

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Tuesday 17 November 1998

The **PRESIDENT (Hon. J.C. Irwin)** took the Chair at 2.15 p.m. and read prayers.

## ASSENT TO BILLS

His Excellency the Governor, by message, intimated his assent to the following Bills:

Judges' Pensions (Preserved Pensions) Amendment,  
National Electricity (South Australia)(Miscellaneous)  
Amendment.

## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

The **PRESIDENT**: I direct that the written answers to the

following questions, as detailed in the schedule that I now table, be distributed and printed in *Hansard*: Nos. 60, 61, 68, 71 and 72.

## SPEED CAMERAS

60. The **Hon. T.G. CAMERON**:

1. During 1997-1998, what were the 10 South Australian roads and/or highways on which speed cameras were placed most frequently?

2. During 1997-1998, how many times were speed cameras placed on each of these roads/highways?

3. During 1997-98, how much revenue was raised in total through speed camera fines for each of these roads/highways?

The **Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN**: The Minister for Police, Correctional Services and Emergency Services has been advised by the Police that the speed camera statistics as requested are provided below:

| Road              | Suburb          | Dir | Drops | Gens  | Revenue |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----|-------|-------|---------|
| Burbridge Rd      | Brooklyn Park   | E   | 141   | 7 747 | 821 989 |
| Wakefield Rd      | Adelaide        | W   | 118   | 4 766 | 491 139 |
| King William Rd   | Adelaide        | N   | 113   | 2 660 | 286 887 |
| Main North Rd     | Blair Athol     | N   | 104   | 4 184 | 290 053 |
| Hackney Rd        | Hackney         | S   | 103   | 3 078 | 279 949 |
| Tapleys Hill Rd   | Glenelg North   | N   | 103   | 2 850 | 320 686 |
| Fiveash Dr        | Pasadena        | NE  | 102   | 5 810 | 696 867 |
| Main South Rd     | O'Halloran Hill | S   | 100   | 3 677 | 456 629 |
| Port Wakefield Rd | Parafield       | S   | 97    | 4 630 | 473 620 |
| Park Rd           | North Adelaide  | SE  | 91    | 6 362 | 748 661 |

N.B. The above figures are for the period 1/7/97 to 30/6/98.

It must be noted that the speed camera deployment is a computerised system based on road crash statistics. The cameras are scheduled in proportion to the crash rating of a road. This rating is calculated from all crashes over a 3 year period, weighted for the speed related nature of the crash. There is flexibility for the speed camera supervisors to alter locations to treat complaints or for campaigns, holiday weekends etc.

Over recent months greater accountability has been required from the Police Security Services Division for the operation of speed cameras. This has resulted in less deviation from the computer scheduled program, and a generally greater spread of locations. As an example of this, for the full 1997-98 there were 10 734 speed camera operations at 1508 separate locations (an average of 7.1 per location). In June 1998, there were 854 operations at 429 locations (an average of 2.0 per location). In addition to this, a working party is being formed with Transport SA dedicated to speed management, and this will include a role of identifying locations that are not obtaining reasonable speed compliance in spite of frequent treatment. These locations will be reviewed for either speed limit changes, or more warnings regarding the speed limits.

## ROAD ACCIDENTS

61. The **Hon. T.G. CAMERON**:

1. During 1997-1998, how many serious road accidents or road fatalities occurred on each of the following South Australian roads—

- (a) Mount Barker Road, Crafers West;
- (b) Waverley Ridge Road, Crafers West;
- (c) Golden Grove Road, Wynn Vale;
- (d) Reynella By-Pass Road, Reynella;
- (e) Park Road, North Adelaide;
- (f) Main South Road, Hackham; and
- (g) John Rice Avenue, Elizabeth Vale?

2. During the same period and for the same roads, how many times were speed cameras placed on each?

3. During the same period and for the same roads, how many speed camera expiation notices were issued?

4. During the same period and for the same roads, how much revenue was raised through speed camera fines?

The **Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN**: The Minister for Police, Correctional Services and Emergency Services has been advised by the Police that the road crash and speed camera statistics as requested, are provided below:

| Road                             | No. of Crashes | Casualty Crashes | Fatals | Times Worked | Reports | Revenue |
|----------------------------------|----------------|------------------|--------|--------------|---------|---------|
| Waverley Ridge Rd., Crafers West | 9              | 2                | 0      | 102          | 6 790   | 688 963 |
| John Rice Ave., Elizabeth Vale   | 58             | 14               | 0      | 72           | 3 405   | 282 923 |
| Mt Barker Rd., Crafers West      | 12             | 3                | 0      | 48           | 3 419   | 283 451 |
| Golden Grove Rd., Wynn Vale      | 49             | 10               | 0      | 75           | 3 096   | 380 526 |
| Main South Rd., Hackham          | 83             | 11               | 0      | 75           | 5 910   | 643 274 |
| Reynella By-pass Rd., Reynella   | *4             | *3               | 0      | 49           | 2 876   | 204 282 |
| Park Rd., North Adelaide         | *10            | *1               | 0      | 113          | 7 858   | 820 284 |

N.B. The figures above are for the 12 month period 1/4/97 to 31/03/98 as this is the most current crash data available.

\* These are provisional figures from Transport SA.

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**68. The Hon. T.G. CAMERON:**

1. How many drivers involved in a motor vehicle crash were—
  - (a) Tested for being over the legal blood alcohol limit during—
    - (i) 1994-95;
    - (ii) 1995-96;
    - (iii) 1996-97; and
    - (iv) 1997-98?
  - (b) Subsequently found to be over the legal blood alcohol limit during—
    - (i) 1994-95;
    - (ii) 1995-96;
    - (iii) 1996-97; and
    - (iv) 1997-98?
2. Of those found to be over the legal blood alcohol limit, how many—
  - (a) were male;
  - (b) were female;
  - (c) lived in the metropolitan area;
  - (d) lived in the non-metropolitan area;
  - (e) were aged—
    - (i) 16-19;
    - (ii) 20-24;
    - (iii) 25-29;
    - (iv) 30-39;
    - (v) 40-49;
    - (vi) 50-59;
    - (vii) 60-69; and
    - (viii) 70 and over?
3. How many drivers over the legal blood alcohol limit were involved in a motor vehicle crash which involved a death during—
  - (a) 1994-95;
  - (b) 1995-96;
  - (c) 1996-97; and
  - (d) 1997-98?
4. Of those found to be over the blood alcohol limit, how many—
  - (a) were male;
  - (b) were female;
  - (c) lived in the metropolitan area;
  - (d) lived in the non-metropolitan area;
  - (e) were aged—
    - (i) 16-19;
    - (ii) 20-24;
    - (iii) 25-29;
    - (iv) 30-39;
    - (v) 40-49;
    - (vi) 50-59;
    - (vii) 60-69; and
    - (viii) 70 and over?
5. How many motor vehicle crashes which involved a death were primarily the result of a driver speeding over the limit during—
  - (a) 1994-95;
  - (b) 1995-96;
  - (c) 1996-97; and
  - (d) 1997-98?
6. Of those drivers found to have caused a death through speeding, how many were—
  - (a) male;

- (b) female;
- (c) lived in the metropolitan area;
- (d) lived in the non-metropolitan area;
- (e) were aged—
  - (i) 16-19;
  - (ii) 20-24;
  - (iii) 25-29;
  - (iv) 30-39;
  - (v) 40-49;
  - (vi) 50-59;
  - (vii) 60-69; and
  - (viii) 70 and over?

**The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN:** The Minister for Police, Correctional Services and Emergency Services has been advised by the Police that:

1. (a) There are no statistics collected on drivers being given a preliminary breath test following a crash. It is however policy to test all such drivers (if police attend the crash or the driver reports to a police station within 2 hours of the crash).
- (b) Statistics collected under the Breath Analysis System record whether the test has followed a road crash. These figures show:
 

|       |       |     |
|-------|-------|-----|
| (i)   | 94-95 | 845 |
| (ii)  | 95-96 | 770 |
| (iii) | 96-97 | 673 |
| (iv)  | 97-98 | 513 |

There will be other drink drive detections discovered through blood tests at hospitals.

2. For 1997-98
  - (a) 423 males
  - (b) 90 females
  - (c) Residence unknown. Detected in metro—348
  - (d) Residence unknown. Detected in country—165
  - (e) (i) 16-19 66
  - (ii) 20-24 104
  - (iii) 25-29 89
  - (iv) 30-39 121
  - (v) 40-49 60
  - (vi) 50-59 31
  - (vii) 60-69 12
  - (viii) 70 plus 5
3. This statistic is not collected, however the blood alcohol count of the deceased driver is collected (ie the blood alcohol reading of a surviving driver in a fatal crash is not collected in the fatality database, although plans are in place to do this).
 

|     |       |                                      |
|-----|-------|--------------------------------------|
| (a) | 94-95 | 23                                   |
| (b) | 95-96 | 32                                   |
| (c) | 96-97 | 29                                   |
| (d) | 97-98 | 20—plus still awaiting some readings |

4. The following statistics are given for the period 1994-95 to 1997-98 in total.

- (a) 96 males
- (b) 8 females

The residential address of the victim has only been collected in the fatals database since January 1998. To date we have had 5 metro and 4 rural resident drink drivers killed.

- |     |        |                                      |
|-----|--------|--------------------------------------|
| (c) | 27     | drink drivers killed in metro area   |
| (d) | 77     | drink drivers killed in country area |
| (e) | (i)    | 16-19 11                             |
|     | (ii)   | 20-24 25                             |
|     | (iii)  | 25-29 15                             |
|     | (iv)   | 30-39 40                             |
|     | (v)    | 40-49 9                              |
|     | (vi)   | 50-59 1                              |
|     | (vii)  | 60-69 2                              |
|     | (viii) | 70 plus 1                            |

5. and 6. The statistics on the cause of the crash are unreliable. The importance of speed in crashes is determined by 'in depth' crash studies, an example of which is attached.

**ROAD TRAFFIC, OFFENCES**

**71. The Hon. T.G. CAMERON:**

1. Between 1 July 1995 and 30 June 1996, how many motor vehicle drivers were charged with—
  - (a) driving while licence suspended/cancelled;
  - (b) driving without a licence; and
  - (c) driving an unregistered vehicle?

2. Between 1 July 1996 and 30 June 1997, how many motor vehicle drivers were charged with—

- (a) driving while licence suspended/cancelled;
- (b) driving without a licence; and
- (c) driving an unregistered vehicle?

**The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN:** The Minister for Police, Correctional services and Emergency services has been advised of the following statistics by the Police:

| Offence                         | 1995-96       | 1996-97       |
|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Driving Licences                |               |               |
| Suspended/Cancelled             | 1 520         | 1 319         |
| Driving without a Licence       | 1 844         | 1 677         |
| Driving an unregistered vehicle | Not available | Not available |

#### ROAD FATALITIES

72. **The Hon. T.G. CAMERON:** How many road fatalities were the result of speeding during 1997-98?

**The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN:** The Minister for Police, Correctional Services and Emergency Services in conjunction with the Minister for Transport and Urban Planning have provided the following information.

Transport SA and SA Police have advised that determination of the cause of specific road crashes is usually very subjective, and that this is especially so in the case of crashes that result in fatalities. It is therefore not possible to provide reliable statistics to the honourable member reporting the number of road fatalities in 1997-98 that were the result of speeding.

#### PREMIERS' CONFERENCE

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer):** I seek leave to table a copy of a ministerial statement made by the Premier in another place today on the subject of the Premiers' Conference.

Leave granted.

#### AUSTRALIAN DANCE THEATRE

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW (Minister for the Arts):** I seek leave to table a copy of a report I have received from Mr Peter Myhill on the Australian Dance Theatre, and I also seek leave to make a ministerial statement on the same subject.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** I have received a copy of Mr Peter Myhill's report on the Australian Dance Theatre. The report was commissioned in August by Arts SA, the company's principal source of funds. The Chair of the Board, Justice Margaret Nyland, has formally advised the board's support for the recommendations, together with some constructive proposals relating to building the membership support base of the company. Before advising the Government's response to Mr Myhill's recommendations, it needs to be remembered that ADT, unlike the majority of major arts organisation in South Australia, is not owned or operated by the Government. It is not a statutory authority. It is an incorporated company. Therefore, the Government's response to the report is an indication of what the Government is prepared to support financially. However, it falls to the company itself to decide on issues of change to legal and management structures.

As the structural matters to be addressed are significant and, in some cases complex, it is anticipated that some time will be required to implement the changes proposed. Accordingly, the ADT board and Arts SA have agreed to the appointment of an interim artistic adviser. Today, I am pleased to announce that the company will now seek the advice of Mr Ross Stretton, Artistic Director the Australian

Ballet, to develop a high quality artistic plan for ADT for the period May to December 1999. Already the Chair, Justice Nyland, has held preliminary discussions with Mr Stretton. These discussions will now be progressed and, for my part, I am keen that they be concluded by Christmas.

The appointment of an artistic adviser will enable ADT to get on with the business of engaging dancers and producing exciting dance works (possibly with a series of guest choreographers) that audiences have come to expect of the company since its establishment in 1975. And it will provide ADT with the time required to appoint a new artistic director, which, together with new structural and operating arrangements, will secure the company's artistic and financial stability well into the next century.

Method of board appointment: In relation to Government appointments to the board, Mr Myhill is of the opinion that:

... the present appointment procedures can lead, and could continue to lead to perceptions that the board is too closely aligned with a political incumbent. Successive Ministers for the Arts have stated their view that it is inappropriate for Government to involve itself in the affairs of the company. However, this has not prevented, and will not prevent, some arriving at the view that the board may be serving two masters, that is, the company and the Minister.

I agree that the practice of the Government's appointing members to boards of incorporated companies carries the risk that the role of Government can be misrepresented, in that it can be associated with the specific decisions of that board.

A case in point is the unanimous decision of the ADT board made earlier this year to renegotiate its contractual arrangements with its Artistic Director, Ms Meryl Tankard. That decision was made by the board acting alone. Prior to making its decision, there was no attempt made by the board to obtain my views or those of Arts SA. Any other suggestion is wrong. While the board no doubt was acting within its rights, in my judgment it would have helped if, at the very least, the board had sought the views of both Arts SA and the Australia Council in their roles as funders.

Meanwhile, it has been suggested by some that the Government should have intervened to prevent any change in the terms of the board's contract with Ms Tankard. Overall, as I have explained previously, I hold the same view as the former Minister for the Arts (Hon. Anne Levy) that Government should not be involved with the legitimate decisions of a properly constituted incorporated company. Accordingly, I support Mr Myhill's recommendation to remove the entitlement of the Minister for the Arts to appoint up to five board members out of a maximum of eight—an entitlement that has existed since the establishment of ADT in 1975. The removal of Government from this process altogether will address the misconception that the Government is somehow associated with the decisions of the board. I note also that no other major dance company in Australia has Government-appointed board members.

I consider that the formation of broad-based community support for ADT is an essential pre-condition for its long-term development. For this reason, I support the suggestion of the board that the current entitlement of members of the company to elect three members to the board be increased in line with the growth in membership. Such an arrangement would see the election of up to seven members of the board from membership of the company on the basis of one board position for every 50 members. In the interim, I support Mr Myhill's recommendation that the company's constitution be changed to allow the board to appoint new members to each vacancy.

Artistic Director: The Myhill report recommends the appointment of both the Artistic Director and General Manager to the board. Board membership carries with it onerous legal and fiduciary responsibilities and there is potential for issues of governance and accountability to arise when one individual is both a board member and Artistic Director. In these circumstances, I consider that the best outcome is to allow the decision to be made by the Artistic Director. Accordingly, it is proposed that the Artistic Director be invited to join the board but, if the Artistic Director elects not to do so, the position will remain vacant.

Since its inception, ADT's successes have been artistically driven, and I believe it is essential that artistic success remain the driving force. Therefore, I do not support making the same provision for the General Manager to join the Board.

Financial: I accept Mr Myhill's conclusion that 'the financial viability of the company is marginal'. However, I do not accept that the solution is necessarily more funding from the South Australian Government, particularly in view of the substantial funding provided by the State already (\$732 000) and the company's relatively low sponsorship income. As I believe the future of contemporary dance in South Australia does require a stronger financial foundation than ADT has at present, I have asked Arts SA for further advice on this matter, including the 'very significant' exposure to the decisions of the Made to Move consortium of national presenters, and Playing Australia. I should add as an aside that this was a major concern of Mr Myhill in his report.

These deliberations over the financial issues will include consideration of a possible merger or joint-venture arrangement with the WA Ballet. In the past fortnight Arts WA has made an unsolicited approach to Arts SA on this matter. This will now be explored by both Arts SA and ADT as one option for providing a more secure future for the company. In the interim, in line with the recommendation of the Myhill report, I have asked Arts SA to make an immediate cash injection of \$50 000 to ensure that the company sustains its operation at current levels for 1999.

I have also agreed to provide some extra funds, as recently requested by ADT's Executive Producer (Mr Anthony Steele), to make it possible for the company's Artistic Director, Ms Meryl Tankard, to fulfil the full European tour proposed for next month to France, to the Weimar European Cultural Capital Festival, plus Sadlers Wells.

Funders' requirements: I accept Mr Myhill's advice that ADT would benefit from receiving a more detailed, common position from both Arts SA and the Australia Council on their expectations as funders—and I have asked Arts SA to progress this matter immediately.

Corporate governance: Mr Myhill has recommended that the changes in method of board appointments be accompanied by development of a charter of corporate governance detailing best practice in function and composition of the board. I support this initiative and understand that the board has commenced work on this matter, which will now be accelerated.

Dancers' representative: I have previously expressed support for a dancers' representative to the board. Mr Myhill does not support this proposal and has pointed out that there are technical difficulties associated with such an appointment. My view is that a decision on this matter should be referred to the company pending the appointment of a new Artistic Director to enable the views of the dancers engaged for the balance of 1999 to be taken into account.

Conclusion: It is essential that ADT now maintains momentum. The interim artistic arrangements are an important step in that direction. Meanwhile, the Government's response to the Myhill Report will provide ADT with both the time and funds to develop an infrastructure that will support and sustain the company into the next century. In conclusion, I acknowledge Mr Myhill's assessment, and I quote: 'that if there continues to be criticism of the company for its past, there is prejudice to its future'. It will be—

*The Hon. Carolyn Pickles interjecting:*

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** Because of the cynical laugh from the Hon. Carolyn Pickles, I repeat Mr Myhill's assessment: 'that if there continues to be criticism of the company for its past, there is prejudice to its future'. It will be unattractive to those it most needs—skilled, experienced and committed people.

