

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Thursday 9 May 2002

The **PRESIDENT (Hon. R.R. Roberts)** took the chair at 2.15 p.m. and read prayers.

### RECONCILIATION FERRY

A petition signed by 145 residents of South Australia, concerning a proposal for a reconciliation ferry and praying that this council will provide its full support to the ferry relocation proposal, prioritise the ferry service on its merits as a transport, tourism, reconciliation, regional development and employment project and call for the urgent support of the Premier and requesting that he engage, as soon as possible, in discussions with the Ngarrindjeri community to see this exciting and creative initiative become reality, was presented by the Hon. Sandra Kanck.

Petition received.

### ABORIGINAL EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT BRANCH

A petition signed by 65 residents of South Australia, concerning the proposed closure of the Aboriginal Education Development Branch and praying that this council will act immediately to ensure that Aboriginal education in the City of Adelaide is maintained so as to enable the Aboriginal community to study in a supportive and culturally sensitive environment and consult with the Aboriginal learning community to guard against erosion of quality services in education for the indigenous community, was presented by the Hon. Sandra Kanck.

Petition received.

### CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

A petition signed by 1 462 residents of South Australia, concerning the statute of limitations in South Australia on child sexual abuse and praying that this council will introduce a bill to address this problem, allowing victims to have their cases dealt with appropriately, recognising the criminal nature of the offence; and see that these offences committed before 1982 in South Australia are open to prosecution as they are within all other states and territories in Australia was presented by the Hon. Sandra Kanck.

Petition received.

### PAPERS TABLED

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (Hon. P. Holloway)

SA TAB Pty Ltd—  
Approved Licensing Agreement  
TAB Duty Agreement

By the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation (Hon. T.G. Roberts)—

Animal and Plant Control Commission—Report, 2001.

### SCHOOL LEAVING AGE

The **Hon. P. HOLLOWAY (Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries)**: I lay on the table a copy of the

ministerial statement given this day by the Premier in another place in relation to the school leaving age.

### BUDGET DEFICIT

The **Hon. P. HOLLOWAY (Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries)**: I lay on the table a copy of the ministerial statement given this day by the Treasurer in another place in relation to further detail of the budget deficit.

## QUESTION TIME

### STATE FINANCES

The **Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Leader of the Opposition)**: I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Leader of the Government a question about state finances and accountability.

Leave granted.

The **Hon. R.I. LUCAS**: Last Thursday, I think it was, the *Advertiser* was provided with an exclusive report which it published on the front page that went under the heading, 'Oops, there goes \$13 million more.' The Treasurer, Mr Foley, had told the *Advertiser* reporter, Mr Kelton, that it had been found that the Health Commission had made a \$13 million blunder and that it had calculated its budget based on 26 fortnightly pay periods for the current financial year instead of 27. That blunder has hit the budget bottom line by a further \$13 million.

Yesterday in the House of Assembly, in a major embarrassment for the Treasurer, the Minister for Health (Hon. Lea Stevens) responded to a question from the shadow minister and indicated—not that she used these words, of course—that the information that had been provided by the Treasurer had been untrue, in that she said, 'From my recollection, the year concerned is 2003-04, and the amount not accounted for was about \$13.5 million.'

What the Minister for Health had advised was that it was not in relation to this financial year but that if there was a potential problem, according to the Minister for Health, it was in 2003-04, that is, two budget years away from this year. An observer of the House of Assembly situation yesterday has commented to me that either Mr Foley must have deliberately provided false information to the *Advertiser* in the interests of getting a frontpage story or he was incompetent.

*Members interjecting:*

The **Hon. R.I. LUCAS**: Or both. Either way the observer commented—

The **PRESIDENT**: This is certainly not your opinion, is it?

The **Hon. R.I. LUCAS**: It is not mine, Mr President; this is an observer's opinion that I am passing on. Either way, it is not very encouraging for the state of South Australia.

The **Hon. Diana Laidlaw**: Well, not for budget honesty.

The **Hon. R.I. LUCAS**: Or for budget honesty and integrity. On that issue, on Tuesday the Premier was quoted on a number of radio bulletins, and in particular I refer to Triple M at 3 p.m., where he said he would be introducing the world's or the universe's toughest laws on budget honesty. He said:

This has never been done before but there are absolute, tough fines and provisions against any government basically telling lies to the public about the status of the state's finances.

Again, an observer may well comment that it is just as well the legislation has not passed yet. My questions to the leader of the government are:

1. How does the government intend to fine the current Treasurer, should he make a similar untrue statement to the *Advertiser*—or indeed anywhere else—about the budget after the legislation is passed? How does the government intend to fine the government—in this case, the Treasurer—for any dishonest or untrue statement he might make?

