy and numeracy at year three and year five.

The basic skills tests will be maintained for all year three and five students.

In addition, during the first three years of school, a minimum contact time of 70 to 90 minutes a day will be spent on literacy development. A particular emphasis on reading and writing will be required.

Spending will increase for students with disabilities and severe learning difficulties to \$9.25 million in 1998. This will provide more special education teachers and extra school services officer hours.

The \$75 million five-year Tech2001 strategy will continue to be funded through to the year 2000/2001 budget.

And the computer subsidy program which provides higher levels of subsidy for schools from poorer communities will also continue.

In addition, a \$10 million computer-plus package, which involves \$5 million in cash grants to schools, is to be provided.

There is an additional \$1.5 million a year to implement a 10 year plan for languages education, and a three year Aboriginal education strategy will improve learning outcomes for Aboriginal students.

School closures and amalgamations will be minimal and closures will be considered only after a compulsory process of public consultation, as has been the case in the first term of my Government.

With education as a high priority, significant capital works projects are to be undertaken.

\$6 million is being spent on initial work at the Education Development Centre Project at Hindmarsh.

Christies Beach High School is to be amalgamated on one site. A new primary school is to open at Gawler North. Croydon High School and Norwood/Morialta High School are to be redeveloped.

There is to be a new \$5 million TAFE centre at Kadina and \$26 million Centre for Performing and Visual Arts in Light Square.

Pre-schools are important too. There is to be a 33 per cent increase to the fixed grant to pre-school management committees to assist in the cost of programs.

Through this range of initiatives, my Government aims that South Australian children should, every one, and equally, have the opportunity to reach their education and employment potential.

HUMAN SERVICES

My Government is committed to better health, housing and community services to help those with the greatest needs in our community.

This approach will be a people-centred one that will ensure the provision of quality care is a priority.

The health and well-being of the community is high on my Government's agenda.

As an example, arrangements are currently under way to offer free influenza vaccinations to pensioners over the age of 70 to minimise the impact of this debilitating condition on the elderly.

The focus will also be on improved personal health care. In 1997/8 my Government provided an additional \$45.5 million for health, and an additional \$77 million of State funds are provided, compared to 1993/94.

Major new building projects include significant redevelopment of the Royal Adelaide Hospital and the Queen Elizabeth and Daw Park Repatriation General Hospitals. New facilities are being built at Roxby Downs and Port Augusta.

There will also be an emphasis on the use of information technology to support and enhance health service delivery.

Research conducted by my Government's Human Service's Office for Families and Children, continues to show we have amongst the highest quality of life in Australia for families. This research examined factors such as affordability, the environment, low crime rates and education.

This is important because it reflects a strong sense of community even in the most difficult times.

To care for older people in our community, my Government made a commitment when it launched "Ageing—A ten year plan for South Australia" in April, 1996. In addition my Government has joined with other States and the Commonwealth to pursue a national strategy for the Ageing.

That strategy is in draft form at this point, and will create a focus for the United Nations' International Year of Older People in 1999.

In the area of disability services, my Government appointed the State's first Minister for Disability Services in 1996.

It has provided \$16.8 million in additional services for people with disabilities. It will now seek a special Commonwealth funding program to provide additional resources.

For our Aboriginal people, a broad based plan for services is being worked through. The focus of this plan "A Different Future" is on changing planning, policy, funding arrangements and practices to assist and support aboriginal communities and families achieve a better way of life.

The new portfolio responsibility put in place by my Government provides a unique opportunity to deliver better coordinated aboriginal health, housing and community service needs.

All of these initiatives and commitments are indicative of my Government's determination that South Australians, who are in need of health and support services will have their needs met with the very highest standards of care.

JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

My Government is committed to a cohesive approach to this area of responsibility, an approach of reform and reassurance. Support will continue for victims of crime, while the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme is to be improved

to ensure no-one injured while committing an offence can claim against the fund.

There is a comprehensive legislative program in place.

Legislation is to be introduced to reform the complaints, conciliation and disciplinary processes against members of the legal profession and my Government will also support the development of a national legal practising certificate.

Amendments to the Domestic Violence Act and the Summary Procedure Act will be introduced.

My Government's work in dealing with domestic violence is recognised by the rest of Australia as being visionary and as such, it is the best available. This effort will continue both in the areas of Justice and Human Services.

A Bill is to be introduced to overhaul comprehensively the law on theft, fraud, false pretences, embezzlement and forgery, some of which dates back to legislation of the 18th Century.

My Government also intends changes to the process of fine enforcement to ensure the obligation of people to pay fines is met and so that the cost to the community of placing fine defaulters in jail is removed.

POLICE

My Government expects to be able to introduce a Bill for a new Police Act. This will update the legislative basis to support a modern police management structure.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Measures will be introduced to refine and enhance the occupational licensing regimes already in place. This is to ensure the systems meet the needs of industry and consumers.

PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

My Government's State Food Plan will generate significant economic growth in South Australia by increasing exports and creating new jobs.

The State Food Plan aims to increase food output from \$5.5 billion per year to \$15 billion by 2010.

Part of the plan involves developing new partnerships with rural communities to expand existing businesses and attract new investment to increase regional export capacity and importantly, jobs.

ENERGY

My Government is committed to competition reform in the energy sector and will be introducing legislation to advance the introduction of the National Electricity Market.

Similarly, new legislation will be introduced which will open up the natural gas market.

Significantly, my Government is the lead legislator in the application of laws for Natural Gas Access legislation.

MINES AND ENERGY RESOURCES

My Government is committed to the responsible development of the State's mineral and petroleum resources with exploration expenditure now at its highest level since 1986.

For this strong trend to continue, my Government will ensure that it provides the best possible regulatory and geo-scientific environment to assist the development of this important industry.

WOMEN

Options for extending work-based child care in the public sector are to be explored and are to be adopted progressively by Government agencies.

The impact of enterprise bargaining arrangements on women is to be closely monitored.

There is to be an emphasis on promoting information for women in regional and rural areas. While the specific needs of rural women will be addressed by my Government,

particularly in the areas of justice, education, employment, health, housing and safety.

And my Government remains committed to achieving its goal of 50 per cent representation of women on Government boards and committees by the year 2000. The Government will also work to increase women's representation on private sector boards and committees.

ARTS

My Government takes much pride in its increased support for the Arts—which will make 1998 the biggest year for the arts and culture in the history of the State.

Sir Donald Bradman's personal collection of cricketing memorabilia will go on permanent display in January.

By mid year, work will begin on the Aboriginal Cultures Gallery. Initial design work will commence on the \$36 million redevelopment of the State Library.

The \$5 million redevelopment of the National Motor Museum at Birdwood will be opened by September and the 25th anniversary of the Adelaide Festival Centre will be celebrated with a refurbishment of the Festival Theatre.

South Australia will host the Australian Performing Arts Market in February, leading into three weeks of the Telstra Adelaide Festival and the Adelaide Fringe which will be followed later in the year by the first Australian presentation of Wagner's Ring Cycle by State Opera and the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra.

GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES

This new Ministry has been formed to provide greater Government oversight to the broad area of public corporations.

These corporations are particularly affected by competition policy, emphasising the need for monitoring and key policy decisions.

Also under this Minister is the newly formed Department of Administrative and Information Services. Here my Government has consolidated a wide range of services to industry. The use of information technology and electronic business services within Government will be significantly increased to enhance service provision.

And it will strengthen the State's information technology infrastructure for service delivery to business and the community.

My Government is to bring forward legislation this session to amend the WorkCover Corporation Act and the Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation Act to establish a category of employer known as "self managed employer".

These employers will be responsible for the management of workers compensation claims made by their employees, but the liability for the cost of the claims will remain with the WorkCover scheme.

Also as a priority this session my Government will introduce legislation to repeal the MFP Development Corporation Act. The MFP is to be abolished and considerable savings achieved.

Alternative arrangements will be made for the management of the Government and community interest in those projects previously managed by the MFP, which can contribute to the future of the State.

TRANSPORT

Over the first term, my Government delivered increased

patronage and improved services in public transport. This effort will continue with a greater focus given to passenger service information and service flexibility, within the context of a cost-effective operation. Costs per vehicle hour in TransAdelaide have reduced by 20 per cent since 1993/4.

Performance standards for taxis, hire cars, charter tour and country bus services—and all drivers—are being addressed to ensure fairer competition and better services, and there is to be a review of the Passenger Transport Act.

My Government has a strong program of forward planning for transport infrastructure.

The most important infrastructure project is the Adelaide to Darwin rail link for which \$100 million has been committed. As well, stage one of the Southern Expressway from Darlington is to be opened this month, and planning for stage two, from Reynella to Onkaparinga is under way.

The airport runway extension at Adelaide Airport is ahead of schedule and the strategy to seal all rural arterial roads in council areas by 2004 is on target.

Cost benefit studies will address the extension of the Glenelg tram, O-Bahn busway to the south and a rail link to West Lakes.

These studies will be progressed in concert with development of a road network strategy for Adelaide to oversee traffic management issues for the next 15 years.

Legislation will be introduced to clarify school zone safety issues; to provide parking permits to people with temporary physical impairments and to the organisations caring for people with physical disabilities; and to require road users to give way to buses.

THE ENVIRONMENT

My Government's environmental commitment is based on its belief that the environment is our future.

My Government's environmental policy takes into account the increasing level of community interest, and the importance of community involvement and participation in environmental protection and conservation.

There is a wide range of initiatives in this area.

Following the success of the Torrens, Patawalonga and River Murray Catchment Water Management Boards, further boards are to be established for the Onkaparinga River catchment and Northern Adelaide and the Barossa region.

My Government through the Murray-Darling Basin Commission is pursuing trade in water allocations across State borders. A pilot trading program is scheduled to commence in January 1998.

The program which is funded by the Environmental Protection Authority to reduce and recycle industrial commercial and demolition waste will continue.

Proposals to establish and operate South Australia's air monitoring network are presently being assessed and could commence early in 1998.

My Government has committed a further \$30 million to nature conservation and visitor facilities in our parks over the next six years.

And an integrated pest management program in the Flinders Ranges National Park is on target to have the park free of pests by the year 2000.