## QUESTION TIME

### TAXIS

**The Hon. CAROLYN PICKLES:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Transport and Urban Planning a question about taxi safety.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. CAROLYN PICKLES:** I refer the Minister to the report of the taxi safety task force. The report makes a number of recommendations in relation to taxi safety and, as we head into the silly season, this is a most important issue, as I am sure the Minister would agree. The report's most significant recommendation relates to the installation of security cameras. The executive summary of the task force report states:

Security cameras are relatively expensive but popular and effective for deterring violence. The task force strongly recommends their installation.

The report continues:

Legislative measures should be considered to expedite the prosecution of crimes against taxi drivers, and penalties for fare evasion should be increased to be at least the same as those applying to fare evasion on public transport.

More concerning, however, the report refers to the use and future of the 1 per cent taxi safety levy. The task force was concerned that the use of the levy had not been quantified by an audit process. The task force was also concerned that there was widespread ignorance of the levy's existence among drivers who were not also operators, and I quote:

There is little evidence of drivers using the levy to improve their security unless one includes forgone revenue when reporting crime or when taking a cautious approach to picking up passengers. While the apparent ineffectiveness of the levy in encouraging drivers to adopt security measures suggests that it should be removed the task force would prefer that the levy be made effective by the Government taking a more proactive role to promote the security of taxis drivers and their customers.

The report provides arguments to support the view of the task force that the installation of cameras should be subsidised by the Passenger Transport Research and Development Fund. However, in light of the viewpoint expressed in a letter from the Executive Director of the PTB that the Government did not intend to contribute to the cost of safety measures, the task force recommends that the Passenger Transport Research and Development Fund be used to provide the initial capital to pay for the installation of security cameras and that a levy be imposed on all taxi related accreditation fees to recover

that amount. In the light of these disturbing comments about the lack of taxi safety, which was recently sadly evidenced by the bashing and robbing of a taxi driver at Christies Beach on Sunday morning, I ask the Minister:

1. Does the Minister agree with the report's comments in relation to the ineffectiveness of the 1 per cent taxi safety levy, and given these comments will she launch an immediate inquiry?

2. What is the Government's response to the report's recommendations, in particular the installation of security cameras, and will it loan the taxi industry the \$1 million necessary to install these devices given that it so readily takes from the industry as it did in its last budget?

3. Does the Minister agree with the report's suggestion calling for consideration to be given to legislative measures to expedite the prosecution of crimes against taxi drivers and to increase penalties for fare evasion?

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** In the past week I have seen the Passenger Transport Board's consideration of the report of the Taxi Safety Task Force. I am working through that with the PTB and anticipate that I will be able to reply formally to the task force, the South Australian Taxi Industry Association and the honourable member in the very near future. I agree with the honourable member's initial statements about the importance of taxi safety, in terms of both welfare of the taxi driver and peace of mind of their family. This is critical in terms of driver perception of safety, safety in reality, and the family's comfort with driver safety, otherwise we do not necessarily attract the best people as taxi drivers, particularly during the evening. For a variety of reasons, I consider this issue to be of major concern. It is for that reason that earlier this year the Government supported the 1 per cent increase in fares so that it could be directed to the installation of safety devices within a cab for the benefit of drivers and their passengers.

I am concerned about the task force's report that this levy is not fully understood by drivers—that it is for their benefit and for the installation of safety devices—and that it may have been either kept aside as part of General Revenue or used for some other purpose. I find the reference to the ignorance amongst drivers on this matter to be quite amazing because there has been a major campaign through the Taxi Industry Association in its magazine and the media generally about this levy. It was also an issue raised by the Taxi Industry Association to the Government, to which we responded positively.

In terms of the honourable member's call for an inquiry, I think that that is premature. I believe that many drivers have used the 1 per cent levy to provide for the installation of global positioning systems within their vehicles. Adelaide cabs, overall, I believe, are the only cabs in Australia that have installed global positioning systems. This means that, at any given time, without pressing buttons or attracting the attention of others in the taxi, if those people are giving the driver a reason to be concerned, the driver's position can be traced at any time. In terms of peace of mind and safety, that is possibly the greatest initiative that can be made on behalf of driver safety.

Certainly, there seems to be little support for the path that the New South Wales Government has followed, that is, for security screens to surround the driver in their seat. That was compulsory in New South Wales from 1 July this year, and there has been enormous resistance from drivers and bad vibes from passengers. I am keen to talk further with taxi drivers generally about the issue of security cameras to see

whether they need such assistance when they have the global positioning system. We need to be confident that the global positioning system is fully understood by drivers and that it is being used to its maximum benefit. I can advise the honourable member that I should be in a position very shortly to get back to her on the other recommendations, legislative and otherwise, as part of the Government's response to the taxi safety task force report.

#### WOMEN'S STUDIES RESOURCE CENTRE

**The Hon. CAROLYN PICKLES:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for the Status of Women a question about the Women's Studies Resource Centre.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. CAROLYN PICKLES:** I refer to a letter I received from the Women's Studies Resource Centre management collective yesterday. Following a question I asked of the Minister last week, the collective has not yet heard from the Minister for Education, despite having sent him eight faxes on 2, 4, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 November. My question to the Minister is: will she now intervene in the interests of women, given the refusal by the Minister for Education to do so?

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** Contrary to the advice that the honourable member has mentioned, I have been advised by the Minister for Education, Children Services and Training (Hon. Malcolm Buckby) that he has asked the Chief Executive to meet with the Women's Studies Resource Centre and that the meeting has been arranged for this week to work through a satisfactory solution. I would have to be convinced that that meeting has not been held and that there is not good faith on the part of the Minister and the Chief Executive to work through a satisfactory solution before I would consider intervening.

#### ACCESS CABS

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Transport a question about Access Cabs.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS:** Mr President—

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS:** Yes, it is Diners' Day today in cabs. Recently, Access Cabs was privatised and a new structure, including software, was used to set up Access Cabs in order to try to privatise the fleet and to maintain the service that had been provided—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! The honourable member is on his feet trying to ask a question.

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS:** It has involved a recent change to the way in which the Wheelchair Taxi Owners and Drivers Association has been handled. The fleet itself has been increased recently, and there has been an announcement that there will be a further increase on the numbers that are currently in the field. According to the information I was given—

**The Hon. Diana Laidlaw:** It's pretty unsound.

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS:** No, it's not. The Wheelchair Taxi Owners and Drivers Association was then a loose association of individuals who had bought into the industry. Indications were given to it that there would be security in the

industry and that the Access Cabs Association would be given access to the decision making processes of the Public Transport Board. A meeting on the Wheelchair Taxi Owners and Drivers Association was held on Thursday 19 March. I will quote from the minutes, which shows that it appears to be building up a relationship with the owners and drivers. Point 2, relating to the role of the association, states:

The main aim of the association was to convey the views of the Access Cabs' operators to the PTB on matters which might not be appropriately dealt with by the Fleet Advisory Committee.

The minutes go on to reflect that:

Policy initiatives could be appropriately raised by the association with the PTB. The PTB could also seek to consult the association on policy reforms from time to time.

I have to report to the Minister that, although a meeting had been set up, no further meetings have taken place. In fact, a number of meetings that had been sought by the association were cancelled, some at short notice. The association is—

**An honourable member:** No access!

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS:** Yes, that's right—getting nervous in that it appears that it has been pushed aside, that arbitrary decisions are being made in its absence which impact on the security of the owners and drivers, and that the number of plates is starting to increase without any information being gathered directly from the drivers or owners themselves. A report has been in the Minister's hands for some time in relation to the restructuring of the industry, but it appears to me that it would make good sense for the Minister to make direct contact with the association. It is not as though it is or has been hostile: it appears to me that it wants to be cooperative with the Government in order to give the best possible service with the best possible returns to their industry and to maintain the security. It has been reported to me that a number of the Access Cab plate owners are now in dire straits. My questions are:

1. Does the Minister recognise the Wheelchair Taxi Owners and Drivers Association Inc. as the representative of operators of accessible taxis so that it can get some negotiating status?

2. If the answer is 'Yes,' why has the association been unable to procure meetings that it has requested with, first, the PTB and, failing that, with the Minister?

3. Why has this association failed to be granted representation on the Taxi Industry Advisory Panel?

4. Is the Minister aware that the arbitrary decisions that are being made by the department without consultation with key stakeholders in the industry are impacting adversely on both the service to the customer and the commercial viability of operators?

5. Is the Minister committed to releasing further accessible taxi licences based upon market demand or upon the economic considerations to supplement funding for the transport subsidy scheme for the disabled?

6. Will the Minister make a commitment to get the PTB and the Wheelchair Taxi Owners and Drivers Association to work through its problems in order to secure a first grade service with taxi owners' security?

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** I highlight immediately the point that I and the Hon. Angus Redford raised by way of interjection—that Access Cabs has not recently been privatised. When it was first established—when the Hon. Frank Blevins, a Labor Minister, was Minister for Transport—it was a private organisation, and the contract was with the then Office of Policy and Planning, which reported directly to the Minister. There has been a change of arrange-

ment because the directors of the board of Access Cabs, otherwise known as Specialised Taxi Services, came to the PTB and to me to say that it could no longer meet the contractual terms which it had established, first, with Mr Blevins, and which were amended when the Hon. Barbara Wiese was Minister and amended again during my term as Minister. Therefore, it could not operate. It did not want to see the service cease, and certainly the Government and the PTB did not want to see this valuable service cease, so the PTB, with my approval, agreed that expressions of interest would be sought for the operation of the service. Yellow Cabs won that contract.

My overriding concern in seeking expressions of interest was to make sure, following advice from representatives of wheelchair users and their organisations—Mr Maurice Corcoran and a whole range of other people in wheelchairs who are users of Access Cabs—that we had one number that they could telephone rather than a proliferation of numbers and services.

In South Australia, one of the great benefits of the Access Cab arrangement set up by the Hon. Frank Blevins was that there is one number and one service contact point. Victoria has never operated its Access Cabs system in the same way, and it is impossible for wheelchair-bound customers to get a one-stop shop service, and it is difficult for them to get a decent service.

Yellow Cabs won the contract, and I can report that there have been some outstanding advances for wheelchair-bound users of Access Cab services since Yellow Cabs took over the operations. The average waiting time has fallen from 30 minutes to 17 minutes, and I believe that a report is to come to me which suggests that the times have fallen again. There are two different systems of booking calls, using a computer and also the Internet. These advances have been developed with Yellow Cabs' customer service panel, which comprises wheelchair-bound people and representatives of advocacy groups.

On occasions there have been difficulties with late arrivals, particularly at night, and I have demanded (and I do not think it is fair to use any other term) that the PTB and Yellow Cabs meet together to work out how they can get more taxis on the road in the evening to meet the needs of wheelchair-bound people who wish to use the service. In the meantime, the Government has increased by 15 the number of Access Cabs and we have the highest proportion of Access Cabs per taxi fleet in Australia, and we propose to have 15 per cent of our taxi fleet accessible by the year 2001 or 2002.

In terms of the statement that I have ignored or pushed aside the association, I point out that my understanding was that the PTB was meeting with the association. If that is not the case, I will inquire why. There has never been any wish on my part not to retain a good relationship with the Wheelchair Taxi Owners and Drivers Association. I have never seen them as a hostile group and, in fact, yesterday I was with the Access Cabs taxidriver (Peter Brady) who in two successive months has been nominated as taxidriver of the year. It is the first time that an Access Cab driver has won that high distinction.

I am not sure why the association has not been granted representation on the Taxi Industry Advisory Panel. The Act provides that the PTB appoints the representatives to that panel, and I will inquire why the association is not represented. In terms of arbitrary decisions being made by the department, I am not sure what the honourable member is

referring to, because further decisions in terms of the number of Access Cabs, payment and other arrangements are pending release following a report that has been commissioned from Dr Ian Radbone. The PTB has received that report and I was meant to receive a briefing on it yesterday. However, that briefing has been put off until later this week. I should therefore be in a position to report shortly to the association and to the Parliament. I understand that Dr Radbone took account of the views of the association in formulating his recommendations. Any decision as to further accessible cabs will await the release of that report. The honourable member also asked whether I would make a commitment to get the PTB and the Wheelchair Taxi Owners and Drivers Association to work through the problems, and my answer is 'Yes.'

### AQUACULTURE

**The Hon. IAN GILFILLAN:** I seek leave to make a brief statement before asking the Attorney-General, representing the Deputy Premier and Minister for Primary Industries, Natural Resources and Regional Development, a question regarding the assessment, regulation and management of aquaculture in South Australia.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. IAN GILFILLAN:** The Environment, Resources and Development Court recently upheld four appeals by the Conservation Council of South Australia against proposed snapper aquaculture developments in Fitzgerald Bay in the Upper Spencer Gulf just north of Whyalla. The court has agreed to rescind approvals for these developments and the order was made by consent. That means that the court did not need to examine the statement of claim which the Conservation Council was prepared to argue. It was its submission that there were flaws in the decision-making process. The developers, Spencer Gulf Aquaculture Limited, it was claimed, had failed to provide adequate details about water depth, flow, sediments, vegetation, and animals beneath and surrounding the proposed farm.

Secondly, the Conservation Council's case was that the proposed snapper development was not a sustainable development for the location. Fine sediment lies on the sea floor in Fitzgerald Bay and the water movement is minimal, so the Conservation Council was prepared to argue that this proposed development was likely to cause long-term environmental damage. As I said, these arguments were not heard in court.

The Development Assessment Commission decided not to contest the case, so one can draw one's own conclusions. Certainly, many have drawn the conclusion that there are serious flaws in the Government's management plan for aquaculture and its regulation of environment protection. They allege that aquaculture in this State is developer driven and that application forms are ticked off in great numbers without anyone even checking the proposed sites for environmental sustainability.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! The Hon. Mr Cameron will resume his seat or have his conversation outside.

**The Hon. IAN GILFILLAN:** The aquaculture industry deserves better than this. It is one of the most promising industries in this State and it must have the best in its assessment of both environmental and financial viability. This apparent failure to manage for sustainable development stands in contrast to the policy of the Whyalla council, which is committed to a long-term strategic program for achieving

sustainable development in the region. The council is committed to aquaculture development fitting into the marine environment so that economic growth is balanced with environmental protection. In the light of the foregoing detail, I ask the following questions:

1. Who gives approval for aquaculture developments and how are they assessed?
2. What went wrong in this case?
3. How many other aquaculture approvals have been granted where environmental risks have not been properly assessed?
4. What steps is the Government taking to overcome inadequate regulation to avoid wasting applicants' time and money, seeking approvals that are subsequently overturned in court?
5. When will the following recommendations of the Environment, Resources and Development Committee, namely—
  - (a) that there should be a more comprehensive vetting procedure so that incomplete development applications are returned to applicants prior to being forwarded to agencies for comment;
  - (b) that the planning and approval process should be shifted away from being application driven and so regulated on the run; and
  - (c) that there should be greater independence, transparency and community consultation prior to the approval of aquaculture development proposals—
 be implemented, bearing in mind that they come from one of the major standing committees of this Parliament?

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** I can provide some of the information to the honourable member and I am sure that the Attorney will convey the other parts of the question to the Deputy Premier.

*The Hon. Ian Gilfillan interjecting:*

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** Because of the planning issues involved, I can advise that I am aware of the matters raised by the Conservation Council. In fact, a question was asked in this place by the Hon. Terry Roberts, and I formally signed off the reply to him yesterday. However, based on the concerns raised by the Conservation Council, the Development Assessment Commission, which is responsible for setting up subcommittees, determined that it would not continue the subcommittee responsible for assessing aquaculture planning applications. So, it has removed the authority for that committee to meet on those matters and the Development Assessment Commission augmented by advice as appropriate will be the planning authority in the future.

It did say, and I certainly concur with the view, that the matters raised by the Conservation Council were of grave concern not only in relation to the planning process but for the aquaculture industry as a whole. The Minister for Primary Industries has been informed of and endorsed the action taken by the Development Assessment Commission. Many of the other questions the honourable member raised are outside my planning area and appropriately will be answered by the Minister for Primary Industries.

### WORKERS COMPENSATION

**The Hon. J.F. STEFANI:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Treasurer, representing the Minister for Education, Children's Services and Training, a question about workers' compensation claims.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. J.F. STEFANI:** The Government is a self-insured employer agency and all Government agencies operate under this scheme. My questions are:

1. How many workers' compensation claims have been lodged by the employees of the Department of Education, Children's Services and Training in the past 12 months?

2. What has been the total cost of these claims?

3. What was the amount paid by the Department for Education, Children's Services and Training in the past 12 months to independent medical examination centres?

4. Finally, what was the total cost paid by the Department for Education, Children's Services and Training during the past 12 months to various legal firms engaged to handle the workers' compensation matters?

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** I will refer the honourable member's question to the Minister and bring back a reply.

### FISHERIES, MEETINGS

**The Hon. R.R. ROBERTS:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Attorney-General, representing the Minister for Fisheries, a question about access to fisheries meetings.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. R.R. ROBERTS:** Members would have heard my contribution recently in the Address in Reply debate in respect of a constituent—

**The Hon. Diana Laidlaw:** We have heard it several times.

**The Hon. R.R. ROBERTS:** Well, you have not learnt anything: that is probably because you are a slow learner.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. R.R. ROBERTS:** In that contribution I outlined the history of my constituent, Mr Maurice Corigliano, and his experience in the fishing industry. I received some correspondence from Mr Corigliano yesterday. He is concerned about the treatment being meted out to him by the Department of Fisheries. By way of explanation, I will briefly refer to the correspondence. The letter states:

I lodged a claim but did not serve it on the Government because it was prepared in haste and may have required alteration and because I also hoped that, in the three month period in which it was open to me to withdraw the claim, I may still be able through discussion to get fisheries bureaucrats and the Minister to see that management was on the wrong track.

I was asked by a Mr Zacharin of PIRSA and Mr Ken Smith to attend a workshop on 17 September but shortly after it commenced a fisheries official informed me that fisheries people had been told not to discuss fisheries matters with me because of the claim. You will see from the attached correspondence—

and I have that here for the perusal of the Minister—

that this stance was taken to ridiculous lengths yesterday when fisheries people demanded that I not attend an industry meeting when they were present even though the subject matter was not directly related to my statement of claim.

Fisheries Ministers, and officials, are open to legal claims by any fishermen at any time so it can be said that they are always at risk of saying something that might work against them if a claim was made.

He points out that the Gulf St Vincent fishermen have been threatening legal action, in writing, regarding the buy back for months, but no ban has been placed upon them, or their solicitor, from talking with fisheries officials or the Minister. He has gone a step further in lodging his claim, but his legal advice is that, at this stage there is no legal barrier preventing him from talking with officials or vice versa. He further says:

It would not be wise for me to do so if my claim was frivolous in case I made a statement which could be used against me in court but, because it is sound, I have no fears.