2. Does the government intend that the Treasurer should pay those fines himself, or will Treasury be helping him to pay the fines for these untrue statements?

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY (Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries):** I think the person who should be paying the price in this for the status of the finances in this state is the former treasurer who got us into this position. He should be out there on his hands and knees apologising to the people of this state for the disastrous position he put this state into. Regardless of what any deficit might be, it was my understanding of the statement I just tabled on further detail in the budget deficit from my colleague the Treasurer in another place that he referred to this matter. The fact is that the forward estimates that were provided by this government were completely unsustainable and unreliable. I know that within my own department when we now look at the budget the number of areas where there was no provision for funding after 30 June this year in quite major and important areas shows the state of accounting and accountability under the previous government. I am sure the Treasurer will be delighted to reply in detail to the Leader of the Opposition and put down truthfully on the record the state of affairs in relation to the budget. The fact is that it was the previous government that left the state of finances in this state in a shocking mess, and members opposite will not be allowed to get away with that.

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** I have a supplementary question, sir. My question was not directed to the state of the finances: my question was directed to the leader of the government in the council as to how under this new legislation the government intends to fine any treasurer in the future or member of the government who makes untrue or dishonest statements about the finances. The Premier has indicated his position. That was the question.

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY:** If we had had fines for making untruthful statements during the previous government I am sure the current leader would not have any money left at all.

#### ANANGU PITJANTJATJARA

**The Hon. R.D. LAWSON:** I seek leave to make an explanation before asking the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation a question about the Anangu Pitjantjatjara. Leave granted.

**The Hon. R.D. LAWSON:** The Pitjantjatjara Land Rights Act of 1981 was landmark legislation. It vested in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara the lands occupied by the Aboriginal people in the north-west of South Australia. The functions of the Anangu Pitjantjatjara, which was established by this act as a body corporate, were to ascertain the opinions and wishes of traditional owners in relation to the management, use and control of the lands and to protect the interests of traditional owners in relation to the management, use and control of the lands. The act provided a number of safeguards. It established an executive committee, and only Pitjantjatjara persons are

eligible to serve on the executive board. The executive board is charged with the responsibility of carrying out the resolutions of the Anangu Pitjantjatjara. An annual meeting is required as well as other general meetings, at which the wishes of the traditional owners of the land can be ascertained.

On 13 April this body corporate—the Anangu Pitjantjatjara—issued a media release under the heading ‘South Australian Minister for Aboriginal Affairs insults traditional owners’. The release states:

SA’s Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Terry Roberts has been misled about the key issues affecting traditional owners and should be pulled into line by the Premier.

This statement was made by the Chairman of AP (as I will call it), Mr Owen Burton. Mr Burton said that AP was ‘losing confidence in the minister’s ability to conduct his portfolio responsibilities properly and appropriately.’ He went on to say:

His lack of understanding of Anangu Pitjantjatjara and the issues currently facing traditional owners... has resulted in him being sucked in by a campaign of false and misleading information about the governance of the Pitjantjatjara lands and funding.

He went on to say:

Unfortunately, his lack of understanding means he has been drawn into a very misleading campaign driven by a few people with an axe to grind and personal agendas.

Later, he stated:

The minister talks about having an inquiry. He can have all the inquiries he likes, but the fact is that AP is going ahead with its plan to get better value for money for its professional services and to establish strong governance on the AP lands.

Sadly, Terry Roberts seems unable to clearly see what the issues are in the dispute between AP and the Pitjantjatjara Council. If he can’t support us he should get out of the way.

**The Hon. Diana Laidlaw:** How long has he been there; only a few months?

**The Hon. R.D. LAWSON:** The minister has been there only a few weeks. The media release concludes:

AP rejects the intervention of the minister. He is making things worse. He should stay out of the dispute because at the moment he is a ‘whitefella’ acting against the wishes of traditional owners.

My questions to the minister are:

1. Does he agree that any review of the governance of the AP lands which does not have the active participation and support of the Anangu Pitjantjatjara will be ineffective?

2. What steps has he taken to ascertain the views of the AP?

3. What steps will he take to obtain the cooperation of the AP in his proposed \$300 000 review?

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation):** I thank the honourable member for his question.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS:** No, I don’t. One of the problems I have had in dealing with this problem is getting a broader number of people to understand the nature of the issues and the complexity of the structure which Aboriginal people have to deal with in the lands in relation to their service delivery and their governance. One of the major problems that exist on the lands is the fact that the governance covering the lands has historically let the indigenous owners and the townspeople or the community dwellers down, because there is little or no governance in relation to what we would describe as local government but which are executive boards. The responsibility for the delivery of

services breaks down when commonwealth and state public servants leave the area.