Environmental care and protection is a long term continuous strategy—one my Government is more than willing to undertake.

PLANNING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

My Government will continue to review and refine its planning strategy.

Planning laws and approval processes will be further streamlined and the adoption of a new performance-based Building Code of Australia will revolutionise building legislation in our State by introducing performance rather than prescriptive requirements for buildings.

My Government is committed to the strengthening and revitalisation of the Adelaide City centre which is a strategic asset that is integral to the economic growth of the State.

Support will continue to be provided to the Adelaide City Council Governance Review Advisory Group in order to develop appropriate arrangements for the future governance of the City.

Local Government reforms of the past four years will be built on.

The Local Government Boundary Reform Board has been reappointed for a further twelve months.

As well, management and organisational reform of local government will be pursued, particularly in the areas of competitive arrangements and performance assessment.

And a re-write of the Local Government Act 1934 will continue.

SPORT, RECREATION AND RACING

Continuing my Government's program to have international standard sporting facilities in South Australia, stage two of the redevelopment of Hindmarsh soccer stadium is due to commence in April 1998.

This will enable Adelaide to host the quarter final of the 2000 Olympics soccer competition.

My Government will also continue to attract and support major events which will generate economic benefit for the State.

And my Government is working with the Racing Industry Development Authority on its marketing strategies, evaluating the impact of stake money increases, and supporting the development of accredited training in the industry which build on available TAFE programs.

PARLIAMENT

As we head towards the millennium, it is important that the operations of Parliament also advance to recognise the changing needs and demands of the community.

My Government is committed to that goal and will initiate a review which analyses the processes and procedures of Parliament as well as the accountability and responsibility of members in that parliamentary process.

Significantly, current practices of sitting late into the evening and even into the early hours of the morning often make it difficult for Members to properly assess legislative matters, affect their ability to serve their electorates and impact severely on the families of Members.

My Government intends to review this matter with a view to better balancing the demands inside and outside of the Parliament for the benefit of the community.

My Government is committed to ensuring South Australians are free to choose for themselves whether or not to vote at State elections and therefore my Government remains committed to the introduction of voluntary voting.

Ultimately, my Government is accountable for its actions through this Parliament to the people of South Australia and it fully recognises this responsibility in placing its proposed legislative program before Honourable Members.

FORMER MEMBERS

Since the previous address in this place, I have to record the deaths of three former members who served the community well.

Boyd Dawkins MBE was a member of the Legislative Council from 1962 to 1982 serving the Parliament for 20 years. During that time he was both the Government and Opposition Whip in the Legislative Council.

Another long serving member who passed away was Jack Slater. He held the House of Assembly seat of Gilles for nearly 20 years from 1970 until his retirement in 1989. In 1982, he was appointed as a Minister, and held the portfolios of Water Resources and Recreation and Sport until his retirement from the Ministry in 1985.

Reg Curren served the Riverland region in the House of Assembly from 1962 to 1968 and then from 1970 to 1973 and was an active member of a number of parliamentary committees including the committee on land settlement.

I know that you will join me in expressing sympathy to the families and relatives of these past members.

I now declare this session open and trust that your deliberations will be guided by Divine Providence to the advancement of the welfare of the people of this State.

The Governor retired from the Chamber, and the Speaker and members of the House of Assembly withdrew.

The President again took the Chair and read prayers.

MEMBERS, FORMER AND NEW

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer): I move:

That this Council expresses thanks to former members, the Hons H.P.K. Dunn, J.A.W. Levy, P. Nocella and B.S.L. Pfitzner, and welcomes new members the Hons J.S.L. Dawkins, I. Gilfillan, C. Zollo and N. Xenophon.

I thank the members who are no longer with us, the Hons Peter Dunn, Anne Levy, Paolo Nocella and Bernice Pfitzner. It seems so long ago, I must confess, when the Chamber last sat in July this year. Members certainly had the opportunity to bid farewell to the Hons Peter Dunn and Anne Levy and *vice versa*: they were able to bid farewell to us as theirs was a planned departure. However, members did not have the opportunity to farewell the Hons Bernice Pfitzner and Paolo Nocella. In bidding farewell to those members, I first acknowledge the hard work of the Hon. Bernice Pfitzner, who was a member of this Chamber for approximately seven years, and the Hon. Paolo Nocella who, I am advised by the Hon. Carolyn Pickles, was with us for approximately two years.

I am sure that those members enjoyed their time in the Legislative Council and serving the community. I obviously know in much more detail the work of the Hon. Bernice Pfitzner. As I indicated at a function to farewell Bernice two or three weeks ago, I place on the public record my acknowledgment, as the Leader of the Government, of the outstanding work Bernice undertook not only as a member of the Legislative Council but also in relation to her work as Chair of the Social Development Committee. I also acknowledge the work she undertook for the broader South Australian community and particularly her work for the Asian South Australian community. Bernice was a very active worker for that community, as she was for a number of other communities. She did not limit herself to working with the Asian-South Australian community, and worked many long and hard hours with that community. At the farewell two or three weeks ago a number of members of that community were

there to pay public recognition to and thank Bernice for the work that she had undertaken for members of that community.

I thank the Hon. Paolo Nocella for his two or so years in the Legislative Council. He was particularly active in the multicultural communities represented in South Australia. Given his past position within the public sector he obviously will continue that close association now that he is working for the Labor Party. I will not repeat my comments about Peter Dunn and Anne Levy: I thanked and congratulated them for their work the last time the Parliament met.

I welcome the new members to this Chamber. I welcome my colleague the Hon. John Dawkins. John, we are delighted to see you in the Legislative Council. I know of your long interest in the Parliament and the Legislative Council. Your long and loyal support of the Liberal Party of Australia (South Australian Division) indicates that you will give great service to this Parliament and Chamber, the South Australian community and your Party. As the Leader of the Government in this Chamber, I welcome you.

I welcome the other two new members, the Hon. Carmel Zollo and the Hon. Nick Xenophon, and congratulate them on their election. I will refer separately to the Hon. Ian Gilfillan in a moment. Clearly, the Hon. Carmel Zollo has enjoyed significant support from within her Party (the Labor Party) to have been placed so highly and comfortably on the Party's Legislative Council ticket. I know of Carmel's work in the broader community, although I must confess that personally I do not know Carmel well. I am sure that she will be an outspoken advocate for her Party and the various groups that she will represent in her eight year term in the Parliament. I wish her well in her membership of the Council.

On behalf of Government members of the Legislative Council, I welcome the Hon. Nick Xenophon. I am sure that he will enjoy his time in the Legislative Council. He started off with a blaze of publicity and glory, but he will have to keep up that pace for eight years. I am not sure how he will manage that only on the issue of gaming machines, but I am sure, knowing the honourable member's ingenuity, that he will keep it up for a good period of time. This will be a challenge for the Hon. Mr Xenophon, as the Hon. Lance Milne found when he was here first as an Independent. It is a difficult and challenging task to be an Independent in a House of Parliament, such as in the Legislative Council. Having had the opportunity to meet and discuss with Nick his interests not only in gaming machines but other areas I am sure that he will, over the next eight years, express his views forcefully on a range of issues other than gaming machines.

Finally, I pay some welcoming comments to someone we came to know as Iggy Pop in his last foray into Parliament. The newer members of the Legislative Council will have to ask the Hon. Mr Gilfillan to what that particular nickname refers. Ian, we welcome you back to the Legislative Council, whether it be as General MacArthur, Dame Nellie Melba or whatever else.

The Hon. L.H. Davis interjecting:

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS: My colleague the Hon. Mr Davis says I should speak for myself on that particular matter. I am sure he says that in jest and with tongue in cheek.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS: I was being very kind on behalf of my colleague the Hon. Legh Davis. Ian, we worked with you in Opposition before and we look forward to working with you in Government. As you know, Ian, good natured barbs to the side, I have always had great respect for your

integrity in relation to the Council and your approach to matters before the Council. As the Hon. Ian Gilfillan will know, we shared many an interest going back many years in a number of areas, and I look forward to continuing earnest discussion both in the Chamber and outside on those matters. Again, on behalf of Government members, I welcome the new members and thank the members who have left the Chamber.

The Hon. CAROLYN PICKLES (Leader of the Opposition): I am very pleased to second the motion. As the Leader indicated, we have already said our farewells to the Hon. Mr Dunn and the Hon. Anne Levy but, once again, I pay a tribute to them, both of whom in their time served as President of the Legislative Council. Of course, the Hon. Anne Levy was a very distinguished Minister, particularly in the area of the arts. We all will miss my former colleague the Hon. Paolo Nocella, but I understand that in his private capacity Mr Nocella will continue to work very hard in his chosen field, that is, working for the Italian community. We wish him well in his endeavours.

I worked very briefly with the Hon. Bernice Pfitzner on the Social Development Committee when she was Chair of that committee (I was a former Chair of the committee) prior to my being elected as the Leader of the Opposition. I always think it is a great pity to lose our women members of Parliament, and I believe that she served the State of South Australia very well. It was very interesting to note at the declaration of the poll that she did feel that her demise was due, in part, to some elements of racism within the Liberal Party. I do not believe that to be true because, in fact, your Leader has an Asian background. I believe that that was a rather unfortunate remark, which was somewhat uncalled for on her part; nevertheless, she did work very hard and we all regret seeing her go.

However, it is good to welcome another new woman to the Legislative Council by way of the Hon. Carmel Zollo. Carmel has worked tirelessly in the Italian community, and I am sure that she will go on to distinguish herself in that capacity and in many others. Carmel has had a very long background in working for Government members at both State and Federal levels, and I am sure that she will distinguish herself in the years to come.

I would also like to welcome the Hon. John Dawkins. I am sure that he will follow in his father's footsteps and be able to distinguish himself in that way.

I welcome the Hon. Nick Xenophon. I am sure that in the next eight years he will not talk just about poker machines, otherwise we all will get very bored. As the people of South Australia have shown by electing him to Parliament, it is obviously a very important issue. We await with interest the Bill that he will present shortly to the Parliament.

I again welcome the Hon. Ian Gilfillan back to the Parliament. It is almost as though he never left. I really do not know what you are doing back here Ian, but it is always good to see you. You always bring an element of joviality, particularly at the President's dinner. New members may not realise that the Hon. Mr Gilfillan looks rather dashing in his kilt and that he has been known to reveal some secrets on those occasions when he has worn his kilts, but I do not wish to go into that any further while we debate this motion.