If the Government fears its position, surely the best course of action would be for the Minister to meet with him to discuss his concerns in the hope of satisfying him to the degree that he could withdraw the claim. He further says:

If the Government is sure that my claim has no chance of success, then one wonders why it is so paranoid about talking to me.

I also have a copy of a letter and a fax. My constituent, Mr Corigliano, has an impeccable record in fisheries. The letter from Lorraine Rosenberg, the Chief Executive Officer of SAFIC, states:

I wish to advise you that you have been nominated to be an industry representative on the five year licence tenure committee. Your acceptance of this position and the availability to attend the first meeting of this committee on Tuesday 10 November 1998 at the SAFIC office at 10 a.m. would be greatly appreciated.

He was then advised on 9 November that he could not attend. After sending a fax for clarification, he received one in return from Simone Gribble representing, as I understand it, again Lorraine Rosenberg. The fax states:

Further to your fax this morning, I have spoken to Lorraine and she has advised me of the following:

PIRSA is the Government department that is attending today's meeting. SAFIC was advised verbally that while legal action was impending you could not attend and take place in a meeting with Government present.

I point out that, whilst my constituent has compiled a claim, it has not been served. My questions to the Minister are as follows:

1. Given that no action for claim has been served on the Government, why is my constituent being barred from attending normal industry meetings?

2. More specifically, how can Mr Corigliano be barred from the meeting of Tuesday 10 November to which he had been nominated by SAFIC to discuss matters completely unrelated to the matters contained in his lodged but unserved claim?

3. On whose advice is the Minister acting in respect of these matters involving my constituent Mr Maurice Corigliano?

**The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN:** I will refer the question to my colleague in another place and bring back a reply.

### SUPERANNUATION ENTITLEMENTS

**The Hon. J.S.L. DAWKINS:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Attorney-General a question about superannuation entitlements.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. J.S.L. DAWKINS:** The *Advertiser* recently ran an article about a Mr Russell Williams, an invalid pensioner, who, unfortunately, is dying of mesothelioma. Apparently, Mr Williams has requested that he be paid out a \$200 000 lump sum from the State Superannuation Fund before he turns 60. The article also reported that Parliament had altered the Judges' Pensions Act, and said it allowed judges to gain access to their superannuation at age 58 years. So, the question was raised that if it was good enough for judges why not for Mr Williams. Will the Attorney-General explain Mr Williams's situation and detail what effect the amendments to the Judges' Pension Act will have?

**The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN:** It was somewhat disappointing that the Leader of the Opposition in another place should promote an argument based on an amendment to the Judges'



Pension Act that Mr Williams should be therefore granted an entitlement to a lump sum settlement of his superannuation entitlements. The other disappointing thing is that the Leader of the Opposition actually misrepresented quite significantly the facts. The newspaper report which raised this issue attributes to the Opposition Leader remarks which reflect that misunderstanding or misrepresentation of the position. The article states:

Last week, Parliament altered the Judges' Pension Act to allow judges who have served 15 years or more to gain access to their super if they suffer a 60 per cent or more incapacity to work. The Opposition Leader, Mr Rann, said yesterday Parliament had passed the legislation to allow the 58 year old judge—who has not been named—to receive his superannuation before he reached 60. 'We assisted the judge. Let's do the same for Mr Williams,' he said. 'I hope the Treasurer will reconsider this matter and act with compassion to assist someone who is dying from mesothelioma with an *ex gratia* payment.'

What the Hon. Mr Rann did not acknowledge was that Mr Williams was already on a pension: he was getting superannuation and had been doing so for something like seven years. Mr Rann did not indicate that the plea to be paid lump sum superannuation before attaining the age of 60 would have meant that, across the board, we would have had the same plea from a number of other people who were on invalid pensions under the State Superannuation Act, and if you treat one person in this way by granting a special favour you must, in order to be consistent, treat other persons in a similar situation equally. While members in the other place talked about an *ex gratia* payment, the fact of the matter is that in my view it would have required an amendment to the State Superannuation Act. In fact, it would have been the trustees of the superannuation fund who would have had to grant that benefit.

What was significant about the misrepresentation was that, in the legislation that passed in amending the Judges' Pensions Act, no benefit was given to any judges in respect of a lump sum. They could get it when they turned 60, as is the position with Mr Williams, but only if they had served the maximum period of 15 years before attaining that age. What we did in the Judges' Pensions Act amendment was to apply to all judges who happened to qualify a right to have preserved a benefit that had accrued, only if a judge had served more than 15 years and had actually retired before reaching the age of 60. We also provided that, if a retired judge suffered more than 60 per cent disability or died before reaching the age of 60, that judge would be able to take a pension—not a lump sum, but a pension. So, no access was given to a lump sum before attaining the age of 60. That is the equivalent of the position in which Mr Williams found himself and the position which was misrepresented by the Leader of the Opposition in the other place.

### FOOD ACT

**The Hon. CARMEL ZOLLO:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister representing the Minister for Human Services a question about the Food Act.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. CARMEL ZOLLO:** In the previous session of Parliament, following constituent inquiries I asked a question about the Government's promise at the last State election to redraft the Food Act. My explanation at that time in relation to food hygiene included the comment that, 'Regrettably there have been several well publicised breakdowns in South Australia and elsewhere.' I am still awaiting

a response to that earlier question which was asked almost three months ago and which I consider requires only a short, straightforward reply. However, in light of concerns identified in the Auditor-General's Report, I am keen to obtain further information regarding this important issue. My questions to the Minister are:

1. How many food inspectors or authorised officers are currently employed to monitor the food industry by both State and local government agencies, and what were the figures for the previous four years?

2. The audit has identified that local government does not routinely keep details on the authorised officers who administer the Food Act 1985. Will the Minister indicate whether this procedure will be rectified?

3. Will the Minister advise when the promised Internet site (announced at the time of the last State election) to provide the general public with detailed information on food recalls and other public health advice will be established?

4. When will the Minister implement the Auditor-General's recommendation for an urgent review to determine whether an appropriate level of resources is being applied in the area of enforcement of food legislation, and for such reviews to be undertaken on a regular basis?

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** I will refer that question to my colleague in another place and bring back a reply.

### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

**The Hon. M.J. ELLIOTT:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Information Services a question about information technology outsourcing.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. M.J. ELLIOTT:** I have been informed that the State Government's information technology outsourcing deal with EDS has been causing problems in one State Government department (in fact, I have had complaints from others but I refer particularly to complaints coming from one). In the information technology section of that department, public servants who have approached EDS for the provision of information technology services have been told that the services they were seeking were not available as they were not within the IT contract. The departmental staff themselves say that they had no way of knowing what was in and what was not in the contract, not having access to a copy of it.

Of perhaps even more concern is that I understand that, as the EDS work is charged by formula, that causes a problem for departments, because they themselves do not know what the formula is. This makes it impossible for departments to make informed decisions about their budgets, particularly in this area and in terms of forward planning. These are concerns that are also reflected in the Auditor-General's recent annual report, which highlights important areas such as final assumed costs, unit pricing arrangements and revised annual percentage price reductions, which I understand at this stage have still not been finalised. My questions to the Minister are:

1. Will the Minister release a copy of the EDS contract to the parliamentary select committee investigating this issue and, if not, why not?

2. Will the Minister release relevant aspects of the contract's pricing arrangements and services covered to appropriate information technology divisions of Government departments and, if not, why not?

3. Will the Government inform the Parliament each year in the annual report of the responsible agency on matters of performance with agreed contract service levels?

**The Hon. R.D. LAWSON:** I know that the honourable member has an interest in the performance of the EDS contract and its contribution to this State. The Hon. Mr Elliott is a member of the Select Committee on Outsourcing of State Government Services and was previously a member of the select committee specifically examining the EDS arrangement, and he will well know from that experience that the answer to his first question is that a copy of the EDS contract, which is more correctly described as the Information Technology Services and State Economic Development Agreement, of 30 October 1995, will not be made available. A summary, checked by the Auditor-General and signed off by him, has been made available to that committee, and I believe that if the honourable member were to consult his summary he would satisfy himself that some of the uncertainties he alleges arising do not arise under the terms of the contract.

**The Hon. M.J. Elliott:** Do all the departments have copies of that summary?

**The Hon. R.D. LAWSON:** The honourable member, by way of interjection, asks whether all departments have copies of the summary. So far as I am aware, they do not. However, all persons within the public sector who are operating at the interface with EDS are aware, through publications distributed, of the relevant technical and other financial matters which impact upon daily operational decisions. It is unnecessary to provide members of the public sector at that level with the particular contractual forms: they are more interested in operational instructions and information which will be of assistance in a day-to-day sense.

The honourable member says, in a very general way, that certain public servants are approaching EDS personnel and being told that services are not within the contract. If the honourable member has any specific examples of that I would be pleased if he would provide me with the information and I will certainly make inquiries and bring back an appropriate reply. The honourable member's second question asked for a release of the information relating to the pricing arrangements. As members will know, the current arrangements with EDS provide for an interim pricing mechanism, which will, I am informed, shortly be replaced by the finalised pricing mechanism and which will be very close to the interim basis. I understand that within the next month those arrangements will be finalised. If there are any details of those arrangements which can be circulated to members I will undertake to make inquiries about that and bring back a reply.

The third element of the honourable member's question concerned an annual report of performance by EDS within each agency. I am certainly prepared to give consideration to the publication at appropriate times of performance on this particular contract, whether it is agency by agency or category of work by category of work. I am unable to provide details at the moment but I will certainly give consideration to that.

It is true, as the honourable member should appreciate, that there have been published annual reports of the performance of EDS in relation to its delivery in terms of economic and industry development for this State, and there has been considerable industry development. The company presently employs 700 South Australians whereas it was employing fewer than 200 at the start of the contract. EDS has established various centres of excellence in Adelaide. It has

removed from Victoria to this State all of its data processing for General Motors-Holden's, which has provided significant economic development and employment opportunities in this State. Similarly, it has removed to this State the work that it is performing for Westpac, once again with positive results.

**The Hon. M.J. ELLIOTT:** As a supplementary question: does the Minister acknowledge that departments might have some budgetary difficulty if they do not know what the actual costs will be for services that they both have and may require in the future?

**The Hon. R.D. LAWSON:** I do not accept the hypothesis underlying the honourable member's question, namely, that departments do not know what their costs might be. I am certainly prepared to also take that particular question on notice and see whether there is any basis for the hypothesis advanced by the honourable member.

### SCHOOL BUSES

**The Hon. CAROLINE SCHAEFER:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Treasurer, representing the Minister for Education, Children's Services and Training, a question about school bus airconditioning.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. CAROLINE SCHAEFER:** Members in this place, in particular the Treasurer, would be well aware that I have long been an advocate for airconditioning school buses, particularly those in the hotter parts of the State, and more particularly those buses still travelling on dirt roads. I was therefore gratified to hear the Governor say in his opening address that trials for airconditioning on school buses were already under way. My questions to the Treasurer are:

1. Which schools are involved in these trials?
2. What is the length of the bus routes involved and how frequently do the buses stop for children getting on and off the buses?
3. How soon can we expect to know the results of the trials?

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** I will refer the honourable member's questions to the Minister and bring back a reply.

### GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

**The Hon. T. CROTHERS:** I seek leave to make a precised statement prior to directing to the Treasurer and Leader of the Government in the Council some questions about the proposed GST.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. T. CROTHERS:** Recently a Mr Sturrock, purportedly representing major sections of the automotive industry, said that the proposed introduction of the GST, if and/or when it is introduced, will reduce car prices by 8.5 per cent. Mr Sturrock then went on to say that this saving will only in part be passed on to consumers. As yet it is not known to the author of this question the intentions of other major industries in Australia and how they will handle any cost savings brought about by the introduction of the GST. Industries such as steel manufacturing and the oil industry readily spring to mind, but, of course, there are many others, which time and space do not permit me to list.

With the foregoing in mind, and given that the Government of the Hon. John Olsen has already committed South Australians to support the Federal Government's push for a GST, I direct the following questions to the Hon. Mr Lucas:

1. Does the Treasurer perceive that, given what I have just outlined, there is a chance that the States could be being sold a pig in a poke?

2. Does the Treasurer agree that if the full cost savings of a GST are not passed on to the fullest extent to consumers then the cost savings, particularly to those who are on fixed incomes, will be very considerably less than that which the Federal Treasury model of cost savings currently predicts?

3. Finally, but by no means exhaustively, should the 10 per cent levy not be sufficient to meet revenue needs, as has been the case everywhere else that a GST has been introduced, and the Australian 10 per cent GST rate has to be lifted to 12½ per cent, does the Treasurer agree that the Federal Government will have, in reality and by deceit, handballed the blame back to State Governments for increasing tax revenue?

4. My last 'finally' was in fact a penultimate question, so, further, what are the Treasurer's views in relation to the impact on inflation should many companies determine not to pass on cost savings as outlined by Mr Sturrock?

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** The answer to the honourable member's first question is 'No.' In relation to the specific impacts on a variety of industries, in particular the motor vehicle industry to which the honourable member has referred, I will take some detailed advice. Certainly, the Government's position is that it believes that the removal of wholesale sales tax in a manufacturing based State such as South Australia and its replacement with a goods and services tax at a level of 10 per cent will be of net benefit to industries, such as the local car industry and others that are important to this State.

In relation to the honourable member's inference about the relative ease of an increase in the GST from 10 per cent to 12½ per cent I will be happy to provide the honourable member with the process for such an increase in the future, which is a convoluted and complicated process that does not just involve the Commonwealth Government but the State and Territory Governments as well. I will be happy to bring back a more detailed response to the honourable member's thoughtful questions on the issue of the GST.

#### BAROSSA TOURIST RAILWAY

In reply to **Hon. R.R. ROBERTS** (18 August).

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** As the honourable member would be aware, Australia Southern Railroad Pty Ltd (ASR) owns this section of the Barossa rail line. While ASR leases the land corridor from the State, it has outright ownership of all infrastructure on the land. Amongst other things, the lease terms cover normal property management matters such as the safe condition of the land, weed control, etc. However, the State Government is not in a position to control the maintenance and upgrade of the line.

The State, through the Department of Industry and Trade, has offered the Barossa Regional Economic Development Authority (BREDA) dollar for dollar track and railside upgrade funding up to a maximum of \$60 000. BREDA now requires community support to match the State funding offer to achieve this upgrade. BREDA has advised that community funding to the amount of \$42 750 has been pledged to date. BREDA has also been granted \$57 000 by the Commonwealth Government from the rail reform fund, for track upgrading.

However, BREDA does not have the ability to undertake the works without the cooperation of ASR. ASR has indicated its willingness to cooperate in the upgrading, although it does not require it for its own purposes, subject to there being no increased costs or administrative demands imposed on ASR. ASR has entered into a contract for all of its track maintenance with Transfield and may not be able to require a tender process.

As these funds are project grants, it is up to the recipient to ensure that they are well spent. While the funds are required to be spent for

the purpose for which they have been granted, neither the State nor the Commonwealth Government require open tender processes for project grants. Although ASR could seek to achieve an open tender process for this work, ASR may not legally be able to accommodate such a request due to its contractual commitment to Transfield.

Given the current contractual arrangements and ASR's ownership of the line, the simplest and lowest cost option may well be for ASR to commission this upgrade from Transfield, if this is acceptable to BREDA who have the ultimate responsibility for the use of these funds.

#### DRIVERS' LICENCES, COUNTERFEIT

**The Hon. CARMEL ZOLLO:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Attorney-General a question about counterfeit drivers' licences.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. CARMEL ZOLLO:** Police in Western Australia have been reported as launching an investigation into allegations that fake drivers' licences are available for purchase over the Internet on the World Wide Web. In this case it appears that a group advertising as Promaster Card Company, with a London based address, is offering a variety of different fake Australian drivers' licences for a sum of around \$US100. The site also boasts that it is an illegal operation which provides a service for cash, and that it has been shut down on several previous occasions by the FBI.

Whilst the Web site does not currently include South Australia it does list four other mainland Australian States. Concerns have been expressed to me that South Australia could easily join this list. Given the advancements in recent technology and relative sharp declines in the cost of such technology to consumers, the potential for fraud is increasingly accessible to those elements in the community who may seek to undertake such fraud. My questions are:

1. Have any cases of Internet-based fake licences been reported in South Australia?
2. If so, what action has been taken against such fraud?
3. What preventive measures are in place to ensure that this problem is curtailed?

**The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN:** Quite obviously, if there are false licences being circulated or being made available in South Australia that is a breach of the law. The question is how to detect those. In respect of the way in which they become available, I will have to take some advice on it and bring back a reply.

#### HOUSING TRUST PROPERTY

In reply to **Hon. T. CROTHERS** (6 August) and answered by letter on 11 October.

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** The Minister for Human Services has provided the following information.

1. Does he agree with the fact that the Housing Trust has labelled as a disaster 'fallen trees or the possibility of fallen trees/large tree limbs which pose a risk to tenants'?

The SA Housing Trust has produced a leaflet titled 'Arranging Maintenance on Your Trust Home' as a guide to tenants of the Housing Trust. Within the leaflet the maintenance service is explained.

Matters which affect a tenant's health, safety and security are identified as 'Priority One' maintenance, requiring speedy response.

Examples are given in the leaflet to clarify for tenants those matters which warrant Priority One attention.

Included in those examples, under the heading of Disasters, are natural events. Reference is made to 'fallen trees or "possibility" of falling trees/large tree limbs' in circumstances which present 'a risk to tenants'.

The term 'disaster' is used in the context of the leaflet to alert tenants, in language which is easily understood, to the potential risk or scale of damage which these events may present, and the quick

response which the Trust will provide in these circumstances. It was not the Trust's intention in the preparation of the leaflet to define all fallen trees or potentially falling trees or large tree limbs as disasters.

2. If he does, what does his Government intend to do to speed up the process of removing dangerously overhanging trees or some of the limbs thereof?

Where 'fallen trees or "possibility" of falling trees/large tree limbs' clearly affect the safety of Housing Trust tenants they are classified as Priority One maintenance and removal should start within four hours of the contractor being asked to do the job.

3. Does the Minister perceive that there is any difference between the safety of a Housing Trust tenant and any other home dweller in this State?

Tenant safety should be of concern to landlords. I am pleased to see this leaflet referred to by the Hon. Trevor Crothers MLC as it indicates genuine concern by the Housing Trust for its tenants' safety.

4. Does the Minister believe that paralysis of action in this area is brought about by local and State Governments standing in awe of environmentalists who may support the retention of all trees, irrespective of whether or not they present a hazard to human life itself?

No.

#### YEAR 2000 COMPLIANCE

In reply to **Hon. CARMEL ZOLLO** (6 August) and answered by letter on 22 October.

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** The following is based on information provided by the Minister for Information Services and SAICORP.