The points that I have raised previously in this chamber about the state of the communities and their inability to be able to assist government programs are, first of all, assessing the inequalities that exist between communities and, secondly, the difficulties that people have in targeting the exact solutions for their problems; these revolve around the question of governance. I am grateful for the question because I can describe not only the complexity of our own system in being able to deal across the board with health, education, housing, power, water and other services that people in the rest of the state expect as givens but also the complexity of delivering these services, as the previous government would know. The cost of delivering these services has a multiple factor of probably five in relation to a whole range of services.

The governance that exists in relation to the administration of the lands under the act, as read by the honourable member, enshrines responsibility but it does not provide guarantees for outcomes. The reason for the deterioration in the communities' standards over the past decade in particular is that the way in which programs have been measured in relation to outcomes has been missing. The AP (Anangu Pitjantjatjara council) is a delivery body attached to the Anangu Pitjantjatjara executive. The executive is as described—that is, made up of Anangu people—and the AP council is to supply certain service delivery programs.

An historic organisation has also been built up on the other side of the South Australian border and it operates in the Northern Territory, out of Alice Springs. That is the Pitjantjatjara council, which also has an executive that is the administrative body of the service delivery programs that are delivered on both sides of the border, in both South Australia and the Northern Territory. In fact, in the early days, the Pitjantjatjara council was part of service delivery program that followed the Anangu Pitjantjatjara people over the border to Warburton and towards the goldfields.

Two of the difficulties we have in coming to terms with the problem are the geography and the isolation. Governance has been a real problem in dealing with delivery. The issue raised by Owen Burton—the signatory to the letter which has been circulated—arose in my office on three different occasions. On the first occasion we were in opposition and I outlined what the government's difficulty was with the way in which the restructuring of service delivery was being proposed by the previous government following an investigation by executive government heads. I pointed out to Owen Burton, to members of the AP executive and a director of AP, who had been employed to assist them to form their governance, a man by the name of Chris Marshall, that unless the governance was sorted out on the lands, then the issue relating to services would still be up in the air and in question, because historically the infrastructure support for the service delivery was never able to be put together.

The accusations that I do not know what the issues and problems are and that I should not have involved myself means that, under the act, the state has no role or function. I dispute that interpretation, because all people in South Australia have a responsibility. As I have explained, in relation to the overlay of how and where the Anangu Pitjantjatjara and Yankuntjatjara people live crosses three borders, so it is not an easy question to answer in relation to how the governance is set up. That is why we have set up the inquiry. We need commonwealth cooperation as well,

because of the border crossovers as well as the fact that people move around. They are not permanently fixed in the communities; they move through Western Australia, through South Australia and into the Northern Territory. Many of the problems that we have in South Australia—and some find their way into Victoria Square—occur because we have people who have been dislocated from their communities by the lack of opportunity and choice, and by the sheer isolation of the geography in which they live. They make their way into centres and in a lot of cases, because they have no family back-up support, they find themselves in the Correctional Services system very quickly.

In dealing with that matter, the proposal that I was putting forward to those people who had the ability to draw conclusions and influence outcomes was that we need both groups—the Pitjantjatjara council and the Yankuntjatjara council—to work together in terms of service delivery and the Anangu Pitjantjatjara executive and the Pitjantjatjara council so that we can come to terms with the problems that we face and work with the commonwealth to overcome those issues.

I believe that I have a reasonable grasp of all the issues, but, having dealt with Aboriginal Affairs for only a short time in government, I have learnt a lot in trying to work through those issues with bureaucrats across agencies. We need to be working with health, education, housing, power and infrastructure support through roads—a whole range of agencies—which, in a lot of cases, have not been talking to each other. I have now been able to pull those agencies together and there are now composite senior heads of departments working together to administer the programs put in place by the previous government, that is, the tier 1 and tier 2 programs, and, at the same time, put in place a governance program which enables the administration of those service delivery programs to the communities so that we can come to grips with a lot of the problems which people face in that area, that is, petrol sniffing, alcohol abuse, lack of jobs and opportunity, and the problems that people face in isolation.

The questions that the honourable member has put before me in relation to the review of governance will be done. The cooperation of AP will be sought. If it is not given, we still have an obligation to the rest of the people up there to make sure that a form of governance or a method of measuring outcomes in relation to the problems that they face is put in place across agencies, and the AP's views will be sought in any review.