The Hon. L.H. Davis: That's a bit below the belt!

The Hon. CAROLYN PICKLES: It was a bit below the belt. We have lost four distinguished members of this Council and we have gained another four. It is very good to see these

new people. On behalf of the Opposition, I wish them well in their careers and, in particular, I wish my parliamentary colleague Carmel Zollo a long and distinguished career in Parliament.

The Hon. M.J. ELLIOTT: On behalf of the Democrats I also want to acknowledge those members who have now left this place. Both Anne Levy and Peter Dunn had a chance to have quite long careers here and would feel in many ways that they achieved many things. Whilst both Bernice and Paolo would have felt that they still had more to contribute, at least for the time being they have lost that opportunity. I wish all those members well.

I extend a welcome to the newly elected members: John Dawkins, Carmel Zollo and Nick Xenophon. You will be on various-sized learning curves—perhaps not quite so much for John, having watched his father, although times have changed a bit and even he might find there is a bit more here than might have first met the eye. Of course, it is good to have my colleague Ian Gilfillan back and to give him one third of my portfolios. I am sure Sandra feels the same way. We are particularly pleased to see Ian back and to see his presence as an endorsement of what we achieved over the last couple of years. With those few words, I support the motion.

Motion carried.

COMMISSION OF OATHS

The PRESIDENT: I inform the Council that I have received from His Excellency the Governor a commission authorising me to administer the oath or affirmation to members of the Legislative Council.

ENVIRONMENT, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The PRESIDENT: I lay upon the table the report of the Environment Resources and Development Committee on aeromatics in petrol, with particular reference to benzene, which was authorised, printed and published pursuant to section 17(7)(b) of the Parliamentary Committees Act 1991.

PAPERS TABLED

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the President—

- Report of the Auditor-General and Treasurer's Financial Statements, 1996-97—Parts A and B.
- Supplementary Report of the Auditor-General, 1996-97—Accounts of Certain Public Authorities.
- Register of Members' Interests—June 1997—Registrar's Statement.
- Ordered—That the Statement be printed.
- Members Travel Expenditure, 1996-97, pursuant to Members of Parliament Travel Entitlement Rules 1983.
- Reports of the Police Complaints Authority 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97.
- Report of the Ombudsman in respect of an investigation of a complaint against the City of Playford by the Salisbury North Football Club.

By the Treasurer (Hon. R.I. Lucas)—

- Australian Formula One Grand Prix Board—Message from Chairman for financial year ended 31 December 1996 and Independent Audit Report.
- Department for Education and Children's Services—Report 1995-96.
- Government Boards and Committees Information—Boards and Committees (by Portfolio) as at 30 June 1997—Report.

Local Government Act 1934—Notice of Approval of a Controlling Authority—Federation of North Eastern Councils.

The Flinders University of South Australia—Report 1995.
Office for the Commissioner for Public Employment—South Australian Public Sector Workforce Information at June 1997.

Reports, 1996—

- Department for Education and Children's Services.
- Senior Secondary Assessment Board of SA.
- The University of Adelaide.
- University of South Australia.

Reports, 1996-97—

- Budget Papers
- Construction Industry Training Board.
- Department of the Premier and Cabinet.
- Department of Treasury and Finance.
- Funds SA.
- Gaming Supervisory Authority.
- Information Technology Workforce Strategy Office.
- Local Government Grants Commission.
- Motor Accident Commission.
- Office for the Commissioner for Public Employment.
- Office of Local Government.
- Operations of the Auditor-General's Department.
- Parliamentary Superannuation Scheme.
- Planning Strategy for South Australia.
- Police Superannuation Board.
- Presiding Officer, Disciplinary Appeals Tribunal.
- Presiding Officer, Promotion and Grievance Appeals Tribunal.

South Australian Asset Management Task Force.

South Australian Gaming Machines Act 1992—Liquor Licensing Commissioner

South Australian Gaming Machines Act 1992—State Supply Board

South Australian Government Captive Insurance Corporation.

South Australian Government Financing Authority.

South Australian Greyhound Racing Authority.

South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission.

South Australian Superannuation Board—Seventy-first Annual Report.

South Australian Thoroughbred Racing Authority.

South Australian Totalizator Agency Board.

South Australian Tourism Commission.

Reports, 1997.

South Australian Asset Management Corporation.

Local Government Finance Authority of South Australia.

Local Government Superannuation Board.

Regulations under the following Acts—

Education Act 1972—

Principal.

Teacher Registration Fees.

Local Government Act 1934—

Local Government Superannuation Board—Bonus Multiple.

Prescribed Controlling Authorities.

National Wine Centre Act 1997—Prescribed

Associations.

Private Parking Areas Act 1986—Clamping.

Public Corporations Act 1993—SA Athletics Stadium.

Superannuation Act 1988—Voter.

Technical and Further Education Act 1972—Principal.

Rules—

Local Government Act 1934—Notice of Amendment of Rules of a Controlling Authority—Little Para River Drainage Authority.

Racing Act 1976—Amendment to Rules—Harness

Racing Board—Combined Races.

Corporation By-laws—

Burnside—No. 5—Waste Management.

District Council By-laws—

Ceduna—No. 7—Keeping of Dogs.

Cleve—No. 1—Permits and Penalties.

Victor Harbor—

No. 1—Permits and Penalties.

No. 2—Repeal and Renumbering of By-laws.

- No. 3—Height of Fences near Intersections.
 No. 4—Garbage Removal.
 No. 5—Council Land.
 No. 6—Traffic.
 No. 7—Caravans, Tents and Camping.
 No. 8—Nuisances.
 No. 9—Bees.
 No. 12—Advertising Hoardings.
 No. 13—Flammable Undergrowth.
 No. 14—Controlling the Foreshore.
 No. 15—Vehicles kept or let for Hire.
 No. 16—Water Reserves.
 Wattle Range—No. 10—Bird Scarers.
 Yankalilla—No. 15—Foreshore.
- Rural City By-laws—
 Murray Bridge—No. 4—Moveable Signs.
- The University of Adelaide—Legislative Business from the Council 1996—Statutes.
- By the Minister for Justice (Hon. K.T. Griffin)—
 Determination of the Remuneration Tribunal No. 4 of 1997.
 Determination of the Remuneration Tribunal No. 5 of 1997—Ministers of the Crown and Officers and Members of Parliament.
 Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1986—Practice Directions.
 Reports, 1996-97—
 Advisory Board of Agriculture.
 Information Technology Services South Australia.
 Lotteries Commission of South Australia.
 Mines and Energy Resources South Australia.
 President, Industrial Relations Commission and Senior Judge, Industrial Relations Court—Third Annual Report.
 Veterinary Surgeons Board of South Australia.
- Reports, 1997—
 Construction Industry Long Service Leave Board—Actuarial Report as at 30 June 1997.
 Construction Benefit Services—Report, 1997.
 ETSA Corporation.
 SA Water.
- Regulations under the following Acts—
 Animal and Plant Control (Agricultural Protection and Other Purposes) Act 1986—Exotic Animals Committee.
 Daylight Savings Act 1971—Summer Time.
 Electricity Act 1996—Vegetation Clearance.
 Fisheries Act 1982—
 Fish Nets—Prohibited Areas.
 General—Protected Fishes.
 Lobster Pots.
 River Fishery Licences etc.
 Industrial and Employee Relations Act 1994—Employer Public Employees.
 Unfair Dismissal.
 Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration (Commonwealth Provisions) Amendment Act 1991—Revocation—Affiliated Associations.
 Long Service Leave Act 1987—Records and Applications.
 Roxby Downs (Indenture Ratification) Act 1982—Local Government Arrangement.
 Stock Foods Act 1941—Labelling.
 WorkCover Corporation Act 1994—Claims Management—Contracts.
 Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1986—Charges—Private Hospitals.
- By the Attorney-General—
 Courts Administration Authority—Report, 1997.
 Reports, 1996-97—
 Department of Public Prosecutions.
 Legal Practitioners Conduct Board.
 Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal—Report to the Attorney-General and the Chief Justice.
 South Australian Classification Council.
 Report to the Attorney-General—Claims Against the Legal Practitioners Guarantee Fund.
 Regulations under the following Acts—
- Co-operatives Act 1997—Principal.
 Criminal Injuries Compensation Act 1997—Prescribed Percentage.
 Electoral Act 1985—Miscellaneous Amendments and Forms.
 Friendly Societies (South Australia) Act 1997—Savings and Transitional.
 Subordinate Legislation Act 1978—Postponement from Expiry.
- Rules of Court—
 District Court—District Court Act 1994—Rules of Court amending the District Court Rules 1992—Amendment No. 17.
 Supreme Court—Supreme Court Act 1935—Amending the Supreme Court (Corporations) Rules Amendment No. 3 to the Supreme Court (Corporations) Rules.
 Amending the Supreme Court Rules 1987—Amendment No. 60 to the Supreme Court Rules.
 Youth Court—Youth Court Act 1993—Amendment No. 3 to the Youth Court Rules—Adoption.
- Summary Offences Act 1953—
 Return as per Section 83b—Dangerous Area Declarations.
 Return as per Section 74b—Road Block Establishment Authorisations.
- By the Minister for Consumer Affairs—
 Regulations under the following Acts—
 Harbors and Navigation Act 1993—Port Bonython.
 Liquor Licensing Act 1985—
 Consumption on Flights.
 Dry Areas—Short term.
 General.
 Long Term Dry Areas—
 Coober Pedy.
 Coober Pedy, Paringa, Wallaroo.
 Glenelg.
 Seacliff.
 Various.
 Victor Harbor.
 Prices Act 1948—Revocation.
 Retail Shop Leases Act 1995—Disclosure Statement.
 Second-hand Vehicle Dealers Act 1995—Auction.
- By the Minister for Police, Correctional Services and Emergency Services—
 Regulations under the following Act—
 Firearms Act 1977—Compensation for Dealers.
 Police Act 1952—Qualifications.
- By the Minister for Transport and Urban Planning (Hon. Diana Laidlaw)—
 Aboriginal Lands Trust—Report, 1995-96.
 Reports, 1996-97—
 Administration of the Radiation Protection and Control Act 1982.
 Charitable and Social Welfare Fund.
 Department for Family and Community Services.
 Dog and Cat Management Board.
 Environment Protection Authority.
 Murray-Darling Basin Commission.
 National Road Transport Commission.
 Office for the Ageing.
 South Australian National Parks and Wildlife Council.
 Torrens Catchment Water Management Board—Report, 1997.
- Regulations under the following Acts—
 Adoption Act 1988—Parents Register.
 Controlled Substances Act 1984—Strychnine.
 Development Act 1993—
 Glenelg Foreshore.
 Private Certifiers.
 Medical Practitioners Act 1983—Fees.
 Motor Vehicles Act 1959—
 Fees.
 Trade Plates.