1. What is the unfunded liability which the taxpayers of South Australia will potentially bear if SAICORP cannot have this year 2000 exclusion lifted by the reinsurers?

It is not possible to predict the number, nature and consequences of any possible system failures, nor is it possible to predict the effect of the interaction of the private and community sectors on the delivery of Government services. It is therefore not possible to put a dollar figure on the potential liability exposure of the Government arising from the Year 2000 date problem. At this time, it is not possible either to say what reinsurance protection SAICORP will be able to negotiate with its reinsurers in relation to claims arising from the Year 2000 date problem.

2. If the Government has been aware of this problem since at least September last year, why are Government agencies being allowed until 30 June 1999 to sign off on year 2000 compliance responsibilities, given that some effects of the date problem already exist?

Government has been aware of the Year 2000 problem since well before September 1997. In July 1997 Cabinet formally tasked Chief Executives with the responsibility of the identification, correction and testing of Year 2000 problems within their agencies. Cabinet approved the following timelines for achieving Year 2000 compliance:

- December 1998 is the date by which all software changes to essential systems will be completed;
- June 1999 is the date by which testing of all software changes to essential systems will be completed;
- December 1999 is the date which by which all changes must be completed.

All Whole of Government Computer Technology systems have been assessed for Year 2000 compliance by the lead agencies, and corrective actions are being put in place where needed.

#### ABORIGINAL YOUTH ACTION COMMITTEE

In reply to **Hon. T.G. ROBERTS** (23 July) and answered by letter on 11 October.

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** The Premier has provided the following responses.

1. Is the Premier aware that the proposed review process of the program has been denied funding?

In 1997-98, the program committed a total of almost \$100 000 to youth groups across the State which is a cost effective means of helping young Aboriginal people develop the skills and confidence to run their own activities and programs.

A review of the program and its effectiveness had been proposed. However, the cost of the review which was to be \$50 000 was not considered to be justified in the context of overall program expenditure. As such the initial proposal has not been supported.

2. Will the Premier ensure that funding for the review will go ahead, to enable progress to be made in this important area?

The Aboriginal Youth Action Committee's program is an important part of the Government's commitment to improving the wellbeing of Aboriginal young people. A more cost effective means of undertaking a review of this program and allowing Aboriginal communities to establish plans for improving the recreational, employment, educational and health opportunities for young people, is being developed. The Program Co-ordinator and the members of the Youth Action Committees will play an active role in this review.

#### STATE DEBT

In reply to **Hon. M.J. ELLIOTT** (23 July) and answered by letter on 7 September.

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** In essence, you are seeking to confirm whether the annual savings of about \$500 million to the Budget through the operation of the voluntary separation scheme includes the impact of out-sourced services.

I wish to assure you that the saving of \$500 million per annum quoted by me in the Legislative Council on 23 July 1998 is exclusive of services that have been out-sourced.

Of the 12 300 full time equivalent employee separations between 1994-95 and 1997-98, under the TVSP scheme, approximately 2 000 received incentive payments to move across to the various contractors of out-sourced public sector services.

The balance of some 10 300 full time equivalent employee reductions reflected, in the main, the Government's planned approach to reducing the size of the public sector by linking workforce reductions to agency restructuring and productivity improvements through the enterprise bargaining process.

The average annual cost—salary and oncosts—of employing a public sector employee during 1997-98 was estimated at \$49 000. This average cost was derived by dividing the total number of employees (64 000 FTE's) in the non-commercial sector into the total salary and wage bill (\$3.140 billion) for this sector. Applying this average cost to the 10 300 separations from the service results in a saving of little more than \$500 million per annum.

This ongoing saving is considered conservative as it excludes the overheads—accommodation and related costs—saved through having fewer public employees.

I reaffirm my statement to the Legislative Council that a saving of \$500 million per annum has been realised through the TVSP scheme process and that this excludes the impact of out-sourced services.

#### RAW LOG EXPORT

In reply to **Hon. T.G. ROBERTS** (22 July) and answered by letter on 22 October.

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** The Minister for Government Enterprises has provided the following responses.

1. Is the Treasurer aware of the raw log export across the Portland wharf?

Two organisations are currently involved in the export of logs through the Port of Portland. They are CSR Timber and Radiata Exporters.

The CSR Timber log is not supplied by ForestrySA, but is sourced from that company's plantations in South Australia and Victoria.

Radiata Exporters have a two year agreement with ForestrySA for the supply of 10 000 m<sup>3</sup> per year of low quality log from State owned plantations in South Australia. This agreement came into effect in April 1998.

2. Is he aware that raw log is being exported in quantities that could keep the Nangwarry mill operational, thereby saving all those jobs?

No. The log supplied to Radiata Exporters was offered to the industry through an expression of interest process in December 1997.

Limited interest was shown in the log allocated to Radiata Exporters.

This log is a recovery cut from break trees in clearfelling operations. The log specification is unacceptable to the local industry with sawmills unable to economically process log of this quality.

3. What is the relative revenue loss to the State and the nation if this policy of exporting raw log without value adding is adopted?

I am advised that log provided to Radiata Exporters under the terms of their agreement is unsuitable for local processing.

Previously, log of this specification was wasted and burnt during the clean up of clearfelling sites.

ForestrySA has identified an opportunity to sell break log to Radiata Exporters and in doing so has increased the revenue obtained from its clearfelling operations.

#### VILLIERS TRAINING SCHEME

In reply to **Hon. T.G. ROBERTS** (13 August) and answered by letter on 22 October.

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** The Minister for Education, Children's Services and Training has provided the following information.

1. What practices and procedures are currently in place to protect trainees and other unemployed people from the sorts of problems that I have outlined?

2. What screening practices and procedures are in place to vet current and future training scheme providers and administrators?

The Vocational Education Employment and Training Act 1994 ('the Act'), industrial law and award provisions provide the legislative framework for the protection of employers, apprentices and trainees. The terms and conditions relating to the specific declared vocation are determined by the Accreditation and Registration Council (ARC), a statutory body set up under the Act.

Provisions relating to traineeships require that:

- an appropriate declared vocation exists, proclaimed by the Minister on advice from the ARC;
- the employer proposing to train is approved to employ and train persons in the desired vocation;
- a legally enforceable contract of training has been entered into between the employer and the trainee, and this is registered with the ARC;
- appropriate industrial arrangements including wage rates exist.

In the case of Villiers Vineyard Management Services, suitable declared vocations (Wine Industry Worker Level 2 and Level 3) do exist, together with associated industrial arrangements with which all parties involved must comply. The employer of the trainees is Murraylands Training and Employment Association of South Australia (MTEA), which was approved as an employing organisation for Wine Industry Worker Trainees. Contracts of Training were entered into and registered. Thus, all the standard practices and procedures applicable to apprentices and trainees have been complied with, yet a serious breakdown has occurred.

Problems appear to arise when group training companies such as MTEA, operate by placing the trainees with host employers, usually on a rotational basis, even though they are the legal employers of the trainees.

When any organisation seeks approval to employ apprentices or trainees, their capabilities are checked against a set of criteria by officers of the Department of Education, Training and Employment (DETE). The criteria (developed in conjunction with industry) cover matters such as suitability of premises, availability of staff to carry out training and the range of work and equipment on which training can occur. An on-site visit by a DETE officer will normally occur during the approval process.

Where group training companies are concerned, the interpretation of the criteria has to be somewhat different, because group training companies do not usually train in their own premises. Approval is judged instead in terms of the group training company's credibility in terms of its ability to find suitable host employers, and supervise the training and general treatment that the trainees receive. There is no direct check by DETE officers of the host employers.

Group training companies, as the approved employers, are required to actively monitor the placement and training arrangements for their trainees and to ensure that their host employers provide appropriate, safe worksites and adequate supervision. It is also expected that group training companies are concerned with the welfare of their trainees and may assist in ensuring suitable transport and accommodation arrangements are in place where host employers are located in other regions, although there is no legal requirement under the Contract of Training system for group training companies (or any other employer) to do so. Some industrial awards or agreements may have specific clauses relating to travel and accommodation arrangements.

3. Who is responsible for investigating incidents such as these and ensuring that the trainees involved in the scheme are paid back pay and entitlements owing and receive a certificate of competency and proficiency if these schemes are wound up and that they are transferred to other schemes?

The industrial entitlements of employees must be pursued through the Employee Ombudsman, or through civil litigation.

Certificates of Competency are only issued on the successful completion of all the on-the-job and off-the-job requirements of an apprenticeship or traineeship undertaken under a Contract of Training. However, time served under one Contract of Training can be credited if the Contract is recommenced with another employer who agrees to the credit (even if this is some years later). An Extract of Training can be provided to any apprentice or trainee not fully completing their traineeship outlining the time spent in the Contract. DETE training supervisors are available to assist with these matters.

Registered Training Organisations are also able to provide statements of attainment for modules undertaken off the job. Where modules have been successfully completed, other Registered Training Organisations are able to grant status so that off-the-job modules do not need to be completed again. Again, DETE officers are available to help and have been actively involved in assisting the trainees in the present case.

4. Will the Minister ensure that all the people involved in this scheme are given priority in future employment projects of this nature?

5. Will the Minister ensure that the participants are not victimised in any way when applying for future positions?

Every assistance is being extended by the Government to help the trainees caught up in this situation. Any suggestion of victimisation will be investigated and dealt with appropriately. However, trainees need to use their initiative by registering their interest in traineeships and other positions through employment agencies.

An informal mechanism operates in the group training company network whereby if a Contract of Training is suspended because a suitable host employer cannot be found for a trainee, the group training company advises other group training companies to see if they can offer the trainee a suitable position. However, the large number of displaced trainees in this instance means it is unlikely that all can be accommodated in this way.

Ultimately, it is up to employers who they employ as trainees.

The Government is committed to quality training and employment through the group training mechanism. The particular circumstances in relation to Murraylands Training and Employment Association of South Australia (MTEA), as the employer, and Villiers Vineyard Management Services (Villiers), as a host company, have been taken seriously by the Government, and DETE officers have undertaken an investigation to report on the events that led to this situation, leading to recommendations for preventing similar situations from occurring.

#### UNIVERSITY FUNDING

In reply to **Hon. G. WEATHERILL** (12 August) and answered by letter on 22 October.

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** This year the University of Adelaide has made extra places available on a full fee basis. The number of extra places is a maximum of 25 per cent of the federally funded number for each course. Under this arrangement, only 24 students were admitted to the University of Adelaide this year on a trial basis. A similar number is likely to be admitted next year. Flinders University and the University of South Australia are not considering full fee schemes.

This small number of students taking up the opportunity to gain access to University is expected to make a negligible contribution to the State's economy in the short term. Expenditure on education by these students instead of some other good or service would simply represent a change in the pattern of their consumption and would not represent any real contribution to the economy in aggregate. This however, is not to deny the longer-term benefits for the student and the economy from having a more highly skilled workforce.

This differs from the case for fee paying overseas students admitted to University that represents an export of a service, education, and the associated expenditure these students make in normal day to day living expenses. In this instance, a significant contribution is made to the State's economy. There are currently around 2 500 overseas students in South Australian universities paying in the order of \$25-\$30 million in fees alone and upwards of \$15 million in associated expenses.

The number of students that have taken up the opportunity this year under the pilot scheme is much fewer than the places available and the outlook for the year ahead is for a similar level of interest. The availability of more places is therefore unlikely to generate fur-

ther interest because those available under the pilot scheme are not presently being fully utilised.

The small number of students taking up the opportunity to enter university on a full fee basis is not expected to make a significant contribution to the State's economy.

#### MOUNT SCHANK ABATTOIR

In reply to **Hon. T.G. ROBERTS:** (30 June) and answered by letter on 11 October.

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** The Minister for Government Enterprises has provided the following responses.

1. Is the Minister paying strict attention to this dispute or is he aware of it? If he is, will the Government use its resources to bring about a resolution of the dispute and assist in the negotiating process?

The Department for Administrative and Information Service is monitoring developments in relation to the dispute. Parties involved in such a dispute can and, as in this case, do avail themselves of the assistance of the industrial tribunals to resolve the matter. Given the industrial avenues available to the employees to pursue their grievances, Government intervention in this dispute is neither appropriate nor necessary.

2. Will the Government recommend Commonwealth and State legislative changes to the appropriate Acts so that these circumstances do not arise again?

No. An appropriate framework already exists to deal with such matters.

#### EUROPEAN CURRENCY

In reply to **Hon. CARMEL ZOLLO** (20 August) and answered by letter on 22 October.

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** I provide the following information to the questions raised.

1. What is the South Australian Government doing to address the effect of the Euro in South Australia?

At present the Department of Industry, Trade and Tourism and the Department of Treasury and Finance are monitoring the Euro development. The International Business Council, on which the South Australian Government is represented, organised a guest speaker in September 1998 (Dinesh Anand) to talk about the Euro, and trade and export issues associated with it.

2. What programs are available to assist export businesses in South Australia to prepare for the Euro?

|   | 1994-95<br>(\$m) | 1995-96<br>(\$m) | 1996-97<br>(\$m) | 1997-98<br>(\$m) | 1998-99<br>(\$m) | 1999-00<br>(\$m) | Total<br>(\$m) |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1994-95 Budget  | 107              | 154              | 200              | 239              | 247              | 256              | 1 203          |
| 1997-98 Budget  | 307(1)           | 221(1)           | 151(1)           | —                | 209              | 238              | 1 126          |
|   | 200              | 67               | (49)             | (239)<br>(21)    | (38)             | (18)             | (77)           |
| Cumulative<br>( ) denotes below estimates<br>(1) actual | 200              | 267              | 218              |                  | (59)             | (77)             |                |

As the table depicts, the Government has made payments in advance of the original schedule in most years. To 30 June 1997, the Government had made additional payments of \$218 million. These advance payments in previous years provided the Government with the flexibility in the 1997-98 budget to revise the original schedule of payments to provide funds for other 'one-off' priorities.

Although there was a minor downward adjustment made to the schedule of payments for unfunded past service liabilities in the 1997-98 Budget, it has been recognised by the Auditor-General that,

Currently the State Government does not have any programs in place specifically addressed to the Euro.

3. Are the Departments of Treasury and Finance and Industry, Trade and Tourism Euro compliant?

Treasury and Finance has not considered the issue of so called Euro compliance. The role of the Department of Industry and Trade is primarily to advise and facilitate industry.

South Australia's exports to the European Union in the 1997-98 financial year were \$849 million. This represented 17 per cent of South Australian exports. However within the European Union (EU) our largest trade partner is the United Kingdom (UK) (\$424 million, 8.5 per cent), which has opted to remain outside of the Euro zone for the term of the current parliament (ie. Until 2002). Other countries within the EU that are remaining outside of the Euro zone are Sweden, Denmark and Greece. Therefore the Euro countries probably represent only around 8 per cent of South Australia's export market. On 1997-98 figures South Australia's fastest growing markets are the UK, China, Taiwan then the EU generally. However the growth figure for the EU was dragged up substantially by UK market growth.

There is also a considerable period of time to adjust to the Euro (three years) which provides the opportunity to see how Euro compliance develops. Nevertheless, it is important for firms which have significant trade with the Euro zone countries to change over sooner rather than later.

The Commonwealth Government (through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade) is currently conducting a study on the Euro and its implications.

#### SUPERANNUATION

In reply to **Hon. P. HOLLOWAY** (18 February) and answered by letter on 18 October.

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** In relation to superannuation funding, the May 1994 Financial Statement delivered by the then Treasurer, states:

'... the Government will fully fund accruing additional service liabilities as from 1 July 1994 [and]...in relation to the accrued liability in respect of past service, the Government has decided that the Commission of Audit funding recommendation will be phased in over the forward estimates period, which means that the shortfall from immediate adoption of the Audit Commission recommendation would be made up in the following four years.'

The Audit Commission recommended that the Government should fund the unfunded liabilities over 30 years from 1 July 1994. The table below summarises the actual outcome and the forward estimates prepared at the time of the 1997-98 Budget against the original plan.

based on the revised schedule, the Government will eliminate the unfunded superannuation liabilities within the planned thirty years.

It is also clear that, based on experience of past years, the Government has had the capacity to make additional superannuation payments for past service liabilities in excess of the budgeted level to the Superannuation Funds Management Corporation. This has again occurred in 1997-98 as shown in the table below which details annual payments for past service superannuation liabilities as scheduled in 1997-98 Budget and revised in the 1998-99 Budget.

|                              | 1994-95 to<br>1996-97<br>(\$m) | 1997-98<br>(\$m) | 1998-99<br>(\$m) | 1999-00<br>(\$m) | 2000-01<br>(\$m) | Total<br>(\$m) |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1997-98 Budget               | 679(1)                         | -                | 209              | 238              | 258              | 1384           |
| 1998-99 Budget<br>(1) Actual | 679(1)                         | 214(1)           | 76               | 157              | 258              | 1384           |

The bringing forward of planned payments for 1998-99 to 1997-98 and the scheduling of additional funding for 1998-99, results in past service superannuation liability payments being \$81 million ahead of the schedule published in last year's budget. Based on this past experience it is not unreasonable to assume that advance payments ahead of schedule for this purpose will continue in future years.

As to the claimed deterioration of \$675 million in net debt and unfunded superannuation liabilities, this refers to the forward estimate as at 30 June 2000 published in the 1997-98 Budget compared with the estimate made a year earlier in the 1996-97 budget. An explanation for this deterioration was provided in the Auditor-General's Report (page A2-41), as follows:

Advice from the Department of Treasury and Finance indicates that the turnaround mainly reflects:

- electricity infrastructure investment in projects such as the Riverlink Interconnection and Torrens Island Station refurbishment;
- investment in water quality initiatives and the environmental improvement programs by SA Water Corporation; and
- revising the schedule of payments for past service superannuation liabilities and a change in actuarial assumptions due to mortality rates and the impact of TVSPs.

### STATE CREDIT RATING

In reply to **Hon. CARMEL ZOLLO** (2 September 1998) and answered by letter on 24 October 1998.

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** The major issue with regard to the benefit to the State from a credit rating upgrade, is not about 'technical studies' but rather commercial and economic judgement. This is backed up by the support that major business leaders in South Australia have given to the Government's aim of a AAA rating.

The true advantage to South Australia of being a AAA rated State through a significant reduction in the State's debt burden will be a low exposure to future increases in interest rates and to interest rate margins. This will provide increased flexibility to use funds currently used to service debt for other purposes to the benefit of the general community, and to provide an important signal to potential investors that the State is a safe place for business to invest. A AAA rating is therefore as an important outward sign of underlying strength in the fiscal position of the State.

### NATIONAL ELECTRICITY (SOUTH AUSTRALIA) (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL

In reply to **Hon. P. HOLLOWAY** (29 October).