## MURRAY RIVER FISHERY

**The Hon. CAROLINE SCHAEFER:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries a question about the river fishery.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. CAROLINE SCHAEFER:** I understand that, before the election, the Labor Party policy on river fishing was virtually the same as that of the Liberal government, that is, to undertake an independent study to look at the use of gill nets and commercial licences on the Murray River before making any decision on that practice. Labor's policy was:

Labor will take independent scientific advice on the effects of commercial and recreational fish stocks and the prevalence of poaching on the Murray. We will take a coordinated approach and consult with stakeholders before any decisions are taken.

The previous shadow minister, Annette Hurley, took the somewhat unusual step of reiterating that policy after the election. Since the compact with the Hon. Peter Lewis, we have seen the new Labor government promise to implement the Lewis fishing policy of an immediate ban on gill nets. This will put some 30 fishing families out of business. In order to get into government, Labor agreed to ban gill nets immediately without examining the interests of recreational and commercial fishermen and without undertaking any independent scientific study as promised.

To date, there has been absolutely no consultation with the commercial fishermen, who have been desperate to meet with the minister to discuss the promise made to Peter Lewis some three months ago. I know they tried to contact the minister by telephone on 6 March and by letter on 24 March and 18 April, and they again wrote to him pleading for a response on 3 May. These letters to the minister specifically challenged the minister not to ignore his constituents and asked him to address a raft of concerns. They asked him, in particular, to address eight specific questions as follows:

1. What immediate measures to alter the entitlements of licence holders are intended to be taken by your government?
2. When are the imminent measures to be implemented?
3. By what mechanism is it intended to implement these measures?
4. Is it intended to engage in any consultation with members of the South Australian River Fisheries Association before these measures are implemented?
5. If the fishery is to be closed please advise when it is proposed that this is to happen.
6. If the fishery is to be closed please advise the legal mechanism by which this is proposed to occur.
7. If the fishery is to be closed please advise whether it is proposed to engage in consultation with members of the fishery, and if so what form that consultation will take.
8. If the fishery is to be closed, what measures are intended to be taken to address the catastrophic financial consequences such a measure would have for the 30 licence holders and their dependants?

For two months, these letters, like the letter from SAFF on walking trails, have been ignored, with a total lack of response by the minister and no consultation. At last, today, on 9 May, the commercial fishermen have received the first correspondence from the minister. In his letter, minister Holloway says, on the one hand, that he wants to discuss with each of the commercial fishermen options for continuing commercial fishing but, on the other hand, he says that he wants to offer them financial assistance not to renew their licences for 2000-03, that is, by the end of the financial year. They have six weeks to make a decision about the rest of their lives.

Two months ago, the fishermen asked the minister to begin consulting with them. The minister must come clean with the commercial fishermen in the interests of their future planning. The commercial fishermen are very confused: one minute the decision to immediately ban gill nets has already been taken in a promise to Peter Lewis and the next the fishermen are invited to pursue opportunities for continued commercial fishing in the river. I ask the minister the following questions:

1. Has the decision to ban gill nets already been taken?
2. Do the commercial fishermen really have options to discuss with you the continuing of their livelihood in commercial fishing; and, if so, have you already broken a promise to Peter Lewis on the immediate ban of gill nets?
3. When will the independent scientific study promised by Labor take place?

4. As promised in the minister's letter, when will he consult with the South Australian River Fisheries Association and when will he have discussions with each individual stakeholder?

5. The decision on the immediate banning of gill nets will have to be taken immediately. Will all this consultation be finished by 1 July and when exactly will the decision be made on banning or not banning gill nets and, therefore, commercial fishing in the Murray River?

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY (Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries):** First, in relation to the general policy on this matter, as I have indicated on a number of occasions publicly, a budget submission will go to cabinet in the next couple of weeks which will provide the details. If that budget submission is accepted by cabinet, we will proceed to the next stage regarding negotiations. I have already had discussions on this matter with the chair of the Inland Fisheries Management Committee, which of course is the appropriate body to advise the minister on such matters. I have also spoken to SAFIC, which is a representative of the fisheries of this state on this matter.

I would like to make a couple of points given the former minister's comments on this. First of all, in relation to the compact with Peter Lewis, I think this council should recall that the shadow minister's party was quite happy to sign up to the Peter Lewis compact.