National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972—Parking.
 Native Vegetation Act 1991—Exemptions.
 Passenger Transport Act 1994—
 Passenger Vehicles.
 Prescribed Period.
 Physiotherapists Act 1991—Qualifications.
 Psychological Practices Act 1973—Fees.
 Road Traffic Act 1961—
 Approved Blood Test Kit.
 Flashing Lights.
 U Turns and Bus Lanes.

By the Minister for the Arts—

Disability Information and Resource Centre—Report,
 1995-96.

Jam Factory Craft and Design Centre—Report and Finan-
 cial Statement for year ended December 1996.

MATTERS OF INTEREST

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer): I move:

That for the remainder of the session Standing Orders be so far suspended so to provide that, at the conclusion of the period of questions without notice on Wednesdays, members may make statements on matters of interest. Up to seven members may speak for a maximum of five minutes each. The President may order the member to resume his or her seat if, in the opinion of President, the member infringes Standing Orders governing the rules of debate.

Motion carried.

STATE BUDGET

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement on the subject of the 1996-97 budget results.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS: The 1996-97 budget results document which I have just tabled presents and analyses the 1996-97 actual results against the 1996-97 budget tabled in Parliament in May 1996. Estimated results for 1996-97 were included in the 1997-98 budget documentation.

The 1996-97 budget forecast an underlying deficit in the non-commercial sector of \$60 million. At the time of the 1997-98 budget, this estimate was revised down slightly to \$59 million. I am now pleased to report to the House that the actual underlying deficit for the non-commercial sector for 1996-97 was \$57 million, a further slight improvement on the Government's original budget estimate.

Total outlays of the non-commercial sector in 1996-97 were below estimate by \$565 million, largely reflecting the impact of the debt transfer of \$450 million to ETSA in that financial year, reduced current outlays and lower than estimated growth fixed capital expenditure. Current outlays were lower than expected due to a reduction in net interest costs of \$75 million, principally reflecting lower average debt levels and declining interest rates over the course of 1996-97. Gross fixed capital expenditures and other capital outlays were \$54 million lower than expected, mainly associated with timing delays in many capital programs, including the Bolivar to Virginia pipeline, diversion works associated with the Adelaide Airport, the public housing program and the Health Commission's metropolitan strategic works program.

The saving on net interest costs, together with timing delays experienced by many agencies with respect to commitments on current programs and capital projects, provided the Government with the capacity to increase superannuation payments. A total of \$568 million was paid to the Superannuation Funds Management Corporation—\$277 million greater than forecast. Of the extra amount,

\$151 million related to employee past service superannuation liability.

Total receipts of the non-commercial sector were below budget by \$92 million in 1996-97. A \$67 million improvement in own source revenues, partly due to increased income distributions from commercial enterprises, was offset by a \$158 million decline in Commonwealth grants against budget. Of this shortfall, \$77 million was due to the reclassification of some health grants to Commonwealth contributions, which are netted against expenditure. Of the remainder, \$50 million reflects South Australia's contribution to the Commonwealth's deficit reduction strategy.

Net proceeds from the sale of Government businesses amounted to \$207 million, including proceeds from the finalisation of the sale of Forwood Products in 1996-97. After including asset sale proceeds, the public sector recorded a surplus of \$234 million.

Net debt decreased in real terms during 1996-97 to \$7 465 million, or 20.7 per cent of the State's gross State product (GSP), as at 30 June 1997. This compares to \$7 752 million or 21.9 per cent of GSP as at 30 June 1996. The continuing reduction in net debt is the direct result of the Government's policies of applying the proceeds of the sale of Government businesses to debt reduction and progressively reducing the underlying deficit of the non-commercial sector through budget policy.

South Australia's GSP grew less strongly in 1996-97 than expected. Growth of 2¼ per cent was forecast at budget time, but the actual outcome was 1.3 per cent. Nationally, there was a rise of 2.8 per cent in the comparable income measure of gross domestic product in 1996-97.

Moving now to Government businesses, income from the commercial enterprises during 1996-97 amounted to \$274 million, which is consistent with the outcome predicted at the time of the 1997-98 budget, and is \$36 million higher than estimated in the 1996-97 budget. This improvement largely reflects the increased profitability of ETSA, SA Water and the Ports Corporation.

In 1996, the Government for the first time published an unaudited whole of Government statement of financial position (balance sheet) and abbreviated notes as at 30 June 1996. The *Budget Results 1996-97* again includes an unaudited whole of Government statement of financial position as at 30 June 1997, and it is expected that a full trial, unaudited consolidated financial report for 1996-97 will be published later in December. The statement is unaudited as much of the data collected from agencies was received prior to the finalisation of the audit of their accounts.

The balance sheet reveals that the South Australian public sector has a net worth of \$9 billion, an amount which can be expected to increase when material assets excluded from the statement under the current transitional provisions can be identified and measured reliably.

The Government's guarantees and contingent liabilities have continued to decline, with further reductions in 1996-97 to \$10.3 billion, down from \$10.8 billion as at 30 June 1996.

The 1997-98 budget remains on track to achieve the small \$1 million surplus that was estimated at budget time. However, recent pressures on the budget such as developments in public sector wages, the High Court decision on State franchise fees and urgently needed \$50 million extensions to the Adelaide Convention Centre mean that careful management will be required if budget estimates are to be met.

In concluding, I would like to offer my thanks to the employees within Government and the various agencies who have assisted the Government to achieve this sound result in 1996-97.

SENATE VACANCY

His Excellency the Governor, by message, informed the Legislative Council that the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, in accordance with section 21 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia, had notified him that, in consequence of the resignation on 15 September 1997 of Senator Dominic John Foreman, a vacancy occurred in the representation of this State in the Senate of the Commonwealth. As the Parliament of the State was not in session when the vacancy was notified, the Governor informed the Council that the place was filled, pursuant to section 15 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia, by John Andrew Quirke.

The Governor is advised that the place of a Senator, having become vacant and being so filled within the meaning of section 15, will again fall vacant at the expiration of 14 days from the beginning of the First Session of the Forty-Ninth Parliament and before the expiration of the original term of Dominic John Foreman and that such place must be filled by the Houses of Parliament sitting and voting together, choosing a person to hold it in accordance with the provisions of the said section.

CRIMINAL LAW (UNDERCOVER OPERATIONS) ACT

The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN (Attorney-General): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN: In April 1995, after the High Court decided an appeal called *Ridgeway* in favour of the accused, the Parliament passed the Criminal Law (Undercover Operations) Act 1995 with the support of all sides of politics. The object of the legislation was to place the law of police undercover operations on a legislative footing and to ensure certainty in the law. It was clear that the High Court ruling on entrapment by police of drug dealers and other criminals had become a source of judicial uncertainty. At this time last year I assured the Parliament that I had taken steps within my office to ensure that when I was notified of a police undercover operation, as the legislation required, the notification was handled confidentially and kept securely. The details of these notifications form the basis of the report which the statute requires me to give to Parliament. I now table that report.

I also noted to Parliament last year that the experience of the legislation had been that the Parliament has produced a set of rules which work, which are fair and which preserve the ability of courts to condemn any truly excessive misconduct in the criminal investigation process. Further, Parliament has set out the rules and principles that are applicable when police set out to entrap a person and commit criminal offences in doing so and has made police conduct of this kind reasonably accountable to the Parliament. That statement has been confirmed by the experience of the operation of the Act in the past 12 months. In that period there have been no judicial decisions in South Australia of sufficient significance to warrant comment.

There have been two notable reported decisions interstate: *Peters and Heffernan*, (1996) 85 Australian Criminal Reports 585 in the New South Wales Court of Criminal Appeal; and *Duggan* (1996) 87 Australian Criminal Reports 558 in the Queensland Court of Appeal. In both cases the exclusion principle in *Ridgeway* was not applied to the facts of the case, and in both cases the court held that the public interest in the prosecution, conviction and punishment of admitted offenders should prevail over the possible illegal or improper conduct of police officers. I have asked the Director of Public Prosecutions if he has any comment that he would like to make on the operation of the Act in the past 12 months. He has replied to the effect that he would like to see the operation of the Act extended to cover explicitly the approval of operations the sole purpose of which is to gather evidence of serious criminal behaviour that has already taken place.

This is not a simple matter and I will examine the suggestion and discuss it with the DPP. This issue has not placed, nor is it placing, police investigation of serious criminal misconduct at risk. In all the circumstances at this moment, it seems to me that the legislation is working well.

AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer): I seek leave to table a copy of the ministerial statement made by the Premier in the House of Assembly today, on the subject of the Auditor-General's Report.

Leave granted.

ANDERSON REPORT

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer): I seek leave to table a copy of the ministerial statement made by the Premier in the House of Assembly today, on the subject of the report of the inquiry concerning the Hon. Dale Baker MP.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer): I seek leave to table a copy of the report of the inquiry concerning the Hon. Dale Baker MP, the report of Mr Tim Anderson QC.

Leave granted.

QUESTION TIME

The PRESIDENT: Before I call on Question Time, I would like to say that obviously no-one has had time to consult regarding the practice for Question Time in the new configuration of this Council. I hope members will bear with me today, which, as members know, is an unlimited Question Time and which gives everyone the opportunity to ask any question they like. I propose to recognise the tradition to which I have been accustomed in this place. There will be three ALP Opposition questions first, then one Government question, one Democrat question, one Government question, one No Pokies question, one Government question, and then one ALP question, and so on, until we run out—given, of course, that the Chair will recognise any member who stands first, anyway. If members will bear with me today, I will be happy to talk with the Parties to see what other configuration members would like to agree on for Question Time from here on.