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** South Australia has contributed seed grant funding of \$490 000 to facilitate the establishment of NEMMCO and \$93 380 to facilitate the establishment of NECA. South Australia's liabilities under the members' agreement are limited to 7.5 per cent of NEMMCO's accrued debts and liabilities, capped at \$1.5 million (indexed annually for inflation). South Australia's liabilities are limited to 7.5 per cent of the accrued debts and liabilities of NECA, capped at \$350 000 (indexed annually for inflation).

### NATIONAL WINE INDUSTRY CENTRE

In reply to **Hon. J.S.L. DAWKINS** (27 August) and answered by letter on 18 October.

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** The Premier has provided the following information.

The National Wine Centre is a development which has the potential to deliver great benefit and prestige to this State. The Federal Government has recently announced a \$12 million grant towards the expanded National Wine Centre project confirming its national status.

The decision to locate the National Wine Centre in the Hackney precinct was predicated on a set of criteria established between the Government and the Winemakers' Federation of Australia, as the peak national wine industry body. One of these criteria required that the Centre not be aligned with any wine region or wine company which effectively precluded it being located in a wine region. The city location also maximises the access and exposure of the development to the greatest number of potential visitors.

While the National Wine Centre has necessarily been located on a central city site, its objectives have a substantially regional focus. The Centre will, of course, need to function as a self sustaining

operation, however, much of its purpose will be to promote all wine regions and in doing so generate increased economic activity in regional Australia.

By creating a logical starting point from which visitors can access information about the many wine producing regions scattered across the country, the Centre will act as a springboard for further travel to the wine regions. From here visitors can develop a greater understanding of the array of grape varieties, soil types, climatic difference and wine styles that make up the Australian wine industry.

Every wine region will have the opportunity to present their region at the National Wine Centre. In addition to the core activity, being the exhibition component of the Centre, which will tell the story of the Australian wine industry, the Centre will include a number of complementary activities.

There will be an extensive wine tasting function where visitors can sample the wines from all regions. Regional food will be one of the principal focuses in the presentation of food at the Centre.

Provision will be made for permanent and temporary exhibition and regions will be encouraged to promote their products, not just wine, but food, festivals and events and other tourism activities.

An extensive wine tourism information office, including a booking facility, will ensure that the visitor is given every encouragement to visit the many wine regions.

All these activities will combine to create a signpost to the regions by giving a preview of what to visit, providing the facility to organise their visit and, of course, giving maximum incentive to spend money when they get there.

### POPULATION GROWTH

In reply to **Hon. G. WEATHERILL** (27 August).

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** The Premier has provided the following information:

1. Does the Government have a population policy and, if so, what is it?

The South Australian Government recognises that State Governments are extremely limited in the number of policy instruments which they can use to directly effect significant changes in the level of population, and that they have almost no control over some of the most important drivers of population growth such as the rates of fertility and mortality.

However, one of the State Government's major priorities is delivering a better quality of life to South Australians. To this end, the Government recognises that a society that enjoys economic and jobs growth will be more attractive to potential migrants and help to retain current residents.

In addition, the Government recognises the contribution that migrants have made to South Australia in the past, and believes that encouraging a greater number of skilled and business migrants to settle in the State will have a positive impact on the economy and quality of life for all South Australians.

Consequently, the Government is committed to developing an economic framework that enhances the living standards of current residents and that has the potential to attract more migrants.

The policy direction of the Government, as underlined again by the 1998-99 budget, reflects these priorities. Vital to this process is the removal of the crippling debt inherited from the previous Labor Government. The ETSA sale will provide the boost this State needs to free itself of this debt and help to put in place the economic fundamentals that will help deliver growth, security, and a better standard of living.

The Government has also moved to become more proactive in migrant attraction programs. As part of the response to the Review of the Office of Multicultural and International Affairs, it has been announced that a dedicated Office of Immigration will be established within the Department of Premier and Cabinet, to expand upon current programs and develop a focussed strategy for migrant attraction.

Although South Australia has 8.1 per cent of Australia's population, the State currently attracts only 4.3 per cent of the total Australian migrant intake, and the Government recognises that improving this figure will have a positive impact on population growth in South Australia.

The *Immigration SA* program, which involves the targeting of skilled immigrants as well as practical programs to assist migrants on arrival, the Business Migration Program, which targets entrepreneurs and successful business people who can bring investment and business (particularly export) skills to the State, and Commonwealth migrant attraction schemes such as the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme and the State/Territory Nominated Independent

Scheme have been pursued by the Government in an effort to increase migrant arrivals to South Australia.

The South Australian Government has signalled to the Commonwealth that it is interested in exploring options for improving operation of these schemes through:

- broadening eligibility criteria, in terms of age and qualification;
- increasing financial incentives for employers/migrants; and
- better promotion of the schemes.

2. What level of population does the Government forecast for South Australia in 10, 20, or 30 years time in accordance with its policy?

The South Australian Government does not have a specific population forecast for South Australia over the next 30 years.

It should be noted that the Australian Bureau of Statistics recently produced a series of population projections extending to the year 2051 which employ differing assumptions regarding fertility rates, mortality rates, overseas migration and interstate migration trends. While some of these varying projections offer a less than positive view of the growth of South Australia's population, it is important to remember that these are based on historical trends and do not take into account the significant efforts of the State Government to attract business and skilled migrants.

3. Irrespective of what Federal Government policies might be over time, what level of population does the Government view as ideal for South Australia or in the State's best overall interest in 10, 20 or 30 years time and why?

The South Australian Government has no 'ideal' level of population which it is aspiring to.

Rather, as outlined in response to the first question, the Government is committed to developing sustainable economic and employment growth to create an environment that is conducive to population growth, through natural increase and migration.

#### ADTEC98

In reply to **Hon. SANDRA KANCK** (27 August) and answered by letter on 11 October.

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** The Premier and Minister for Industry, Trade and Tourism has provided the following information.

South Australia has had a long association with the design and manufacture of Defence technology dating from the late 1940s when the joint Australian/UK rocket development program was commenced at Woomera and the then Long Range Weapons Research Establishment, now DSTO, was established at Salisbury to support the program. Over the last 45 years, South Australia's defence industry sector has benefited from the presence of DSTO, which has grown to become the Australian leader in high technology electronics, computing and surveillance systems.

Defence is important to Australia, and generally receives bipartisan support in the Federal arena. Since 1976 the fundamental plank of Australia's Defence policy has been 'Self Reliance' and it is acknowledged that a capable and economically sustainable defence industry is an essential element of Australia's Defence posture. Accordingly, the Commonwealth Government has developed a range of defence industry policy, the most recent of which was released by the Minister for Defence Industry, Science and Personnel, the Hon Bronwyn Bishop, in June this year.

The Commonwealth Government's defence industry policy recognises that defence exports are essential to the maintenance of the indigenous defence industry capability required to support the Nation's Defence, the policy therefore provides for Defence support and facilitation of defence exports. However, it is important to note that all exports of defence goods are directly managed by Defence in accordance with the provisions of the Wassenaar Arrangement, an international agreement to control the proliferation of conventional arms and dual use goods.

Defence and the defence industry are significant contributors to the State's economy, accounting for approximately 2.3 per cent of Gross State Product and around 15 600 jobs. Furthermore, Defence technology has underpinned the development of the State's highly successful commercial electronics and IT industry sectors.

The Premier is aware of ADTEC98 and welcomes the opportunity it presents to profile the State as a leader in high technology defence electronics, IT and surveillance systems and thus enhance the potential for local high technology defence industry to continue to grow and make even greater contributions to the economy and well being of South Australia.

#### JOBS SOUTH-EAST

In reply to **Hon. T.G. ROBERTS** (25 August) and answered by letter on 22 October 1998.

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** The Minister for Industry, Trade and Tourism has provided the following responses:

1. Is the Treasurer aware of the strategic regional plan?

The Minister for Industry, Trade and Tourism is aware of the 'Jobs South East' document, prepared by the Federally funded South East Area Consultative Committee Incorporated.

2. What new initiatives appear in the draft proposal that are attractive to the Treasurer or the Minister for Industry, Trade and Tourism for continuing support?

The strategies outlined in the draft report are consistent with strategies developed by the existing State and Local Government funded South East Economic Development Board, which has a charter that includes the facilitation of employment creation, business development, and investment in the Region. The South East Economic Development Board is represented on the South East Area Consultative Committee. The Minister is supportive of the strategies and objectives outlined in the 'Jobs South East' document in so far as they confirm the appropriateness of existing State based initiatives delivered in the region by the Board, State Government Agencies and Local Government.

3. What commitments has the State Government given to ensure that the recommendations outline in the 'Jobs South-East' final draft are implemented?

The State Government is committed to continuing its support for the South East Economic Development Board, through a new five year Resource Agreement it recently signed with the Board and the South East Local Government Association.

Furthermore, an arrangement exists between the South East Economic Development Board and the Department of Education, Training and Employment for the delivery of employment and business development activities in the region. Programs administered through the Board which will assist in the meeting of 'Jobs South East' objectives include KICKSTART, Community at Work, Self Starter and the IT Skills Advantage.

4. Will the State Government cooperate with local government and other bodies to ensure that the aspirations of the strategic plan are implemented?

The State Government will continue to cooperate with the South East Economic Development Board, local government, and other groups to ensure that employment and economic development objectives in the region are met.

#### MAPICS

In reply to **Hon. IAN GILFILLAN** (22 July) and answered by letter on 22 October.

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** The Minister for Information Services has provided the following information:

1. Will members' access to information through MAPICS be extended to include access to newspaper databases, whether or not on the Internet?

Provision of access to a selected range of such services will be confirmed after further consultation with stakeholders and Members.

2. If access is to be offered, on what basis will it be available?

Access to such a facility will be made available via the Parliamentary Web Information Service, or Parliamentary Intranet, to be provided by MAPICS. This would become available once the Parliament House network is commissioned in early 1999, and would be offered via a menu facility as part of a range of information services, which will also include *Hansard* dailies and other Parliamentary papers.

3. Will each member require separate subscriptions to Presscom or the Fairfax archive, or will MAPICS subscribe for the benefit of all MPs?

MAPICS will subscribe to the selected on-line services on behalf of Members and their staff, and other users of the services within Parliament House.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT, FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

In reply to **Hon. A.J. REDFORD** (12 August) and answered by letter on 11 October 1998.

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** The Minister for Local Government has provided the following information.



As the honourable member quite rightly stated the South Australian Local Government Grants Commission has over the past financial year completed a comprehensive review of its methodology.

As part of that review process, the Commission is continuing to refine its methodology particularly in relation to the cost relativity indices associated with roads.

The Commission is in the process of writing a 'Terms of Reference' and corresponding 'Project Brief' relating to this review. The Commission will seek the services of a specialist consultant to assist them. The project brief will provide a background to the review and the process to be adopted by the Commission in reviewing this aspect of their methodology.

In relation to the underlying criteria for the review, the Commission is attempting through the use of the cost relativity indices to assess any influence beyond the Council's control which requires it to spend more (or less) per kilometre of road than the average council, in constructing and maintaining roads.

The Commission will be responsible for the review at all times.

The Minister for Local Government will be happy to forward to the honourable member a copy of the Project Brief when it is available.

### UNIVERSITIES, MATURE AGE STUDENTS

In reply to **Hon. T.G. CAMERON** (12 August) and answered by letter on 11 October 1998.

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** The Minister for Education, Children's Services and Training has provided the following information:

1. What steps has the Minister taken to reverse the alarming drop in the number of mature age students at South Australian universities?

It should be noted that South Australia's three universities operate autonomously, and receive recurrent funding directly from the Commonwealth Government. Each university is responsible for its own marketing and promotion strategies, and for maintaining appropriate student intake levels from a suitably diverse range of candidates. The Minister for Education, Children's Services and Training, while having responsibility for the higher education portfolio has no jurisdiction to direct universities' policies with regard to this issue.

Nonetheless, significant efforts are being directed to improving educational pathways for mature students through, for example, the TAFE Institute networks. Because of the concerted efforts which have been directed toward credit transfer and articulation arrangements between TAFE and universities, TAFE award graduates falling within the mature age group have been encouraged to continue their studies at university level. According to the recent Report by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Employment, Education and Training, Today's training. Tomorrow's skills., several studies have established that students admitted to university on the basis of their TAFE results perform as well as the general university student population. The Minister will continue to foster these arrangements to ensure that mature age students can pursue their higher education aspirations through this avenue.

2. How many State Government employees in all departments are currently undertaking mature age studies at South Australian universities, and how many were there in 1996 and 1997?

No whole of government statistics are centrally held on this issue. As human resource management is devolved to the agency level, each agency would need to be approached to obtain figures which relate to numbers of government employees undertaking university study. Agencies are generally moving to put in place centrally coordinated skills-profiling and performance development approaches, but these are major undertakings, and often dependent on yet to be developed IT systems.

The Commissioner for Public Employment's *Guideline for Planned Human Resource Development in the South Australian Public Service* provides broad principles within which Chief Executives can develop agency-specific policies and practices. It is expected that such policies will provide development opportunities for all staff on a planned basis, and related to performance management, so as to meet government, agency and individual needs.

3. Can the Minister assure us that any State Government employee who seeks to undertake relevant mature age study and who may be required to have paid time off from their workplace is encouraged to do so and will not be penalised in any way?

The availability of paid leave would vary between agencies and may be dependent on factors such as agency training and development priorities and the relevance of the field of study. It is worth

noting that the Commissioner's Circular lists high priority areas for the granting of study leave and that leave is granted accordingly. Staff undertaking such courses are not penalised.

### ETSA, RURAL COSTS

In reply to **Hon. R.R. ROBERTS** (13 August) and answered by letter on 11 October 1998.

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** I have been advised by ETSA that on 5 October 1996, Mr Munn made an application to ETSA for supply to his block of land which required the installation of a 33 000 volt pole mounted transformer, an underground road crossing to the boundary of the property and the installation of a service pillar.

ETSA estimated the cost of the installation and supply of material to be \$5 720 which was compiled using a now superseded charging system which collected labour and material costs only. This construction work for this project attracted a capital allowance rebate of \$2 200 and a revenue allowance of \$800. Mr Munn was asked to contribute a sum of \$2 720 towards the connection costs.

ETSA's quotation was forwarded to Mr Munn on 29 November 1996 outlining the scope of work and associated costs and stated that Mr Munn would be responsible for providing all trenching, sand, backfill and road reinstatement associated with the installation of the underground mains. A specification for the trenching and reinstatement was also forwarded at that time. No costs were included in the ETSA quotation for the trenching works. The quotation was valid to 19 January 1997. However, Mr Munn failed to accept the offer by that date.

In July of 1998, Mr Munn requested supply to the same property and ETSA estimated the cost of installation to be \$9 640 which was compiled using its new Distribution Management System. This system more truly reflects the costs of construction by incorporating labour, material, contracted services (ie trenching and reinstatement) and business overhead costs. A capital allowance rebate of \$2 200 and a revenue allowance of \$800 was deducted from the capital costs and Mr Munn was requested to contribute a sum of \$6 640 towards the connection costs.

The following factors have contributed to the price difference between November 1996 and July 1998—

- Change in scope of work.  
The 1996 quote did not include the contractor's cost of trenching, sand bedding and road reinstatement which would have been an additional cost to Mr Munn to facilitate his connection.
- Difference in Labour rates.  
The 1996 quote was costed using a labour rate of \$24 per labour hour and the current costed labour rate is \$57 per labour hour which reflects the true cost of labour to construct this type of connection.
- Overhead costs.  
With the implementation of the Distribution Management System all costs associated with the construction are now captured and passed on to the customer.

ETSA now operates in a contestable market for construction of customer connection work and a range of contracting organisations have been established to service this market. ETSA's representative indicated to Mr Munn that he may seek alternative quotes for this work.

On 6 August 1998 a review of the scope and the cost associated with this project was conducted by ETSA in consultation with Mr Munn. The review reflected the original cost of the project plus the additional costs of trenching, reinstatement and overhead costs. Mr Munn has accepted ETSA's revised charge and arrangements are in place for construction to commence.

### DRUG EDUCATION PROGRAMS

In reply to **Hon. CARMEL ZOLLO** (19 August) and answered by letter on 11 October.

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** The Minister for Education, Children's Services and Training has provided the following responses:

1. What specific State Government sponsored programs are in place to ensure that young people are educated in both the legal aspects and, more importantly, the health dangers involved in the use of cannabis and other illegal drugs?

There are no specific programs within Government schools that educate young people about drug education, rather, drug education is part of the comprehensive Health and Physical Education curriculum.

The Department of Education, Training and Employment's (DETE) publication, *Foundation Areas of Learning*, provides the

framework for programming and planning of drug education programs for pre school children, whereas the nationally developed Health and Physical Education Curriculum Statement and Profile provides the framework for students from Reception to Year 10.

Drug education is taught as age-appropriate. For example, junior primary school students learn about medicines and the difference between pills and lollies, as well as protective behaviours and anti harassment strategies. Primary school students will further develop their understanding about drugs by learning about the effects of drugs on the body and how to keep themselves safe in drug related situations.

For students in Years 11-13, the South Australian Certificate of Education broadfield frameworks provide the guidelines for teachers to develop drug education programs. Again, students learn about the legal and health aspects of drugs as part of the Health and Physical Education learning area.

Currently there are two Curriculum Officers within DETE whose task it is to support drug education programs, and to manage Commonwealth funded initiatives. These officers have the responsibility for the coordination of drug education programs, resources and curriculum materials and their distribution statewide, and the delivery of drug education training and development to teachers.

The DETE Teaching and Learning team also delivers training and development to teachers across the State. In 1996 and 1997 teachers received training and development specifically in drug education that was supported by the Drug and Alcohol Services Council (DASC).

DETE resources have been used in the past two years to support the six South Australian focus schools involved in the National Initiative Drugs Education program. The focus of this program was to trial appropriate Health and Physical Education curriculum with a focus on Healthy Lifestyles incorporating drug education.

Similarly, DETE has managed the statewide distribution of Commonwealth funded drug education materials which include 'The Candidly Cannabis Kit', 'Harm Minimisation Video' and 'How Will You Feel Tomorrow Kit'.

DETE has also produced and distributed two resources:

- the 'Health and Physical Education Class Guide' which has examples of effective teaching in drug education within the Health and Physical Education learning area, and more recently
- the 'Pathways' document that maps drug education across the year levels for age appropriate learning in this area.

2. What is the 1998-99 budgeted amount for these programs and how does that compare to the expenditure for the previous three years?

During 1996, 1997 and 1998, DETE has funded two Curriculum Officers responsible for drug education within the Health and Physical Education learning area, and it will continue to do so in 1999.

Individual schools may make decisions about converting non-targeted DETE funding for various purposes, including the development of drug education programs. Schools also access Commonwealth allocations and materials.