TRANSPORT BUDGET

The Hon. CAROLYN PICKLES: I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Transport a question about the Department of Transport's budget.

Leave granted.

The Hon. CAROLYN PICKLES: In October this year the media reported that 'Olsen's \$27 million budget pothole' revealed a 6 per cent blow-out in the Transport Minister's budget. The Minister for Transport has explained this budgetary bungle as an administrative error, and it appears that the community is having to pay. As a result of this gross incompetence, a number of important road safety initiatives and other projects may be delayed until the Government can afford them. Even the Treasurer has commented that the transport blow out would be 'handled internally' by that department through delaying some projects. My questions to the Minister are as follows:

1. What created this budgetary bungle and who is responsible?

2. On what date was the Minister advised of the \$27 million pothole and by whom?

3. Will the Minister table a schedule showing: (a) where the \$27 million unfunded liabilities were spent; (b) a list of all projects developed including old and new commencement dates; and (c) details of any projects now delayed and cancelled as a result of the blow out?

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW: It is factually incorrect to say that there is a budget blow-out, and that has been explained earlier to Mr Foley in the other place. I highlight to the shadow Minister that this is not a budget blow-out. They have not overspent. It is a budget error that was created as a result of a change in the accounting policies from 1996-97 to 1997-98 in order to improve the accountability of operational and on-line managers. To improve the costing of products and services the agency changed the method of allocating indirect expenses. Previously these expenditure items were controlled by a corporate unit of the department and then allocated to the direct construction and maintenance projects.

The new method was based on allocating only those indirect costs over which localised areas had some control. It was a budget error: it was not caused by any reduction in estimated revenue or a blow-out in costs. That is the advice of the department's CEO which has been confirmed elsewhere in Treasury and by others from whom I have sought advice on this matter. The re-allocation estimate was double counted during the budget preparation process, thus disguising the fact that the agency had prepared a program of works \$27 million above its actual level.

The identification of the error and the corrective action does not impact on the overall State budget. I advise the honourable member that I was first alerted to this error by the Chief Executive of the Department of Transport, now the Department of Transport, Urban Planning and the Arts. I will get the exact dates for the honourable member, but I can alert her that I was advised the day after the CEO became aware of it; it was discovered as part of the first corporate budget review conducted by the department in late September and early October and, because of those dates (the three months into the financial year), it was just prior to the day of the election that the CEO was advised.

I believe the honourable member would not wish to suggest that the CEO had no integrity in this or other matters. It was his advice to me the day after he was first alerted. I do

not think there is any suggestion—if that is what the honourable member was seeking to imply—of a cover-up by the CEO or the department. I think it was a matter of major concern and I was alerted immediately—

The Hon. Carolyn Pickles: So you knew before the election?

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW: I had no idea before the election, and that is exactly the point I have been making: I was advised after the election because the CEO was not advised until after the election. Either this afternoon or tomorrow I will obtain the exact dates. The CEO has written to me a personal advice in that regard, and I am happy to table those dates. In no way did I have any inkling, rumour, advice or knowledge that there was this issue prior to the election because no way did the CEO have that knowledge, inkling or advice prior to the election and it would be only in that way that I would be advised.

I do not have the advice in relation to the list of projects, and the like, contained in the honourable member's (a), (b), and (c) questions but I will provide it.

TOURISM, RECREATION AND SPORT

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer): I seek leave to table a ministerial statement from the Minister for Local Government, Recreation and Sport in the other place on reports associated with the proposal to restructure agencies within tourism, recreation and sport portfolios.

Leave granted.

UNEMPLOYMENT

The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY: Mr President, I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election to office. I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Treasurer a question about the Government's unemployment target.

Leave granted.

The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY: The latest report of the South Australian Centre for Economic Studies forecasts that to the end of 1998 our State's rate of economic and employment growth will be below that of Australia and that our unemployment rate will continue to be higher than Australia's rate. The centre's report expects that during 1998 Australia will grow by 3.75 per cent compared with 2.75 per cent for South Australia, and unemployment growing by just 1.5 per cent in South Australia compared with 2.25 per cent nationally. The December 1998 South Australian unemployment rate is 9.2 per cent compared with 8.4 per cent nationally.

These expectations, I might say, follow the Government's own Treasury papers which forecast that employment will grow by just 1.5 per cent annually to the turn of the century compared with 2 per cent unemployment growth expected nationally. Is the Treasurer confident that the Olsen Government's target of reducing South Australia's unemployment rate to the national average by the year 2000 will be achieved and, if so, what specific additional policy measures are to be taken by the Government given that current policy settings will not deliver the Government's targeted unemployment rate?

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS: It is disappointing that the shadow Minister for Finance should start his first question in this Chamber in such a negative fashion when—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS: It is disappointing because after listening to gloomy economic forecasts for many years it was heartening to see some of the more recent forecasts and, in particular, that to which the honourable member has referred: the forecast from the South Australian Centre for Economic Studies. Professor Cliff Walsh—and I paraphrase him because I do not have his exact comment—said that this was the best outlook for seven or eight years. Of course seven or eight years takes us back through the last four years of the Bannon-Arnold Labor Governments and the last four years of the Liberal Government. Of course, the Hon. Mr Holloway was a key functionary and the economic whiz of the Bannon-Arnold Labor Government. He was the man—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS: The Hon. Paul Holloway was a key economic architect of the Labor Government's policies which, when it was thrown out of office, delivered 11.2 per cent—

The Hon. T.G. Roberts interjecting:

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS: It is a shame the Hon. Terry Roberts seeks to downgrade his own Deputy Leader's significance and importance in the previous Labor Government. I would have hoped at the start of this parliamentary session that there would be a greater sense of collegiality between Labor members on the other side but here we have, in the first question, the Hon. Terry Roberts seeking to undermine his Deputy Leader's significant contribution to the previous Labor Government's economic strategies. What did those policies deliver? In summary and without going through all the boring detail, approximately 11.2 per cent unemployment and a youth unemployment rate of some 44 per cent at the time when Mike Rann was the Minister for Unemployment (as he was known here in South Australia).

The Hon. Paul Holloway has (at least in his figures, without acknowledging it) directly acknowledged that there has been some improvement—and not significant enough from the Government's viewpoint—since those appalling figures were generated by him and his colleagues when Labor was in government. The Premier has indicated that our policies will be directed towards trying to ensure that, at the very least, this State's unemployment rates match the national unemployment and youth employment figures. The honourable member might well have slept through part of the Governor's speech today, because he asked what additional economic and budgetary measures the Government was going to direct towards achieving these goals. Some of those were outlined in the Governor's speech today. Let me assure the honourable member that many others will be outlined in the coming months, in particular when the Government's four year plan is released in the budget of 1998.

INDUSTRIAL DEATHS

The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS: I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Treasurer, representing the Deputy Premier (who is the Minister for Industry, Trade and Tourism), a question about industrial deaths in South Australia.

Leave granted.

The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS: In recent times we have had two tragic deaths and two tragic accidents that have included serious injuries. Both accidents, from what I can gather, involved contractors who, in the opinion of many people in the industry, are not as familiar with on-site conditions as are

permanent employees. I make no reflection on the occupational health and safety programs that are run on the sites by either Clipsal or BHP, because I am not familiar with them, but I am familiar with the conditions of employment in relation to training in occupational health and safety programs in most premises in South Australia, which have come a long way in the past 10 to 15 years.

One of the problems with outsourcing and contracting out is that the contractors who go on site, and on large sites in particular, are not familiar with the processes and the industrial conditions that operate on many sites in the State. I suspect (and this is the reason I am asking the question) that the operational conditions for the education of outsourced contractors—and they are contractors who come from outside the on-site employment programs—are not the same as they are for permanent employees. Will the Government ensure that conditions for contractors and education programs that are run on site include outsourced contractors and that the education and familiarisation programs concerning on-site hazards are the same as for permanent employees?

The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN: I think that that question falls within the area of responsibility of the Hon. Michael Armitage. In any event, I will refer it to the appropriate Minister and seek to ensure that a reply is brought back to this Council.

MOTOR VEHICLE EMISSIONS

The Hon. CAROLINE SCHAEFER: I seek leave to make a brief statement before asking the Minister for Transport a question about vehicle emissions.

Leave granted.

The Hon. CAROLINE SCHAEFER: A number of people in this Chamber would know that previously I served on the Environment, Resources and Development Committee, which brought down two reports, one concerning gas emissions and greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles, particularly second-hand vehicles—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! There is too much audible noise in the Chamber.

The Hon. CAROLINE SCHAEFER: —and another dealing with emissions of greenhouse gases caused by aromatics in petrol. With regard to the discussions currently occurring within the Commonwealth Government in relation to greenhouse gas emissions, will the Minister explain whether any moves are being made by the South Australian Government to reduce the environmental impact of vehicle gas emissions?

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW: It is tempting to go on at some length on this important subject, but I will confine my remarks to a few important initiatives in the transport portfolio. I thank the honourable member for her interest and question. Public transport is the most obvious area where the Government has invested a lot of time and energy to restore public confidence in public transport and to win people back to public transport from their dependency on motor vehicles. We have had many positive results in that regard, and public transport has reversed the decline in patronage that has been experienced over the past few decades. That is a huge plus for the operators and those who work with Serco, Hills Transit and TransAdelaide.

In addition, we are moving to introduce more buses run by compressed natural gas and not diesel. There are 110 in the fleet now and 53 more have been ordered. That is the

largest number of any metropolitan capital city fleet of buses in Australia, and that move has been applauded by the Conservation Council.

Members may be interested in the new A55 fuel from the United States, which has been tested by TransAdelaide on two buses and one test motor. Its efficiency is the same as that of diesel, but it emits only half the emissions for which diesel is responsible. It is a mixture of diesel, water, emulsifier and heavy naphtha. At present the results look particularly promising.

The Hon. T.G. Roberts: Have you told John Howard about this?