#### NATIONAL WINE INDUSTRY CENTRE

In reply to **Hon. IAN GILFILLAN** (19 August) and answered by letter on 28 October.

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** The Premier has provided the following information:

1. Will the Government at long last now rethink its commitment to the proposed parklands site for the National Wine Industry Centre?

The Government remains committed to the establishment of the National Wine Centre in Adelaide. This Centre will provide a national and international focus for South Australia through the promotion of an industry that is worth in excess of \$2 billion each year to the national economy and over \$700 million in export earnings, the majority of which is generated in this State.

2. Will it enter negotiations with Mr Ong and Mr McLeod to try to merge the two proposals on the Grote Street site and capture the advantage of locating in the city's food and restaurant district, rather than on parklands?

The National Wine Centre will promote and interpret the entire Australian wine industry and its many diverse regions, across all States of Australia. The National Wine Centre is a national project endorsed as such by the Winemakers' Federation of Australia, as the peak wine industry body, and the Federal Government. The development, located on the site of the Old Adelaide Girls High School, to which the honourable member refers is a commercial private sector venture. The two developments do not serve the same function and

the Government can see no advantage in considering that the two projects be merged.

3. Will the Government explore any other site and, in particular, the newly available Glenside Hospital site?

The decision to locate the National Wine Centre within the Hackney precinct followed an exhaustive selection process in which a number of sites throughout the State were considered. Throughout this process, both the State Government and the Australian Wine Industry were of the view that the preferred location needed to comply with the following set of criteria:

- central location to ensure commercial viability,
- ample space so that the surrounding vineyard could be incorporated as part of the total scope of the development, and
- the Centre's location should not be aligned with any particular wine region—this criterion proved vital in obtaining the support of the national wine industry.

The Hackney Precinct was the only site that complied with all three criteria.

4. Will the Government explain to taxpayers why it is proposing still to spend the \$35 million of taxpayers' money to compete against \$17 million private enterprise development?

The Government believes that the establishment of the National Wine Centre in Adelaide is critical in reinforcing this State's position as Australia's pre-eminent wine producing State. There can be only one National Wine Centre in Australia and that wine centre will be on the Hackney precinct in Adelaide where it will be well complemented by the adjacent development of the International Rose Garden.

#### DECStech 2001

In reply to **Hon. M.J. ELLIOTT** (19 August) and answered by letter on 11 October.

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** The Minister for Education, Children's Services and Training has provided the following responses:

1. How many public schools have the Department for Education, Training and Employment connected to the Internet and paid for this connection?

In January 1996 all South Australian schools were provided with free access to the Internet via the Nexus Information Service. In 1997, administration accounts were also made available to all South Australian preschools, along with administration computers and modems.

2. How does this compare with new South Wales and Victorian public schools in terms of their respective Governments paying for Internet connections?

The New South Wales Government provided a single Internet Service Provider between October and December 1996. The subscription costs for schools to access the Internet were provided, as was a proportion of the STD call costs associated with accessing the Internet by remote schools. The connection to this service is via a single standard telephone line.

New South Wales schools wishing to purchase additional Internet services do so on a user pays principle.

The Victorian Government is currently finalising the provision of Internet Access through its VicOne initiative. Schools will pay approximately \$50 per annum for access to a cache of Internet materials. Access to the Internet beyond this cache will attract further charges.

In both cases, New South Wales and Victorian schools are required to provide the router and network services to make the connection and internet provision work across the school.

3. Why does the Minister plan to wind up the DECStech project team, which was responsible for implementing information technology in schools, at the end of this year?

From the time DECStech was established in February 1996, it was intended that the existence of the Project Team would be short term. This was initially intended to be for two years, ie for 1996 and 1997, and was later extended to include 1998. It is the DECStech team's role to develop and implement the overall strategy. During the Project Team's lifetime, every effort has been made to embed DECStech programs in the relevant sections of the department, including Financial Services, Supply, Facilities, IT Services, Training and Development Services and Programs and Curriculum. This has been largely successful, particularly in 1998.

4. How will the upgrade of computers in schools and TAFE colleges be funded to allow them to make use of the Library 2001 project software?

Schools included in Phase 1 of the library software implementation have received detailed information regarding the configuration

of the hardware required to run the new software. They may choose to access the subsidies available to them through the DECStech Subsidy Scheme for this purpose. Schools scheduled to be offered take up of the library software package in subsequent phases will be provided with detailed information during 1999.

The upgrade of library servers in TAFE Institutes will be catered for as part of the Technology Refresh component within the EDS contract. All Institutes have received information concerning the desktop workstation configuration required to operate the new software. The costs associated with upgrading existing hardware have been allowed for in each institute's budget estimates.

5. When will the Library 2001 project be implemented and, when it is, will the department pay for the data transfer cost between schools and their servers or will this cost be borne by the schools?

A new library software product has been selected and negotiations have commenced. It is anticipated that the preferred product will undergo acceptance testing on the pilot sites in November 1998, and that rollout will commence shortly thereafter. Included in the project costing are data transfer costs, training and operational support costs, and project management costs. A date for announcement of the selected software has not yet been determined.

6. How will public schools in regional and rural South Australia, which are unable to charge higher school fees, be able to upgrade to the new 2001 project without compromising the rest of the school budget?

It is anticipated that schools in regional and rural South Australia sites who wish to implement the new library software, will include any upgrade costs in their IT budgets and maximise the advantages to be gained through the DECStech subsidy scheme. As is the case for metropolitan schools, the regional and rural sites will be able to use the multimedia workstation capability to operate the library software as well as other curriculum applications and word processing functions. This will effectively upgrade the curriculum IT functionality of all school sites, resulting in greatly improved learning outcomes as well as effecting savings by integrating library operations with the information technology requirements of curriculum initiatives.

7. When will the DECStech subsidy be paid to schools?

A subsidy for the purchase of computers under the DECStech subsidy scheme is not paid directly to schools. Schools participating in the scheme must have a South Australian Schools Investment Fund (SASIF) account. Payments to suppliers for both the rental and purchase of computers are administered by an authority to deduct money from a nominated school SASIF account. Information about the 1998/99 desktop Computer Subsidy Scheme was sent to schools in the week beginning 10 August 1998.

#### EYRE PENINSULA FIELD DAYS

In reply to **Hon. CAROLINE SCHAEFER** (25 August) and answered by letter on 11 October.

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** The rural economy is of considerable importance to South Australia and favourable trends in this sector have a positive spin-off effect in many other areas of the State economy. ABS figures show that agricultural production in 1996-97 in South Australia was worth \$1.6 billion, or 5 per cent of Gross State Product in that year. Nationally, agricultural production was worth 3.5 per cent of GDP. The winter crop in South Australia in 1997-98 exceeded the record production level of 1996-97. South Australian overseas exports of cereals fell in 1997-98, but this in part represents timing delays with shipping orders, which will be revised in the next few months. In addition to these favourable production conditions, economic conditions generally are supportive for the rural communities. Interest rates are at their lowest levels in many years, allowing farmers to retire debt quicker or to upgrade machinery and equipment. Retail prices are also providing relief, in the year to the June quarter 1998 in Adelaide, prices of motor vehicles fell by 1.5 per cent, while automotive fuel prices fell by 3.1 per cent. The overall rate of inflation growth was also subdued over the year, increasing by just 0.4 per cent.

These factors all probably contributed to the strong turnover at the Eyre Peninsula field days. Another factor may have been continuing uncertainty about the value of the Australian dollar; people may have brought forward purchasing decisions in anticipation of increases in import prices for farm machinery.

With respect of farm machinery sold at the field days, it should be noted that most of it is imported, and therefore the positive spin-off to the local economy is limited to retailers' margins.

It is difficult to give a dollar value to what contribution this uplift in rural spending makes to the State economy. Retail spending trends in South Australia are the strongest of all the States, and this strength in the rural sector has been a major contributing factor. The same is true for new car sales. Given that the rural sector is a bigger part of the economy in South Australia than it is nationally, these effects on aggregate spending are magnified.

It is difficult to aggregate an exact dollar turnover that was generated at the Eyre Peninsula field days. The Department of Primary Industries and Resources inquiries have concluded that there was a direct injection of around \$4-5 million dollars to the Eyre Peninsula economy as a result of the field days. This amount does not take into account the sales of machinery and equipment during the field days.

#### GAMING MACHINES

In reply to **Hon. NICK XENOPHON** (20 August) and answered by letter on 22 October.

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** The following list details total net gambling revenue, or player losses, on a month by month basis since July 1994. The list embodies the area of the City of Adelaide covered by the 5000 postcode.

| Period Ending | Net Gambling Revenue<br>(Player Losses) |
|---------------|---|
| 31/07/94      | \$68 054.75                             |
| 31/08/94      | \$458 099.30                            |
| 30/09/94      | \$555 884.15                            |
| 31/10/94      | \$569 667.80                            |
| 30/11/94      | \$670 557.70                            |
| 31/12/94      | \$668 800.00                            |
| 31/01/95      | \$627 627.50                            |
| 28/02/95      | \$740 551.45                            |
| 31/03/95      | \$963 865.00                            |
| 30/04/95      | \$833 047.40                            |
| 31/05/95      | \$989 262.65                            |
| 30/06/95      | \$1 008 920.45                          |
| 31/07/95      | \$1 053 253.85                          |
| 31/08/95      | \$1 119 726.65                          |
| 30/09/95      | \$1 095 955.55                          |
| 31/10/95      | \$1 110 049.70                          |
| 30/11/95      | \$1 260 191.90                          |
| 31/12/95      | \$1 187 031.25                          |
| 31/01/96      | \$1 127 954.90                          |
| 29/02/96      | \$1 133 516.00                          |
| 31/03/96      | \$1 119 471.95                          |
| 30/04/96      | \$1 154 372.65                          |
| 31/05/96      | \$1 370 541.20                          |
| 30/06/96      | \$1 196 147.15                          |
| 31/07/96      | \$1 299 750.80                          |
| 31/08/96      | \$1 407 038.10                          |
| 30/09/96      | \$1 385 520.85                          |
| 31/10/96      | \$1 422 157.95                          |
| 30/11/96      | \$1 345 925.95                          |
| 31/12/96      | \$1 368 301.00                          |
| 31/01/97      | \$1 276 732.95                          |
| 28/02/97      | \$1 218 138.75                          |
| 31/03/97      | \$1 293 821.50                          |
| 30/04/97      | \$1 418 532.40                          |
| 31/05/97      | \$1 529 947.45                          |
| 30/06/97      | \$1 399 295.90                          |
| 31/07/97      | \$1 546 454.05                          |
| 31/08/97      | \$1 606 484.19                          |
| 30/09/97      | \$1 578 100.28                          |
| 31/10/97      | \$1 691 548.59                          |
| 30/11/97      | \$1 543 502.86                          |
| 31/12/97      | \$1 661 488.44                          |
| 31/01/98      | \$1 496 292.89                          |
| 28/02/98      | \$1 433 753.99                          |
| 31/03/98      | \$1 603 061.09                          |
| 30/04/98      | \$1 521 184.39                          |
| 31/05/98      | \$1 613 004.44                          |
| 30/06/98      | \$1 580 428.63                          |
| 31/07/98      | \$1 684 600.14                          |

## JOINT COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT SAFETY

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW (Minister for Transport and Urban Planning):** I move:

That the Joint Committee on Transport Safety be authorised to disclose or publish, as it sees fit, any evidence and documents presented to the committee prior to such evidence and documents being reported to the Parliament; and that a message be sent to the House of Assembly requesting its concurrence thereto.

I move this motion following discussions at the most recent meeting of the joint committee. It was brought to our attention that this matter had been overlooked initially when the motions were moved in both places, and this brings some order to the proceedings, particularly where they are open to the public and material must be forwarded for consideration to those who have given evidence or to those who have sought copies of reports.

**The Hon. CAROLYN PICKLES (Leader of the Opposition):** I am happy to second the motion. As the Minister outlined in her brief explanation to the Council, it was an oversight on the part of the mover and, I guess, the seconder and everyone in this Council not to include this section that is required for the proper working of the committee. The Opposition is happy to support it and expedite its passage through the Council.

Motion carried.

## ADDRESS IN REPLY

Adjourned debate on motion for adoption.  
(Continued from 5 November. Page 158.)

**The Hon. CAROLYN PICKLES (Leader of the Opposition):** I support the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. First, I would like to thank the Governor for his remarks and congratulate him and Lady Neal for their ongoing contributions to the community. I have noted some controversy and publicity surrounding the Governor's speech and I would like to put on the record that even though I am an avowed republican I have the deepest respect for the way in which the Governor and Lady Neal have carried out their duties. I know of his deep commitment to the arts and I have congratulated him in the past in this Council on his spirited promotion of the arts industry.

I know also that the Governor is particularly interested in young people and he has opened up Government House to encourage young people and to promote the aims and objectives of young people. At the Telstra Adelaide Festival Feast lunch earlier this year the Governor made some outstanding points about the importance of arts to our community and in particular what a significant employer it is.

Considering that this session of Parliament resumes in the shadow of the second Howard Government, it is timely and appropriate to consider the effect that the policies of this second term Howard Government will have on South Australia. During the election campaign, the Labor Leader (Hon. Kim Beazley) visited South Australia and outlined a comprehensive plan for South Australia, including, most notably, two more submarines; creating a South Australian Centre for Industry; transforming the Torrens Parade Ground into an annexe of the War Memorial Museum; establishing a \$48 million Molecular Biology Research Institute in Adelaide; providing \$12 million towards the National Wine Centre; providing \$13 million for the International College

of Hotel Management; restoring the book bounty; as well as other plans to assist the automotive metals production and fabrication industries. His emphasis was on jobs, job creation and recognising that South Australia is an economy with its particular problems and strengths.

The Prime Minister's answer to South Australia's—and, indeed, the country's—economic problems is a \$30 billion new tax, the goods and services tax. I would like to concentrate on the enormous and profoundly debilitating effects that the GST will have on my shadow portfolio areas of transport and the arts. There is no doubt that the GST will invariably add to fuel costs.

When the Coalition last tried to impose a goods and services tax on Australia, it proposed the abolition of the Federal fuel tax to be replaced by the GST. This time around, Federal fuel excise is to remain. On petrol, the Coalition will reduce the excise by exactly the same amount as it will collect from a GST on petrol. If it gets its sums right and if suppliers do not attempt to widen their profit margins, the pump price of petrol will remain as before—and that is a lot of ifs. On diesel, the plan is the same as for petrol, except that business users with road vehicles over 3.5 tonnes gross vehicle mass, railways and off-road business users will be able to claim some excise rebates through their GST returns. LPG will be subject to the 10 per cent GST, and the pump price will rise by 10 per cent. The GST will apply to air, rail and bus fares, as well as freight charges. Intra-city freight and interstate courier services will be more expensive and taxi services will cost more.

For the people in regional and rural Australia, the impact will be compounded as increased freight costs are passed on in higher prices for essential products and services. Passengers will be hit at every opportunity as, for the first time, tickets will now be taxed. On a bus fare for a ticket from Adelaide to Broken Hill, which will cost approximately \$114, the tax will be \$11.40. On a train fare to Melbourne, there will be a 10 per cent GST. Try telling this to the Crows' fans as they head to Melbourne next final season, hoping that their team will make it three years in a row. And by the way, football tickets will also be hit by the GST, as will football uniforms. Even multitrip tickets in suburban Adelaide will be hit by the GST. And we are not just talking a few dollars—10 per cent extra means \$2 a week, as much as \$100 extra every year for your average multitrip user.

Motorists will be sluggish as never before. The 10 per cent GST will hit motor vehicle registrations, third party insurance, comprehensive insurance, a driver's licence, tyres and even fees for parking. Getting the car serviced, one will be hit by a 10 per cent GST. Getting the car detailed will involve the same deal. Let's all be honest about this. Paying \$20 more to have your car serviced or forking out that extra \$25 or \$30 for your car registration will certainly hit people on lower incomes much harder than it will people in the top tax brackets.

Despite the Prime Minister's claims to the contrary, purchasers of luxury cars will be the lucky ones. It is estimated that the cost of a new Porsche would drop by \$30 000—that is more than most people spend on a entirely new, Australian made car. What will happen to majority of car buyers? Most cars bought today are second-hand cars. Over 70 per cent of car purchases are second-hand, so they have no wholesale sales tax applying to them on that transaction. The price of these cars will rise by the full value of the GST. This will mean lower prices being paid for used cars by new car dealers, meaning that people will get less for

their trade-ins, and car owners will sell their vehicles in their backyard hoping to avoid the GST.

The principle of the GST is user pays, no matter what your income, no matter how sick you are and no matter your circumstance. In arts, the GST will hit everybody, across all spectrums of arts activity, from the most elite forms—and I will come back to that later—to cinema and concert tickets. Before the Federal election campaign began, we heard the first rumblings of discontent from certain sections of the arts community fearing the worst. Well, they were right. The worst happened: John Howard was re-elected, and the arts industry will have to cop the GST.

Earlier this year, the Australia Council commissioned accountants KPMG to assess the impact of the GST on the arts. It was called Taxation Reform and the Arts and was released in May. Amongst other things, it found that a GST would increase ticket and admission prices in the price sensitive arts market; in the absence of zero-rating, the Australia Council would have to lobby hard for compensation; international experience shows non-profit organisations are among the hardest hit by a GST; additional Government funding would be needed to counter the impact of the GST; a GST on an Australia Council grant would mean that, when the council made an award to a Government funded organisation, it would have to pay a tax on that grant; and a GST would be levied on sponsorship because sponsorship could logically be called a 'service'.

This spells it out quite clearly to me: unless there will be an outbreak of Government largesse, the existing arts dollar will have to be spread even more thinly, and grants for arts organisations will only get smaller. Coupled with that, every ticket to the ballet, the opera, the cinema, dance or rock concerts, and every video hire and exhibition will be hit by a 10 per cent GST.

Works of art are currently exempt from wholesale sales tax. Paintings and sculptures are often regarded as a luxury or an investment, and that may be true. However, under a GST the price of a Porsche will drop by \$30 000, as will the price of a fur coat, but paintings and sculptures will be taxed. Artists are amongst the lowest paid workers in Australia. Professional art production is currently exempt from a wholesale sales tax, so the abolition of this tax would not offset the effect of a GST.

Artists will have to pay the GST when buying materials and will not be able to claim them back until they lodge a GST return. Depending on their income, they will be required regularly to lodge GST returns, claim a rebate for GST already paid (based on their invoices) and then pay the Government the net amount due. The system, as members can see, is extremely complex. Judging by this, we will be creating fewer artists and more accountants—just what this country needs!

Lastly, I will mention books. The GST on books is nothing but a tax on knowledge and learning. I am absolutely appalled at this aspect of the goods and services tax. Pat Woolley, Chairperson of the National Book Council, stated:

Books are the key to knowledge, reading and literacy. A GST would impose an ominous penalty on the getting of wisdom. This cruel tax is a cash censorship on what you want to read and what you choose for your children to read.

This Liberal Government and every member in it has recently shown the contempt in which it holds the arts, its practitioners, its workers and its supporters. Its cowardly attack on Labor's supposed 'extra \$61 million for elite arts funding' to appeal to the most base elements in their marginal electorates

deserves to be condemned. This material proves that the Liberal Party and its candidates are willing to use the arts and the arts community as whipping boys, with absolutely no regard for the significant economic contribution made by the arts, and the strong community support for the arts.

That one Federal member should have distributed this material when the headquarters of the State Opera are in her electorate is deplorable. Another Federal member was also party to this material, and she has the North Terrace cultural precinct in her electorate.

While I am on the subject of candidates, I would like to refer to the comments made by the member for Adelaide, Ms Trish Worth, at the declaration of the poll in the Federal electorate on 16 October. She had a particularly well-funded campaign; in fact, some are calling her the million dollar member. Who knows how much all the television advertising, night after night, cost the Liberal Party? At the end of her speech at the declaration of the poll, she said with a rather condescending smile:

While I know Karen Hannon [who was the Labor Party candidate] will be disappointed at the result, maybe now she'll be able to spend some more time with her daughter.

Ms Worth was referring to Ms Hannon's two year old child, and in a somewhat oblique way she was referring to comments made by an Adelaide journalist during the course of the campaign that Ms Hannon was spending too much time with her child—or some people thought that she was spending too much time with her child—comments that I found particularly disturbing.

Afterwards, I made plain to Ms Worth my disappointment in her comments, particularly the reference 'spending more time with her daughter'. I believe that she should know better, having been in politics for as long as she has. The idea that one cannot be both a mother and a politician is absurd and outdated and belongs to the 1950s, not the 1990s. While I will not pretend that there are not barriers to doing this, both within politics and without, the lack of a child-care facility here is one. Her comments were, quite frankly, appalling.

I remind the Council of the words of former United States congresswoman Pat Schroeder. She is a Harvard graduate, pilot, wife, congresswoman for 24 years and, yes, a mother, too. In her new book, *Twenty Four Years of Housework. . . and the Place is Still a Mess*, Ms Schroeder recalls the following, and I quote from a story in the *Weekend Australian* of 3 October 1998, as follows:

Soon after her election as a representative for Colorado at 32 and a mother of two, a Senator asked her about the dual role as mother and congresswoman. Schroeder told him, 'I have a brain and a uterus and they both work.'

Fitting words! If only the member for Adelaide would give credit to others for having the ability to make their own choices about their family and work arrangements. It is none of her business what others—Ms Hannon or anyone else—arrange for their family. Ms Worth should stick to politics. Personal attacks on a member about their children will get her nowhere.

It is interesting to note, and I congratulate her, that for the first time ever a member of our Parliament will become a mother while she is a sitting member. It is not an easy situation because Parliament House has no child-care facilities, despite the recommendations of the Select Committee on Women in Parliament which was set up by the Hon. Diana Laidlaw and supported in this place by the Hon. Sandra Kanck and me.

**The Hon. Sandra Kanck:** How many years ago was that?

**The Hon. CAROLYN PICKLES:** About 1994, I think. I do not believe that any of the recommendations have been implemented, apart from the one that is currently under way to make the Standing Orders of the Legislative Council gender neutral, and we are still waiting for that to be completed. It is galling for me to listen to newly elected women members of Parliament make statements such as that, because we all know that a woman's place is everywhere, not necessarily just in the home, just on the board, just in Parliament, or just in business. We can do it as well as men, and it is particularly galling as we face another century that some of the heritage of the 1890s is with us. After all, South Australia was the first place in the world to grant women the dual right to vote and to stand for Parliament. It took 65 years to get the first woman in, and now we are here to stay. Comments like that, particularly from women members of Parliament, are not helpful.

We face another interesting session in this Parliament. We face the departure of Ms Meryl Tankard from the Meryl Tankard Australian Dance Theatre. That has been an embarrassment, and today the Minister tabled a report from Mr Peter Myhill, which I have had the chance to look at briefly. In the main I support his recommendations, but I must say that I think that the Minister's role in this has been very shabby, and certainly she has not shown leadership in retaining an artist of the ability of Meryl Tankard in South Australia and Australia.

I attended the final performance of Meryl Tankard's dances, *Miniatures*, the other night. It was a very moving performance, as indeed it was moving to consider that we will be losing some of our young talent from South Australia. I take this opportunity to wish all those dancers the very best for the future, despite the fact that they will no longer be in the Meryl Tankard Australian Dance Theatre. It will be interesting to see what the Minister proposes for the future of that company, but it will be a hard act to follow. Meryl Tankard has an international reputation and she is someone that we can sorely afford to lose from this country.

The Minister has tried to put her own personal stamp on the Barossa Music Festival, and I believe from some preliminary investigation which I have undertaken that it will prove to be a success yet again. Everyone who attended the Barossa Music Festival believes that it is worthwhile and should continue.

I look forward to a very interesting session, and I assure the Minister that I will not be deterred by her oblique reference to Meryl Tankard. I will continue to pursue that issue until I find out what the truth of the matter is.

**The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN** secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### NON-METROPOLITAN RAILWAYS (TRANSFER)(NATIONAL RAIL) AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.  
(Continued from 28 October. Page 48.)

**The Hon. CAROLYN PICKLES (Leader of the Opposition):** The Opposition supports the second reading. I note that this Bill is the same as that which was introduced in August 1998 and which provided for the referral of powers to the Commonwealth in order to allow National Rail to operate rail freight services in South Australia. Of course,

National Rail does have a major presence in South Australia at Islington, but, unless it has a letter of authorisation from the State Government and the referral of power to the Commonwealth, it is prohibited from operating intrastate services.

Given that National Rail has entered into a contract with BHP to carry steel products from Whyalla to Adelaide, it is now eligible to seek the State's approval, which I support. New South Wales and Victoria have passed similar legislation, although in New South Wales certain conditions have been placed on its operations. For instance, I support the notion that the provisions under this Bill will cease unless the requirement for State authorisation is maintained in relation to the provision of intrastate services.

Finally, I note the Commonwealth's stated intention to sell its share in National Rail. If this occurs, National Rail will no longer require the State's approval. Until that day, I am satisfied with the provisions in the current Bill.

**The Hon. T.G. CAMERON:** I support the Bill which has been introduced by the Government and which provides for the referral of powers to the Commonwealth under the Australian Constitution, with a view to allowing National Rail to operate rail freight services in South Australia. It provides for a referral of power to the Commonwealth. The Bill will guarantee that the referral of power to the Commonwealth will cease to have effect if the State cannot continue to have some control over whether or not NR can operate on an intrastate basis.

I understand that both New South Wales and Victoria have passed the necessary legislation to refer power to the Commonwealth in relation to this matter. I cannot see any reason whatsoever why this Bill should not be supported and I indicate my support for it.

**The Hon. T. CROTHERS** secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### ROAD TRAFFIC (ROAD EVENTS) AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.  
(Continued from 28 October. Page 48.)

**The Hon. CAROLYN PICKLES (Leader of the Opposition):** The Opposition supports the second reading. I note the purpose of this Bill is to authorise personnel to exhibit a stop sign for the purpose of requiring motorists to stop when sporting events are in progress on public roads. I understand the practical nature of the proposed legislation, although I am somewhat concerned why it has taken so long. Perhaps the Minister can advise me in this regard. I note the Minister is absent from the Chamber. I have a couple of questions, but I am very happy if the Minister answers them at another stage.

I appreciate that not only is the Bill in the best interests of sporting activities but more importantly road safety. Is the Minister able to advise of any accidents that have occurred to date as a result of vehicles unexpectedly pulling out on to roads in similar sorts of situations? Finally, I would hope that motorists and users of roads are given advance notice of sporting events in order to minimise the level of inconvenience to the public. Does this occur at the moment and, if it does not, perhaps the Minister will give some consideration to the proposal for the future? I support the second reading.

**The Hon. T.G. CAMERON:** I support the second reading, but I have reservations about the Bill and the intent of the Government. Apparently, this Bill will authorise persons to exhibit a stop sign for the purpose of requiring motorists to stop when sporting events are in progress on public roads. In the past, police would normally perform these duties. However, if there is a sizeable event, such as a major bicycle race, police may not have the resources to stop traffic entering from the many minor side roads. That is the position being put by the Government. This Bill will enable traffic marshals to be temporarily appointed to assist police to control traffic during such events.

The powers conferred by the Bill are similar to those currently applicable at pedestrian crossings and road works. This Bill allows the Minister to authorise traffic marshals and to impose conditions such as the wearing of personal identification and uniforms. The Bill also makes it an offence to disobey a stop signal given by an authorised traffic marshal. Unless I am wrong, it does not state what penalty might occur if an authorised traffic marshal records an incident where an individual has disobeyed a stop signal. I would like some clarification from the Government on that matter.

The Bill also talks about rectifying an inconsistency in offences for which demerit points are incurred and that it currently fails to comply with section 41, 'Directions for regulation of traffic' and section 79, 'Duty to obey police directions notwithstanding the existence of traffic control device' of the Road Traffic Act. It also amends schedule 3 of the Motor Vehicles Act to include similar offences under section 33, 'Road closing and exemptions for road events' and section 34, 'Road closing for emergency use by aircraft'. The Government is arguing that this is consistent with the national demerit points scheme. My office contacted the police union to ascertain its opinion in relation to the devolving of powers or duties, which normally are performed by authorised police officers, to non-police personnel, that is, authorised traffic marshals. The indication given to my office was that the police union opposed this legislation. I ask the Minister whether or not the Government has had any discussions with the police union in order to ascertain what its position is.

I have other questions that I would like to put to the Government, and I will do it now rather than later in Committee. Will the Government provide the Council with examples of failure to comply with police directions in the area that is covered by this Bill, particularly any statistical information that it might have in relation to the number of people who have been prosecuted and have incurred fines for refusing to comply with police directions in the instances covered by this Bill?

I notice in the Bill that one of the Government's arguments in favour of the amendments to section 33(9) and section 34(4) is that this will bring us into line with what applies elsewhere in Australia. In other words, this is another example of decisions being made on the eastern seaboard by all the State Ministers and it would appear that the rest of the States have to fall into line with whoever carries the day there. Whilst I do not consider myself a rabid States writer, I fail to see why South Australia, or any State in particular, believes that it has to follow automatically whatever decisions are handed down nationally. That is, I do not believe it is good enough for the Government to argue that the reason for doing this is that we will be simply conforming with what the rest of Australia is doing.

The States have a right to express their own view. That was contemplated under the legislation and it is contemplated under the whole template proposals. Different situations may apply in States. For example, who could argue that traffic conditions and so on that might occur in New South Wales and in Sydney were the same as might occur on an outback road or in Adelaide? I am signalling that what I reject is putting up this amendment on the basis that since all the other States have done it we should, too. I believe that before we proceed with the amendments to section 33(9) and section 34(4) we need to look at a more compelling argument than that this is what everyone else has done and we should follow the leader.

Another problem I have is that at the very same time as we are seeking to devolve these powers from the police force to authorised marshals—in effect, we are not taking the powers away from the police force but in a *de facto* way devolving the power to non-police personnel—we are giving the police the authority, if they issue an infringement notice, for that infringement to incur three demerit points.

I guess it raises the question of exactly what powers the marshals will have and why, if it is necessary to devolve police powers to them, we are creating a situation whereby a person who infringes these sections will incur demerit points only if the infringement is issued by a police officer. It seems to me from the legislation that, unless the infringement notice is issued by a member of the police force, whilst it would incur a monetary fine, it would not incur three demerit points. That seems to me to be somewhat of an inconsistency, and I will be seeking clarification from the Minister.

I also question whether this is another example of devolution of State responsibility to the community; that is, that the user pays. It is not clear from the Minister's second reading explanation or from the Bill just who might pay for these authorised marshals. I ask the Government what its estimates are for the current costs to the Government to supply police to undertake this role each year, and what does it believe are the savings that would accrue to the Government if this Bill goes through and these duties are devolved to authorised marshals? I have said here in relation to other matters that I believe that the police presence on our roads and in our suburbs has more of an impact on the community, particularly on those who might wish to break the law, than seeing someone running around in an authorised uniform or wearing a uniform with signs on it to which they are not able to relate.

Everyone in the community relates to a police officer, and it should not go unnoticed by this Council that, whatever duties a police officer is allocated, he is also able to act in another capacity. One wonders whether, for example, if a riot broke out at a particular sporting event being policed by authorised marshals, they would have any other powers to stop a civil disturbance or to stop someone from stealing a car. Would they have any other powers to act in any way that a police officer would? If they do, it is not clear from this legislation and certainly not clear from the explanation that the Minister has provided. So, I would ask whether the Minister can answer those questions.

I would also ask what other States have introduced similar legislation to this. In other words, are we the last State complying with the amendments to sections 33(9) and 34(4), that is, that we are imposing demerit points for drivers failing to comply with a direction of a member of the police force? Have all other States introduced legislation for authorised

marshals; what have they done in relation to the powers they have given them when they issue infringement notices; and what other powers do they have? It is stated in the Minister's very limited second reading explanation that these people apparently will wear personal identification and/or uniforms; I am not clear about that. Does that mean that they can wear a little badge that says, 'I have been authorised by Di Laidlaw to hold up this stop sign and not allow you to pass this road,' or will it be quite clear that these people will have uniforms and will be clearly recognised by the public?

The Minister cited the examples of sporting events, or road cycling. Again I raise the question as to whether this will apply to all public events. Could we end up having authorised marshals down at the Entertainment Centre, at the football, at the races, or what have you?

**The Hon. A.J. Redford:** Labor Party conferences?

**The Hon. T.G. CAMERON:** Labor Party conferences and Liberal Party preselection conferences—especially for the seat of Gordon, according to Terry Plane today. I have another question to the Minister in relation to demerit points. If the police issue an infringement notice to a driver for failing to comply with a direction of a member of the police force, that driver will also incur three demerit points, and I guess I question the three demerit points. Why three? That is what every other State has done. Why not one point? If you get one demerit point for a speeding offence up to 15 kilometres above the limit, why three demerit points for merely failing to abide by a police officer's direction? Of course, it raises the inconsistency that if a police officer happens to hand you an infringement notice you will cop three demerit points as well, but it is not clear to me what happens if an authorised marshal issues you with an infringement notice, because the amendments here refer only to members of the police force.

Whilst I am happy to support the second reading, I do have some reservations, and I hold back on a final opinion on this Bill until the Minister has had the opportunity to answer my queries.

**The Hon. T. CROTHERS** secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### **NON-METROPOLITAN RAILWAYS (TRANSFER)(NATIONAL RAIL) AMENDMENT BILL**

Adjourned debate on second reading (resumed on motion).  
(Continued from page 182.)

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW (Minister for Transport and Urban Planning):** I thank members for their contribution to this Bill. I respect the fact that the Hon. Sandra Kanck has not spoken on this occasion but that she did so when this Bill was before the Parliament in the last session. On that occasion she spent some time being cheeky, I think, in reminding me of past events. I want to make it very clear that, in terms of the ability for National Rail to operate interstate services in South Australia, across South Australia, the Government has always held the view that, if National Rail wins a contract—not just tenders for but wins such a contract—the Government would be prepared to consider signing the authorisation and forwarding it to the Federal Government allowing National Rail to so operate.

When the honourable member raised the matter before this Chamber last year, National Rail had not won such a contract.

It has done so subsequently, and that is why I introduced the Bill last session, although there was not sufficient time to progress it at that stage. National Rail's operations in the State, in terms of intrastate and interstate rail services, has been a controversial matter to many people who have worked in rail and taken an interest in policy issues for some time. Certainly, many former AN employees continue to blame, rightly or wrongly, NR for being established in the first place and then operating set routes as the reason for the demise of Australian National and their jobs. It is a keenly felt issue for many people. I thank members again for their contributions to this measure.

Bill read a second time and taken through its remaining stages.

#### **LOTTERY AND GAMING (TRADE PROMOTION LOTTERY LICENCE FEES) AMENDMENT BILL**

Adjourned debate on second reading.  
(Continued from 28 October. Page 56.)

**The Hon. A.J. REDFORD:** I support this Bill, which does three things: first, it provides that fees be prescribed by regulation for the making of any application under the regulations for the purpose of running a lottery. The Bill also enables a fee to be imposed in relation to licences which are subsequently amended to a licence to that which originally was applied for. Secondly, this Bill enables the collection of licence fees to be fixed on the basis of prize values. Thirdly, the Bill enables regulations for the setting of graduated fees. On the face of it this Bill is uncontroversial and, indeed, this Parliament will retain a supervisory role as a consequence of this Bill in that most of the work to be done will be by way of regulation.

The Treasurer in his second reading explanation indicated that some issues have arisen in relation to trade promotion lotteries. The principle behind the existing legislation and regulations is to ensure that participants in relation to those promotion lotteries participate free of charge; the maximum cost of participation being the cost of a stamp or a telephone call. I understand that, with the advent of 0055 telephone numbers, mass promotions through national television programs and the extension of the value of prizes has enabled promoters of such lotteries to derive revenue from this sort of promotion. I understand that the revenue is shared between a promoter, the business being promoted and the provider of the telephonic service or, in my experience, the 0055 telephone number. I watch television occasionally and see these competitions take place and I do have some concerns in relation to those promotions.

I acknowledge that the Treasurer has acknowledged that the volume of entry into national lotteries is extremely high and, with numbers of entries encouraged, these lotteries generate quite significant contributions towards the cost of prizes. Indeed, on the face of it, they appear to have generated almost a new industry. The Treasurer gave an example of a promotion involving four million entries at 50¢ a telephone call generating of the order of \$.7 million. I am pleased to note that the Treasurer acknowledges that this sort of lottery has the potential to compete with non-profit organisations which are facing quite substantial competition from other sources of fundraising. I am pleased to see that, in this case, the Treasurer is acting responsibly to these concerns.

During the course of discussions with the Treasurer, prior to the introduction of the Bill in this place, I met with some



of his staff and asked a number of questions. First, I congratulate both the Treasurer and his staff for the frank way in which they answered my questions. Indeed, it is most uncommon for a member of Parliament to ask questions and have all of them answered completely and thoroughly before a Bill is even introduced in the Parliament. It is even more rare should those questions come from a Government member. I ask the Treasurer to pass on to his staff and those responsible for responding to my queries during our informal meetings my thanks and appreciation. They have set a good standard for other departments to follow.