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW: I know that Senator Robert Hill is aware of the work that has been done by TransAdelaide and generally within this State. This Government, through the Department of Transport, will be the first Government in the country to introduce a transport and environment strategy document. It is now in its final stages and will be released early next year.

That is an important initiative, and it includes the tree planting—the seven trees that must be grown by each motorist in terms of absorbing the CO₂ gases. That is being developed by Trees for Life and the Department of Transport. I am particularly pleased to see that close relationship, just as TransAdelaide has close relations with the Conservation Council and Smog Busters on a whole range of their initiatives.

Finally, I refer to the Environment Protection Authority, because the Department of Transport and the EPA are doing much work together, including looking at a vehicle emissions pilot program being undertaken in New South Wales and how we can apply that to South Australia; and the smoky vehicles program, whereby various people in the community who spot a smoky vehicle can report it. We are encouraging them to participate in the smoky vehicle program and to report those who are at fault, so that people will alert the offending motorist and test the offending vehicle.

So, on a range of fronts this State can hold its head high in terms of transport, the environment and the vehicle emission issue. Certainly, there is much more we in this State could do at an individual level as well as in conjunction with the Federal Government. We see it as a partnership with the community. We can be a showcase for the rest of Australia. I am particularly keen to share—and I think I should have that next week—the results of the A55 fuel trial by TransAdelaide.

OUTSOURCING

The Hon. M.J. ELLIOTT: I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Attorney-General a question about outsourcing contracts.

Leave granted.

The Hon. M.J. ELLIOTT: In November 1995 the Legislative Council established a select committee on the contracting out of State Government information technology. This followed the establishment of select committees into other operations outsourced by the Government, including water supply, Modbury Hospital and the new Mount Gambier prison. More than two years later the committees are still waiting to see the contracts. The Government did a deal with the ALP on 9 August 1996—about 16 months ago—to allow only summaries of contracts to be supplied. As I understand, only one contract summary has been provided, and that is in

relation to the Modbury Hospital. I understand that that summary does not satisfy the needs of that committee.

Further, I also understand that at least one of the other summaries was completed before the election and that it was withheld. There is no doubt that one of the messages from the election result concerns accountability. When will the contract summaries be made available to the Parliament?

The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN: I am concerned about the delay in providing the contract summaries but, as I said on a previous occasion, one of the difficulties—at least in the early stages—was that there had not been any summary of the contracts prepared at the time by those who were directly involved. As a result, the Crown Solicitor's Office had to go back to base 1 to prepare from the start contract summaries. That has been done. There has been consultation with the Auditor-General. I understand that, in relation to both the outstanding contracts, they are very close to being available for tabling by the Auditor-General. I would like to think that we could do it before the end of these two weeks of sitting. I cannot guarantee that that will be the case, but it will certainly be my goal to see that that occurs.

STATE ECONOMY

The Hon. T. CROTHERS: I seek leave to make a precied statement before asking the Treasurer some questions about statements made by the Managing Director of BankSA (Mr Terry Jay), which appear on page 14 of the Saturday *Advertiser* of 22 November this year.

Leave granted.

The Hon. T. CROTHERS: In the above referred to article, headed 'Stop fighting or lose investors', the Managing Director of BankSA (Mr Terry Jay) warned the present Government that its constant infighting will deter major investment. Further, he said that, in the wake of criticism from other business leaders, companies would be reluctant to invest here whilst there was no clear business plan. He said:

I don't think there are many business people in this State that think we have a long-term, clearly articulated vision.

Further, the article states:

... it had become clear, from his travels around the State, that industry did not understand the State Government's business plan. 'I don't think it exists' he said.

Finally, he opined:

Commerce wants certainty. Commerce is not going to invest unless it's got a precise direction and plan that says with certainty what we're going to do, and I don't find that articulated.

Mr Jay also criticised the Liberal Party for not presenting a united front. With the foregoing comments in mind—

The Hon. A.J. Redford: Do you have an example in mind?

The Hon. T. CROTHERS: Yes, you would be a good example. Robert Redford, what about you? You would be the best example in here, you little dry.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. L.H. Davis: This is a dorothy dixer.

The PRESIDENT: Order, Mr Davis!

The Hon. T. CROTHERS: I pose the following question—

The Hon. A.J. Redford interjecting:

The Hon. T. CROTHERS: You ought to know, you're the expert. I pose the following questions to the Treasurer.

The Hon. L.H. Davis: He's looking forward to it.

The Hon. T. CROTHERS: Well, that's better than the way you are—always looking backward. My questions to the Treasurer are:

1. Does the Treasurer agree with this important South Australian businessman's assessment that the lack of unity displayed by this State's branch of the Liberal Party, which currently forms the Government of this State, has damaged further an already difficult economic climate in respect of advancing the economic interests of this State and its people and, if not, why not?

The Hon. A.J. Redford interjecting:

The Hon. T. CROTHERS: Empty vessels do make the most sound, don't they, Mr Redford. I will continue:

2. Does this Government have any business plan for South Australia and, if it has, what is it?

3. Does the Minister believe that the results of the last election will bring some relief to the long-suffering South Australian electorate by ensuring that, in everyone's best interests, South Australia has seen the last of this Government's long, drawn-out, internecine Party brawl?

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS: I am delighted to see the Hon. Ron Roberts in the Chamber to enjoy Question Time and particularly this question on internecine warfare within political Parties which has been asked by his good friend and colleague the Hon. Trevor Crothers. One of my colleagues happened to have on his desk a copy of the *Advertiser* of 18 October which carried the headline, 'I spit in the face of their offer.' It also carried a lovely photo of 'Radiant Ronald'—the Hon. Ron Roberts—with Mike Rann. It quoted the letter from the Hon. Ron Roberts, which began 'Dear Mike', and had the honourable member spitting in the face of their offer.

Another headline was, 'ALP heavyweight quits as faction brawl splits Party'. Time does not suffice today to enable me to go into this matter further, but I suspect that we might have the odd occasion to refer to the detail of this letter and the very inflammatory statement made by the Hon. Ron Roberts about internecine warfare within political Parties in South Australia. Underneath the headline "I spit in the face of their offer," says Ron" this line appeared: 'Clarke comes out fighting'. The article stated 'Ralph Clarke has his Leader's support.'

The Hon. A.J. Redford interjecting:

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS: That counted for a lot! Where is Ralph Clarke now? As the Hon. Angus Redford has indicated, the machine crushed him. That machine, which is supported in this Chamber by the Hon. Carolyn Pickles, the Hon. Paul Holloway and some others, crushed poor old Ralph and perhaps crushed the Hon. Ron Roberts, although—

The Hon. A.J. Redford: What about the Hon. Terry Cameron? He was one of their better performers.

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS: Yes, the Hon. Terry Cameron as well. I note that in this week's *Adelaide Review* another heavyweight factional player of recent history, John Quirke, has commented on the headline that Mr Roberts was spitting in the face of their offer. His version is as follows:

In relation to Ralph Clarke and Ron Roberts, as I understand it from media reports, Mr Roberts dumped himself. As I am no longer a member of State Caucus, it is hard for me to comment any further, except to say that no-one of whom I am aware dictated the ticket to either of these.

What a sorry state we would have been in should the Labor Party led by Mike Rann have been elected to the Government benches in South Australia. When one is talking about factional brawling, internecine warfare, machines and

factions, *par excellence* the Labor Party revealed for all to see—

The Hon. A.J. Redford: They were spitting at each other.

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS: Yes, spitting at each other, as the Hon. Ron Roberts would indicate.

The Hon. L.H. Davis: Are you going to ask a supplementary, Trevor?

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS: Unless a supplementary question is asked, I will not go into the detail of the *Advertiser* story. Suffice to say that, in contrast, we do not have people spitting in the face of their colleague's offers, as reported in the *Advertiser*, and we do not have 'Dear Mike' letters or their equivalent. What I can say is that the Premier of South Australia is absolutely committed to providing stable, united and good Government for the next four years in South Australia. As the Treasurer of this State, and speaking on behalf of all of my colleagues in the Legislative Council here today, I indicate that we are absolutely committed to the very same goal of providing stable, united and good Government for the people of South Australia, and to that extent and in that respect we can agree with that section of Mr Jay's comments about the importance of stable and united Government.

The Hon. T. CROTHERS: I have a supplementary question.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. T. CROTHERS: My second question was not answered in any way, shape or form, so I will repeat it as a supplementary question.

The PRESIDENT: Just ask the question.

The Hon. T. CROTHERS: Does this Government have any business plan for South Australia and, if it has, what is it?

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS: As I indicated to an earlier question from the Hon. Paul Holloway, the Hon. Mr Crothers too must have slept through part of the Governor's speech today because therein was revealed some aspects of the Government's business plan and policies for the next four years. As I indicated to the Hon. Paul Holloway, over the coming months further detail will be provided, and in the May budget next year the Government will reveal its four year financial and business strategy for this parliamentary term.

With due deference to the embarrassment being experienced by the Hon. Ron Roberts, I will not again refer to that article, "I spit in the face of their offer", says the Hon. Ron Roberts."

MURRAY RIVER FISHERY

The Hon. R.R. ROBERTS: I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Attorney-General, representing the Minister for Primary Industries, a question relating to the Murray River fishery.

Leave granted.

The Hon. L.H. Davis: It's prawns in the Murray is it, Ron?

The Hon. R.R. ROBERTS: No, it is prawns in the Chamber, and we will name you later! For some months now concern has been expressed to me by several people from the Riverland. Much of the concern stems from the implementation of the draft plan for Structural Adjustment in the South Australian River Fishery (Paper No. 17 of 1997). A number of issues have been aired with me, and these principally concern the lack of public consultation in regard to Paper

No. 17 as well as the lack of scientific research into the issue of sustainability of the River Murray fishery. I also note that other States have taken a different direction on the issue of the sustainability of the river fishery and do not believe that a commercial fishery is viable in the Murray system.

More recently concerns have been raised in relation to the management of the fishery. Part of the foregoing plan for the fishery was the voluntary surrender of nine fishing licences, following which 30 commercial licences now operate in the River Murray fishery. Section 10A(1) of the river fishery management regulations (No. 181 of 1987), gazetted on 7 August 1997, states:

A licence in respect of the fishery may be transferred with the consent of the Director if the total number of licences in force in respect of the fishery does not exceed 30.

Section 10A(2)(f) provides:

Before the Director can consent to a transfer, he/she must be satisfied that the transferee does not already hold a licence in respect of the fishery or any other fishery.

I note that the Minister has stated previously on this issue that the nine reaches that have been recently surrendered are no longer fishing areas. My questions to the Minister are:

1. Will the Minister guarantee that no ministerial exemption will be given to the relocation of any portion of the nine surrendered reaches as commercial reaches?

2. If the Minister has the power to delegate his ministerial exemption as per section 23 of the Fisheries Act 1982, to whom have these powers been specifically delegated?

3. Can the Minister confirm whether this instrument is in writing or verbal and on what date it was executed?

4. On 1 August this year the Minister announced the formation of the River Fisheries Structural Adjustment Advisory Committee. This committee was formed, according to the press release of the Minister (Hon. Rob Kerin) on 1 August, to enable further consultation about the reforms and the future management of the river fishery. Can the Minister confirm whether this committee has been formed and, if so, who is on the committee and when the first meeting will take place? If the committee has not yet been formed, can the Minister explain the reasons for the delay, given that this issue is of serious concern to people in the Riverland, including the local government authorities?

The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN: I will refer the questions to the Minister and bring back a reply.

RACIAL VILIFICATION ACT

The Hon. SANDRA KANCK: I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Justice a question about the Racial Vilification Act.

Leave granted.

The Hon. SANDRA KANCK: Members may recall that in November of last year we spent a deal of time debating the Racial Vilification Bill which was subsequently proclaimed to become the Racial Vilification Act. It was contentious on the issue whether or not the Government's Bill provided conciliation aspects. The Democrats and the Opposition felt very strongly that such aspects needed to be considered in the Bill. We amended it accordingly but ultimately went to a deadlock conference because the Government did not want to have those aspects in the Bill. As a result of the deadlock conference an agreement was reached. The Bill was returned to its original form on the proviso that an undertaking was given by the Government in both Houses of Parliament. That

undertaking was given and appears in *Hansard* of 26 November last year, more than a year ago. It states:

The South Australian Government will forthwith approach the Federal Government with the objective of delegating to the South Australian Equal Opportunity Commission jurisdiction in relation to the Federal Racial Discrimination Act as amended by the Racial Hatred Act which will provide for conciliation. If after 12 months the delegation has not occurred then the State Government will review the operation of the relevant State law with a view to introducing legislation to provide for conciliation.

During the election campaign I was to address a group which I thought might find the progress of this undertaking somewhat interesting. About three days before I was due to address this group in October, I set out to find out what had happened with this undertaking. I began by ringing the Attorney-General's office. Unfortunately, because I was not expecting a run-around I did not take names, but I was told by the person to whom I spoke in the Attorney-General's office—and I thought it was the Attorney-General's responsibility in all probability because he has responsibility for the Equal Opportunity Commission in South Australia—that it was not his responsibility and that I should ring the Premier's office as he was Minister for Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs.

I therefore rang the Premier's office and was told by someone in that office that it did not have anything to do with him and that, because this undertaking was given by the Hon. Dean Brown, who was Premier and Minister for Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs, I should ring the Hon. Dean Brown's office. So, I rang the Hon. Dean Brown's office where I was fortunate to find someone who was reasonably helpful and who tried a number of different people to ascertain some information. In the end, the person got back to me and said that he could not find out what was happening and suggested I get back to the Premier's office. I again contacted the Premier's office and, about three or four weeks after my original inquiry, I received a fax from someone in the Premier's office suggesting that I ring the Attorney-General's Chief of Staff, who might be able to help me.

I found this amazing because we were in the middle of an election campaign and this Government, which was telling us that it was capable of running the State, could not even tell me what had happened with this particular undertaking. Anyhow, the upshot of it is that, if one looks at the wording of the undertaking given on 26 November, it is now more than 12 months since that undertaking was given and, if nothing has occurred in relation to that power being handed over to the State Government, presumably the State Government is now in the process of looking at the relevant State law to see whether or not we should introduce legislation. My questions to the Minister for Justice are:

1. What negotiations have taken place with the Federal Government in relation to the delegation of the powers relating to conciliation?

2. If the communications have not been successful, has the State Government begun the process of looking at the relevant State law to have it amended so that conciliation aspects can be brought to bear?

The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN: I am sorry that the honourable member had what she called 'a run-around'. I think, if the honourable member had spoken to my office, we would have been able to sort it out right from the start—

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN: No, we would have been able to sort it out—but also, if the honourable member had read

the *Hansard* of 18 June 1997, which was the *Hansard* of the Estimates Committee, she would have seen that the issue was addressed before that Committee when I answered a question from Mr Atkinson. He said:

Staying with the same line, my next question is about the racial vilification law. Does the Attorney-General have any news about Commonwealth and State cooperation on that law? Have there been any complaints under that law yet?

I answered:

There have been some discussions and negotiations with the Commonwealth in relation to the cooperative agreement. There has been an in-principle agreement that the Commonwealth will fund the State handling of Federal matters through a grant of \$288 000 a year. The agreement is yet to be finalised but it is an agreement in principle.

Then I go on to talk about aspects of the cooperative arrangements. Cooperative arrangements have been made between the South Australian Government and the Commonwealth Government since 1984 to allow the South Australian Commissioner for Equal Opportunity to administer the Federal Racial Discrimination Act and the Sex Discrimination Act.

Some negotiations have occurred over the past few years to draft a new cooperative arrangement. The administration of the Racial Hatred Act 1995 of the Commonwealth has been included in proposals for continuation of new cooperative arrangements, but it has not been possible to include administration of the Racial Hatred Act in the new cooperative arrangement because the Federal Government has made clear that it will not pay any additional moneys to South Australia to do so.

As a result, South Australia's current proposal in relation to cooperative arrangements does not include the Racial Hatred Act. It does continue with the existing arrangement, namely, the administration of the Racial Discrimination Act and the Sex Discrimination Act. I can say that the State did offer to handle racial hatred and racial vilification matters for the Commonwealth outside the \$288 000 a year grant which was negotiated for the work which we do for the Commonwealth Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission. We did offer to handle it for a flat payment of \$1 100 per complaint, which I understand is the basis upon which the New South Wales Equal Opportunity Commission is reimbursed for handling complaints in relation to Commonwealth matters.

Because the negotiations were not able to be successfully concluded, the issue of racial vilification in respect of the Federal Act continues to be dealt with by the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission. That is an issue which I know the honourable member has raised with my office. I doubt if the Commonwealth will be prepared to take the matter any further. For the moment, that is basically where it rests.

The Hon. SANDRA KANCK: As a supplementary question, is the Minister therefore stating that the Government is reneging on its undertaking to review the operation of the relevant State law with a view to introducing legislation to provide for conciliation?

The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN: No, I am not reneging on a commitment to review it, and the undertaking was not with a view to introducing additional State legislation: the undertaking was to review it after there had been negotiations that, regrettably, failed. It was quite a simple matter. We offered to do it for \$1 100 per complaint, which was additional to what the State is doing; the Commonwealth rejected the

offer. I am quite prepared to look at the way in which that is operating, obtain some advice and bring back a reply.

TRANSPORT BUDGET

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW (Minister for Transport and Urban Planning): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW: Earlier in Question Time today the Hon. Carolyn Pickles asked me a series of questions in relation to Department of Transport (now Transport SA) budget issues. I said that I would seek to find the specific dates in terms of the advice, when it was first presented to senior management within the former Department of Transport and then provided to me. I have been formally advised of the following information. The Director of Investment Planning (Trevor Argent) became aware of a problem on Thursday 9 October, as a consequence of this quarterly review that commenced in early October. He advised his CEO (Rod Payze) the following day, Friday 10 October. Mr Payze was that day interstate.

The election was on Saturday 11 October. On Friday the 10th, when he first became aware of it, Mr Payze called for a full Department of Transport executive meeting to discuss the problem and the implications on Monday 13 October. After that meeting, I was advised early on Tuesday 14 October and took action as a consequence of that advice.

STATUTES AMENDMENT (MINISTERS OF THE CROWN) BILL

The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN (Attorney-General) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Constitution Act 1934, the Administrative Arrangements Act 1994, the Juries Act 1927, the Oaths Act 1936 and the Parliamentary Remuneration Act 1990. Read a first time.

The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN: I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

These amendments put in place the legislative changes that are necessary to implement changes to the composition of the ministry, which were announced by the Premier on 20 October 1997. The new ministry is to consist of 10 Cabinet Ministers and five Ministers who will not be Cabinet Ministers. These five Ministers will assist Cabinet Ministers with responsibility for departments with merged portfolios. The changes have been partially implemented by the appointment of 10 Cabinet Ministers. Once these amendments are enacted, five Ministers who will not be members of Cabinet will be appointed. The amendments also provide for the appointment of a parliamentary secretary to the Premier.

The changes to the ministerial structure are bold and innovative. They are intended to create opportunities for better whole-of-Government integration and a more effective and unified service delivery. The appointment of 10 Cabinet Ministers, five Ministers and one parliamentary secretary instead of the traditional 13 Cabinet Ministers will be at no additional cost to the taxpayer. The amendments needed to implement the changes to the ministry have to fit into the existing constitutional arrangements. Cabinet is not estab-

lished by Act of Parliament, nor is its existence referred to in the Constitution Act 1934. Accordingly, some way of distinguishing between Cabinet Ministers and Ministers other than by reference to Cabinet had to be devised. The method chosen to distinguish Ministers from Cabinet Ministers is to provide that Ministers are not members of Executive Council.

There is nothing in the amendments about the relationship of Cabinet Ministers to Ministers. This is not something that can or should be spelt out in legislation. The relationship will be set out in an agreement between the Premier and the Minister. Consideration was given to putting something in the instrument of appointment of Ministers. The Solicitor-General's advice was that the relationship can best be set out in an agreement between the Premier and the Minister entered into prior to the Minister being sworn in. The agreement will cover such matters as maintaining Cabinet confidentiality, agreeing to be bound by Cabinet decisions, an understanding that the Minister will not attend Cabinet unless invited, and an undertaking to act in accordance with any directions given by the Premier and the Cabinet Minister.