Some of the questions I asked of the departmental officers included why South Australia is adopting a fee structure for trade promotion lotteries that applies in New South Wales, as opposed to another State. In his second reading explanation the Treasurer said that for some years the Australian States and Territories have been actively cooperating to achieve uniformity. The Treasurer indicated that both New South Wales and the ACT applied graduated fees based on the total retail value of prizes to be awarded up to a maximum. He indicated that Victoria applies a percentage fee on prizes offered to a maximum of \$1 000 and that the maximum fee for an application in New South Wales was also \$1 000. The graduated fee approach of New South Wales, I am told, is easy to apply and administer as it is less susceptible to unreliable reporting of prize valuation in applications. In that regard the Treasurer has made out the case for following the New South Wales model.

I also asked about Treasury's view in relation to the increasing prevalence of trade promotion lotteries; what is their extent Australia wide; how did trade promotion lotteries evolve; and where is the lottery segment heading? It is interesting to note that there is no definitive history of trade promotional lotteries. I would hope that, over the next couple of years, we might seek to develop a definitive history of trade promotional lotteries. The Hon. Nick Xenophon, taking a spell from his poker machines issue, might even look into this issue of trade promotion lotteries.

I am told that these lotteries have been conducted in some Australian States for at least 30 years; indeed, the first provisions in South Australia commenced on 2 July 1981. I am told that the trade promotion lotteries are on the increase, that over the past four years the number of applications received in South Australia on a monthly basis has increased from an average per month of 194 to an average per month of 397, a nearly 100 per cent increase in a two year period.

The figures given to me by Treasury also refer to some estimates in relation to the New South Wales position and I am told that there is no information in regard to the national figures. I am also told that the application fee revenue generated in New South Wales from trade promotion lotteries increased from \$813 000 in 1993-94 to \$1.58 million in 1997-98, an almost 100 per cent increase in a four year period. That would indicate to me that this sector is growing more rapidly than the economy at large and it would appear to indicate that there must be some individual and personal profit attached to this sort of activity.

The Treasurer has responded in relation to future trends with the following:

The increase in trade promotion activities is attributed to the fierce competition in the market place and to the recognition by promoters that consumer attention can be drawn to goods and services by associating products with substantial prizes available through free-to-enter lotteries. As a result of this recognition, trade promotions are being extensively projected on television and radio

and in newspapers and magazines. The trend information suggests that the volume of trade promotion activity will continue to increase.

When one considers that, it is interesting to contemplate what the Government's approach might be in relation to this issue. I know that the Hon. Nick Xenophon in his criticism of poker machines has often said that the State Government is the biggest junkie of poker machine income.

**The Hon. Nick Xenophon:** Jackpot junkie.

**The Hon. A.J. REDFORD:** It is also interesting to note in relation to this area that there may well be opportunities for State Governments collectively to increase their revenue collection. It seems to me to be incongruous that this sort of gambling and this form of promotion should not perhaps be the subject of some form of revenue for the State to the same sorts of levels, comparatively speaking, that we enjoy in relation to poker machines.

I say that as a suggestion without having done any research, but it would be interesting to see what taxation revenue opportunities there might be available to a State Government as a consequence of this activity. I note that the Treasurer has acknowledged that to his knowledge no research papers have been published on future trends. I hope that the Federal Productivity Commission into Gambling—because this is a form of gambling—will look seriously into this sort of activity. Perhaps we will then be able to obtain more information which will enable us as legislators to more carefully consider this issue when it is next before us. I commend the Bill to the Council.

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY:** The Opposition supports the Bill which I understand allows for a new fee structure for trade promotion lotteries. As has been pointed out in this debate and in the Minister's second reading explanation, it is claimed that there has been a growth in trade promotion lotteries. I gather that the purpose of these lotteries and the reasons why they have been growing is to give publicity to a particular company or product or to promote sales, or in some cases we have seen them used to gather a database from which other promotional material or advertising is sent to the people who participate.

So there is a range of these types of lotteries around and they are growing, and the Opposition certainly supports in principle that we need to come into line with the other States and ensure that they are properly regulated and that they pay their fair share of fees, particularly since it was pointed out in the Minister's explanation that there is some increase in the number of these lotteries at the expense of traditional lotteries which are conducted by charities.

This Bill is essentially an enabling Bill, that is, it simply amends the regulation making powers of the original Act. I make the observation that, when we change an Act in this way to achieve a specific purpose, I think it would be helpful and is good parliamentary practice in my view that the Government should at the same time table the regulations which apply. If we are to achieve this objective by change of the regulations and we know what the intention of the Bill is why cannot we see the regulations at the same time so that we can understand their effect.

This change to the way we deal with trade promotion lotteries is necessary to come into line with other States which have amended their trade promotion lotteries legislation since 1995 when uniform legislation was introduced. I understand that this change follows the New South Wales legislation. According to the explanation, the fee structure that is proposed is similar to that in New South Wales and

includes the imposition of what is called a 'graduated' licence fee. I am not sure what that means or whether it is supposed to be 'graduated'. Perhaps the Minister could explain later exactly what a 'graduated' licence fee is.

The explanation says that it is to be based on the retail value of the prizes and where the value of the prizes is stated on the licence application then for the fee to be based on that value and that the current application fee of \$10 is to be abolished. It is the Opposition's understanding that this new fee structure is supported by non-profit organisations. We are told that the revenue from this new system should be of the order of \$500 000 per annum, as opposed to the current flat rate which brings in, we are told, between \$20 000 and \$30 000 a year.

On that latter point there is a question I would like to ask the Minister. We are told in his second reading explanation that currently there are about 3 400 applications per year for trade promotion lotteries and that the indications are that they will continue to increase, yet we are told elsewhere in the explanation that the current revenue collected is about \$20 000 to \$30 000 under the flat application fee. If there are 3 400 applications I would have thought that if they were successful that should raise about \$34 000, by my calculation. Why do we receive less than that? Does this mean that some of these applications are knocked back? If so, perhaps the Minister could provide some details of that. We are told that the estimated revenue is about \$500 000 per annum. If we have 3 400 applications each year then by my calculation that amounts to a \$150 average, compared with the current flat fee of \$10. I would also like the Minister to say, based on interstate experience, whether this increase will reduce the number of trade promotions.

I would also like the Minister, if he could, to provide us with details about how this system might work. All we are told is that the new system will raise \$500 000 per annum. However, we have very few details on exactly how this might work, and I would like to see those details. In his explanation the Minister also said that the main industry representative groups had been consulted. Given the broad range of industries that use these types of trade promotion lotteries, which groups has the Minister consulted? Also, we are told that no group has raised any objection to the proposed fee structure.

In conclusion, this is a fairly straightforward measure. We in the Opposition believe that we should support other States in bringing some order and regulation into the operation of trade promotion lotteries. There is no doubt that they are rapidly growing in number. They have the potential to make quite a lot of money for the organisations that run them, and they, too, should pay their fair share. On that point, it is interesting to note that some of these lotteries use telephones; in other words, revenue is derived from using 0055 telephone numbers.

It is explained in the Minister's second reading explanation that the cost of a telephone entry is currently capped at 50¢—the approximate cost of a stamp. However, it is pointed out that, if there are 4 million entries in a trade promotion lottery and the cost of these telephone calls is split equally among the lottery, Telstra and the promoter and business, giving each a third share, the revenue from that would be about \$700 000. Clearly, a lot of money is at stake with these telephone entries.

In relation to those lotteries where the telephone is used, does the revenue that is received exceed the value of the prizes in many of these lotteries? Clearly, in such cases, if

revenue of that order is being gained by these companies, they will be profitable ventures, quite apart from the trade promotion value that comes from them. I would like some more information on those questions. Hopefully, the Treasurer will be able to answer some of those questions. However, we in the Opposition believe that this Bill should be supported.

**The Hon. T. CROTHERS** secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### KOEHNE, Mr G.

Adjourned debate on motion of Hon. Diana Laidlaw:

That this Council congratulates the South Australian composer Graeme Koehne on having his work *Elevator Music* chosen by the Sydney Symphony Orchestra for performance in the United States as the first event in a year long Olympic 2000 arts program, including a performance at Carnegie Hall on Tuesday, 17 November 1998.

(Continued from 5 November. Page 146.)

**The Hon. CAROLYN PICKLES (Leader of the Opposition):** I am very pleased indeed to rise to support this motion. It is wonderful that the South Australian composer, Graeme Koehne, has had his work *Elevator Music* performed in the United States. I must say that I have not heard this work, and I am looking forward to hearing it. This morning, as I was preparing to come to work, Radio National was playing some of his compositions, again highlighting the absolute brilliance of this composer.

I am pleased that the Minister has brought this matter to the attention of the Parliament. My parliamentary colleagues should laud the performance of such an eminent South Australian. It is often overlooked. Mr Koehne is probably considered to be a bit of a quiet achiever. I note that, in her speech when moving this motion, the Minister noted Graham Koehne's philosophy, and I will repeat it. He says:

I am writing to communicate at a sympathetic level with my audience. I am not better or more brilliant than they are: I am one of them and I want to write music that we can all enjoy together.

Not all composers write that way. His work is very accessible and enjoyable.

While congratulating Graeme Koehne in this motion, I cannot let pass that we are about to begin one of the great events in the South Australian arts world, namely, the beginning of Wagner's the *Ring* cycle, and the Minister and I will be very fortunate to attend tomorrow evening the first part of the first cycle. Again, it is noteworthy that South Australia is putting on what I am sure will be a brilliant performance, and we as a State are to be congratulated for having achieved this.

I note from the *Sunday Mail* that Mr Koehne's wife was there as a surprise to present him with a bouquet. It was very charming that such a touch should be organised, and I hope he had a great surprise—

**The Hon. Diana Laidlaw:** I heard that it was a surprise.

**The Hon. CAROLYN PICKLES:** Yes, I hope so, and I hope that he had a great night.

**The Hon. SANDRA KANCK:** I join with the Government and Opposition in supporting this motion. There is no doubt that this is a considerable achievement. I was not familiar with Graeme Koehne's music until recently. I have a copy of his CD *Powerhouse*, and it is really lovely music. One expects sometimes that, when one is dealing with a

composer in the 1990s, the sort of music one might hear will be strongly dissident and very harsh on the nerves. However, in the cover note that comes with the *Powerhouse* CD, it explains that he has rejected modernism, for which I am very grateful. I have not heard *Elevator Music*, although I look forward to hearing it, and I wish Mr Koehne all the best in the future. It is a great achievement, both for him and for South Australia.

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW (Minister for the Arts):** I thank the Hon. Carolyn Pickles and the Hon. Sandra Kanck for speaking so promptly to this debate applauding Graeme Koehne's work and wishing him well on a night that will be a sensation in his career—an opportunity afforded very few composers in the world, let alone a composer from South Australia.

Also, it is fantastic that the Sydney Symphony Orchestra has supported Graeme Koehne above all composers in Australia in the commission of a new work. That is also a distinction that Graeme has enjoyed. The Australian Opera and the Australian Ballet are also parties to commissioning Graeme's work. I know that Graeme has enormous zeal to compose a major Australian-based opera. That is an enormous and costly undertaking. He has already started talking about the possibility of supporting those costs.

I suspect that, if he wins great acclaim at Carnegie Hall, we might be more persuaded to look at some of those costs. I wish Graeme Koehne and his wife Melinda well. Like all members, I hope it was a lovely surprise when Melinda arrived in New York and on the stage at Carnegie Hall.

Motion carried.

## INDEPENDENT INDUSTRY REGULATOR BILL

Second reading.

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

*That this Bill be now read a second time.*

This Bill has been reintroduced at the same stage that it reached in the last parliamentary session. Although convention would require me to have copies of the same speech that I delivered last time and to deliver it again, I must confess that I do not have copies with me in the Chamber at the moment, so this will have to suffice as my second reading explanation. I refer members to the second reading explanation which is on the *Hansard* record for the last Parliament. Later today I am happy to provide copies to members. Given that the Hon. Sandra Kanck is armed and ready to go with a second reading response, she is obviously ready to progress the matter, having read the second reading explanation from last time. With that, I urge members to support this wonderful piece of legislation.

**The Hon. SANDRA KANCK:** I read the second reading explanation that the Minister delivered when he introduced this Bill in the previous session. Indeed, I read it and the Bill quite diligently. The Democrats are not supporters of the National Electricity Market, as members here would know, but, because the Government and the Opposition are, this Bill is one of the consequences. Although we do not support South Australia's involvement in the NEM, because others have, certain things follow, and the establishment of the position of Independent Industry Regulator is one of them.

The decision having been made that we as a State will be involved in the NEM and that Government will be at arm's

length, the Independent Industry Regulator has a vital role to play. This person will have powers to issue licences to the operators of utilities, to regulate pricing, to monitor and enforce compliance with minimum standards of service, and to monitor and enforce ring fencing arrangements between stapled distribution and retail businesses. This last one is worthy of comment because it again illustrates what we regard as the stupidity of so many of the so-called reforms of the electricity industry.

I do not consider that ring fencing is sensible in the first instance, because there is a natural affinity between distribution and retail. However, competition policy requires that there be that division between distribution and retail, and that is because a sole retailer would be at a disadvantage compared to a company that is both distributor and retailer.

Ironically, when I attended the Queensland power conference in May, I was told that the industry is talking about re-aggregation; yet we have hardly begun the dis-aggregation. I expect that, in time, there will be a recognition that what we have done is stupid and we will move back to having combined distributors/retailers. In the meantime, I expect that the retailers that operate on their own will probably go out of business.

I have placed a number of amendments on file today. Clause 30 allows the Minister to refer a matter to the Regulator for inquiry. I will seek to amend the Bill to allow a resolution of either House of this Parliament to do the same. I am concerned that, in clause 33, we are seeing secrecy emerging when, having conducted an inquiry, the report which Parliament gets about that inquiry may well have information excluded from it because the Regulator regards it as confidential. The amendments that I have placed on file will at least require that it be brought to the attention of the reader that the information has been deliberately withheld from them.

I am not happy with the whole concept of light-handed regulation, which is the way that the respective jurisdictions in Australia have decided to play this. I am certain that a lot of loopholes will be found by the private utility operators and, as a consequence, I wonder just how effective this Act will be in its present form. Therefore, I have an amendment which will require the Government to review the effectiveness of the Act.

Given that both Government and Opposition have decided that South Australia is to be part of the National Electricity Market, this Bill is necessary, and the Democrats support the second reading.

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS** secured the adjournment of the debate.

## SUSTAINABLE ENERGY BILL

Second reading.

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

*That this Bill be now read a second time.*

As for the previous Bill, which established the Independent Regulator, I refer members to the second reading explanation which is in the *Hansard* from the last session as the Government's reasoning for this most important piece of legislation, which is part of an overall package of four Bills for the reform and sale of our electricity industry and businesses here in South Australia.

**The Hon. SANDRA KANCK:** The Democrats welcome this Bill. Having read it well, I see that it is based largely on my Ecologically Sustainable Energy Bill, which I first introduced in 1996 and again in 1997 to set up what I named the Ecologically Sustainable Energy Authority (ESEA). As an acronym, ESEA, which can be pronounced as a word in its own right with a very positive meaning (for example, it is 'easier' on the environment to use ecologically sustainable energy), has a much more appealing title than what I think the South Australian Sustainable Energy Authority will be known as, namely, SASEA, because ESEA has a meaning which is much more applicable to the industry.

It is really important that we have such a body, and that is why I originally introduced my ESEA Bill. New South Wales has had its Sustainable Energy Development Authority (SEDA) since 1996, and the South Australian Government has been dragging the chain. SASEA will have a very important role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions in this State.

My ESEA Bill was a very restrained one; knowing that the Government prefers not to interfere in the market, I drafted it in a form that I had hoped the Government would find acceptable, and although it showed disinterest in it at the time, I am not surprised to see that the Government's SASEA legislation is very similar to my ESEA legislation. SEDA (in New South Wales) is able to 'engage in the development, commercialisation and promotion of sustainable energy technology', so it is a very hands on organisation. In my Bill I required ESEA to 'assist Government agencies, manufacturers and entrepreneurs in planning and programs directed towards the development and marketing of ecologically sustainable energy technologies and services'.

The Bill with which we are dealing now tells us that ESEA will 'investigate and promote the development, commercialisation and use of sustainable energy technology', which is fairly close to what I had but not so close to what SEDA has. It is very clear that SASEA will not be as hands on as SEDA. Clauses 3 and 7 in the SASEA Bill are much thinner on the details than my Bill was in regard to what the authority is charged with doing, and I have placed amendments on file to ensure that the authority has more direction about its functions. I think it is important that SASEA be involved with other Government agencies in other portfolios, particularly in areas such as planning and transport. I recognise that SASEA will not be making the decisions in these areas, but it will be very capable of having an input into these other agencies and it is important that it does.

This Bill contains a definition of 'ecologically sustainable energy', which is taken straight from my ESEA Bill. I have to say that it is a definition of which I am very proud. A group of us in the Democrats spent quite a bit of time refining it, and implicitly it excludes nuclear energy from that definition. The Democrats do not consider nuclear power to be an ecologically sustainable form of energy. A nuclear power station requires massive amounts of energy in its construction stages, taking at least five years to build, and they are enormous greenhouse contributors because of the amounts of concrete that are required to build them. Add to that the health, safety and security risks while they are in operation and the long-term issues of decommissioning of a nuclear power plant and management of radioactive wastes, and it just cannot be argued that a nuclear power plant is ecologically sustainable.

Nevertheless in clauses 7 and 9 of this Bill 'sustainable energy' is referred to—not 'ecologically sustainable energy' but 'sustainable energy'—and one can argue, particularly if you have a breeder reactor, that nuclear power is sustainable energy, even though it is not ecologically sustainable. As a consequence, I will move amendments to ensure that that very important word 'ecologically' is inserted in those clauses before the word 'sustainable'. In regard to the function of the authority, my amendments have specifically excluded SASEA from being involved in any way with supporting or promoting nuclear power.

I am concerned about the number of new bureaucratic positions created with our electricity reform and this Bill has the capacity to further that. The Bill does not say how many members will be appointed to SASEA's board. My ESEA Bill had five, but that was before there were so many other instrumentalities created during the restructure of our electricity industry. My preference now is for a board of four, plus a CEO. So, my amendments specify four board members and a quorum of three. Again because of my concerns about empire building, I will move an amendment to insert a requirement that the chief executive must have qualifications or expertise in regard to ecologically sustainable energy.

The Government has been slow to take initiatives in regard to ecologically sustainable energy, so I indicate that the Democrats are very pleased to be supporting the second reading of this Bill.

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS** secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### ADJOURNMENT

At 5.10 p.m. the Council adjourned until Wednesday 18 November at 2.15 p.m.