Under the scheme the administration of Acts will be committed to the Cabinet Minister and the Cabinet Minister's powers and functions under the Acts will be delegated to the Minister. To ensure that there can be no arguments as to whether a Minister is authorised to exercise a power or perform a function, the delegation to the Minister will be done by the Governor appointing the Minister as the delegate of the Cabinet Minister. The delegation of a power or function does not prevent the Cabinet Minister from carrying out the function or exercising the power. Which of the delegated functions are to be performed by the Minister will be for the Premier to determine in consultation with the Cabinet Minister. These provisions are contained in clause 8 of the Bill that amends the Administrative Arrangements Act 1994.

Several other Acts are amended. Section 65 of the Constitution Act is amended to increase the number of Ministers to 15. It is then provided in new section 66(2) that if the number of Ministers exceeds 13 the Executive Council will not consist of more than 10 Ministers. The schedule to the Parliamentary Remuneration Act 1990 is amended to provide that Ministers of the Crown who are not members of the Executive Council receive the basic salary and an additional salary of 41 per cent of the basic salary.

New section 67A of the Constitution Act provides for the appointment of a person who is a member of Parliament as parliamentary secretary to the Premier. Section 45 of the Constitution Act is amended to ensure that the office is not an office of profit. The remuneration of the parliamentary secretary is provided for in an amendment to the schedule to the Parliamentary Remuneration Act 1990. The parliamentary secretary will receive the basic salary plus 20 per cent of the basic salary.

A consequential amendment is made to the Juries Act. Members of the Executive Council and their spouses are not eligible for jury service. This has been changed to Ministers of the Crown and their spouses in recognition that not all Ministers of the Crown will now be members of the Executive Council.

The Oaths Act is amended to require Ministers who are not members of the Executive Council and the parliamentary secretary to take the official oath. The official oath is that the person will well and truly serve Her Majesty the Queen in the office to which the person has been appointed. I seek leave

to have the explanation of the clauses inserted in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

PART 1 PRELIMINARY

Clause 1: Short title

Clause 2: Commencement

Clause 3: Interpretation

These clauses are formal.

PART 2

AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION ACT 1934

Clause 4: Amendment of s. 45—Disqualification of members holding offices of profit

Section 45 of the *Constitution Act* vacates the seat of a member of Parliament who accepts an office of profit or pension from the Crown with certain exceptions including an exception for an office of Minister of the Crown. This clause adds a similar exception for the office of Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier which it is proposed will be remunerated (*see clause 11*).

Clause 5: Amendment of s. 65—Number of Ministers of the Crown

Section 65 of the *Constitution Act* limits the number of Ministers of the Crown to 13. This clause increases the limit to 15.

Clause 6: Amendment of s. 66—Ministerial offices

Section 66 currently makes every Minister *ex officio* a member of the Executive Council. The clause makes an exception if a ministerial appointment is made taking the number of Ministers to more than 13. In that case, while the number of Ministers exceeds 13, the Executive Council is to consist of not more than 10 Ministers appointed to the Council by the Governor.

Clause 7: Insertion of s. 67A—Parliamentary Secretary to Premier

The proposed new section would empower the Governor to appoint a member of Parliament as Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier.

PART 3

AMENDMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS ACT 1994

Clause 8: Insertion of s. 9A—Appointment of delegate Minister

The proposed new section would empower the Governor to appoint, by proclamation, a Minister as the delegate Minister of another Minister. Under the provision, a delegate Minister would have all the functions and powers of the other Minister (but the other Minister would not as a result be prevented from carrying out or exercising any of the functions or powers).

PART 4

AMENDMENT OF JURIES ACT 1927

Clause 9: Amendment of Schedule 3

This clause makes a consequential amendment reflecting the possibility that not all Ministers may be members of Executive Council.

PART 5

AMENDMENT OF OATHS ACT 1936

Clause 10: Insertion of s. 6A—Oaths to be taken by Ministers who are not members of Executive Council or by Parliamentary Secretary to Premier

As suggested by the heading, the proposed new section provides for the oaths to be taken by Ministers who are not members of Executive Council or by a Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier.

PART 6

AMENDMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY REMUNERATION ACT 1990

Clause 11: Amendment of Schedule

The Schedule is amended so that the additional remuneration for a Minister is 41 per cent of the basic salary of a member of Parliament in the case of a Minister who is not a member of Executive Council, while the additional remuneration for a Minister who is a member of Executive Council will remain at the current 75 per cent of basic salary.

The clause also fixes additional remuneration for a Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier at 20 per cent of basic salary.

The Hon. CAROLYN PICKLES secured the adjournment of the debate.

MOTOR VEHICLES (HEAVY VEHICLES REGISTRATION CHARGES) AMENDMENT BILL

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW (Minister for Transport and Urban Planning) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Motor Vehicles (Heavy Vehicles Registration Charges) Amendment Bill. Read a first time.

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW: I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of this Bill is to correct a deficiency in the legislation for the collection of the national heavy vehicle registration charges. The Motor Vehicles (Heavy Vehicles Registration Charges) Amendment Act 1995 (Act No. 77 of 1995) came into operation on 1 July 1996 and defined 'prescribed registration fee', in relation to heavy vehicles, by reference to the Commonwealth Road Transport Charges (Australian Capital Territory) Act 1993 (the Commonwealth Road Transport Charges Act).

The Motor Vehicles (Miscellaneous No. 2) Amendment Act 1996 (Act No. 30 of 1996) repealed the definition enacted by Act No. 77 of 1995 and defined 'prescribed registration fee' as the fee specified in the regulations under the Motor Vehicles Act. The effect of Act No. 30 was to remove the reference to the Commonwealth Road Transport Charges Act. As heavy vehicle fees were not specified in the Motor Vehicles Regulations when the collection of the fees commenced from 1 July 1996, there was no provision to collect the fees until the deficiency was corrected by an amendment to the Motor Vehicles Regulations. The amendment came into operation at midnight on 24 September 1997. I was first advised of this problem on 23 September, it was corrected on 24 September and, from midnight on 24 September, all fees have been legally collected.

This amendment Bill will operate retrospectively in order to validate heavy vehicle fees paid during the period in which there was a deficiency in the law. The use of retrospective legislation is appropriate in this instance, because it simply reflects the original intent of Parliament for the registration fees for heavy vehicles to be determined by reference to the Commonwealth Road Transport Charges Act. The payment of the national heavy vehicle registration charges was well known to, and accepted by, the heavy vehicle industry and continues to be well accepted.

Failure to provide retrospectivity could result in a large number of claims against the Crown for the return of registration fees paid by heavy vehicle owners prior to 25 September 1997. Any owners who instituted such proceedings would be receiving a windfall gain at the expense of the rest of the community, which must fund the repair of the damage caused to the roads by heavy vehicles. It is in order to avoid this inequity that the current Bill has been brought before the Parliament.

I commend the Bill to members. I seek leave to have the explanation of the clauses inserted in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

Clause 1: Short title

This clause is formal.

Clause 2: Commencement

This clause provides that the measure will be taken to have come into operation on 1 July 1996 immediately after section 3(c) of the *Motor Vehicles (Miscellaneous No. 2) Amendment Act 1996* came into operation.

Clause 3: Amendment of s. 5—Interpretation

This clause substitutes a new definition of "prescribed registration fee" that provides for registration fees for heavy vehicles to be

determined by reference to the Commonwealth Road Transport Charges Act.

The Hon. CAROLYN PICKLES secured the adjournment of the debate.

SENATE VACANCY

The PRESIDENT: I wish to inform the Council that I intend issuing notices to members of both Houses of Parliament to attend a joint sitting in the Legislative Council Chamber at 12 noon on Tuesday 9 December 1997 for the purpose of filling the Senate vacancy caused by the resignation of Senator Domenic John Foreman.

SESSIONAL COMMITTEES

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer): I move:

That for this session a Library Committee not be appointed.

Sessional committees were appointed as follows:

Standing Orders: The President and Hons K.T. Griffin, C.A. Pickles, G. Weatherill and R.I. Lucas.

Printing: The Hons. J.S.L. Dawkins, A.J. Redford, T.G. Roberts, J.F. Stefani and C. Zollo.

JOINT PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE COMMITTEE

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer): I move:

That pursuant to section 5 of the Parliament (Joint Services) Act 1985 the Hon. Caroline Schaefer and the Hon. G. Weatherill be appointed to act with the President as members of the Joint Parliamentary Service Committee and that the Hon. L.H. Davis be appointed the alternate member of the committee to the President; the Hon. A.J. Redford alternate member to the Hon. Caroline Schaefer; and the Hon. R.R. Roberts the alternate member to the Hon. G. Weatherill.

Motion carried.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Standing committees were appointed as follows:

Environment, Resources and Development: The Hons J.S.L. Dawkins, M.J. Elliott and T.G. Roberts.

Legislative Review: The Hons I. Gilfillan, A.J. Redford and R.R. Roberts.

Statutory Authorities Review: The Hons T. Crothers, L.H. Davis, J.S.L. Dawkins, J.F. Stefani and C. Zollo.

Occupational, Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation: The Hons M.J. Elliott, A.J. Redford and T.G. Roberts.

Statutory Officers: The Hons K.T. Griffin, M.J. Elliott and P. Holloway.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer): I move:

That pursuant to section 20(2) of the Parliamentary Committees Act 1991 the Hons T.G. Cameron, Sandra Kanck and Caroline Schaefer be appointed to the committee.

The Hon. NICK XENOPHON: I move:

That the name 'Caroline Schaefer' be deleted and that 'Nick Xenophon' be inserted in its place.

The PRESIDENT: The motion is not seconded and I therefore cannot accept the amendment.

Motion carried.

ADDRESS IN REPLY

The PRESIDENT having laid on the table a copy of the Governor's Opening Speech, the Hon. R.I. Lucas (Treasurer) moved:

That a committee consisting of the Hons R.I. Lucas, J.S.L. Dawkins, C.V. Schaefer, N. Xenophon, C. Zollo be appointed to prepare a draft Address in Reply to the speech delivered this day by His Excellency the Governor and to report on the next day of sitting.

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.12 p.m. the Council adjourned until Wednesday 3 December at 2.15 p.m.