**The Hon. Caroline Schaefer:** Absolutely not.

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY:** So you agreed to the same thing and they're trying to reinvent history.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY:** Everybody knows when we came into government that this lot—

**The Hon. A.J. REDFORD:** I rise on a point of order, Mr President. That is basically dishonest. He has this high standard; he shouldn't be saying that.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** There is no point of order.

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY:** Apparently there is a reinvention of history, Mr President. We all know that the previous government was desperate to do a deal with Peter Lewis and agreed to this particular measure. What is even more interesting, and let me inform the council of this, is that, during the budget bilaterals process that was conducted earlier this year when the Liberals were still in power, what was their number one priority for new spending? I will tell you. The Liberals' number one budget priority spending was to remove commercial fishing from the Murray River. What hypocrisy it is of the Liberals to try to raise this matter now, because it was exactly their number one priority in the budget bilaterals process. So let us have none of this nonsense and hypocrisy from members opposite. They were clearly intending to remove commercial fishers from the Murray River, as has indeed been recommended on a number of occasions by parliamentary committees within this council. The Environment, Resources and Development Committee—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY:** The Environment, Resources and Development Committee has recommended a phase-out of commercial fishing in the Murray River on a number of occasions. Indeed, some of the previous supporters of the government, such as the member for Chaffey, were quite outspoken in terms of what they wished to see happen in relation to this matter. It is complete hypocrisy for members of the Liberal Party to try to suggest that there is

something new or different in removing commercial fishing from the Murray River.

With regard to some of the matters raised by the honourable member, she talks about continued commercial operation. Mr Lewis requested in his compact that gill nets be removed from the river immediately, and then over a 12-month period all commercial fishing for native species should be phased out. I have suggested to those fishers that if any of them wish to remain after gill nets are removed, if they believe that they can target carp as commercial fishing, or if they wish to continue for the next 12 months by using drum nets or other methods, then that can be discussed with them. So, that is the context in which I wrote to the appropriate people in relation to continued operations in that fishery, and that was exactly in accord with the agreement that this government had made. But what hypocrisy it is on the part of members opposite, when it was clearly their priority to the extent of putting it as their number one new spending option under their budget bilaterals process.

### FRUIT FLY

**The Hon. G.E. GAGO:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries a question about fruit fly.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. G.E. GAGO:** I believe that the South Australian fruit industry is very important to the state, especially considering the significant contribution it makes to our economy. Given the vulnerability of the industry to the elements, particularly pest infestations, I was deeply concerned about the recent reported fruit fly outbreaks. In light of this, can the minister provide the council with an update on the government's response to the recent fruit fly outbreak in suburban Adelaide?

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY (Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries):** I thank the honourable member for her interest in this important matter. A total of four fruit fly outbreaks have been detected in South Australia for the season 2001-02. All have been in metropolitan Adelaide. These comprise two Queensland fruit fly outbreaks at Thebarton and Magill, and two Mediterranean fruit fly outbreaks at Salisbury Downs and Salisbury East. Fruit fly area freedom is important for South Australia's commercial fruit and vegetable producers and the home gardener. Recent estimates indicate that there is a farm gate value of \$250 million for commercial host production within the state, and \$50 million in backyard production. Mediterranean fruit fly, unlike Queensland fruit fly, does not respond well to bait spotting and, as such, has required a combination cover/spray program—that is, larvae and fruit, and adult flies—and a bait spotting program for adult flies.

In mid May 2001, following community concerns over the continued use of cover sprays by PIRSA in home gardens, the Minister for Primary Industries and Resources suspended the use of cover sprays pending notification to residents regarding baiting, the provision of updated information on the fruit fly eradication program, and additional briefing and training to staff to assist community liaison and work practices. Bait spotting resumed in late May, with final applications in late July. Eradication responses involving the use of the integrated sterile insect technique—that is, two weeks of bait spotting followed by the release of sterile fruit flies—have been initiated. Sterile Queensland fruit flies are being supplied

from a facility at Camden in New South Wales, and the sterile male Mediterranean fruit flies are being supplied by a facility in south Perth.

The use of the integrated sterile insect technique against the Medfly outbreaks follows the fast-tracking of the introduction of sterile males in line with the recommendations of the review by PPK environment and infrastructure into PIRSA's fruit fly program which was provided to the minister in late September 2001. Community input into the review was undertaken via the establishment of a community reference panel and an invitation for public submissions following advertisements in both the *Advertiser* and *Messenger* newspapers. Membership of the community reference panel included community group representatives, individuals, local government and industry representatives who were supported—

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** I rise on a point of order, Mr President. The minister has now just turned the page and clearly is on the second full page of typing in answer to this dorothy dix question. I ask him to table his reply, rather than continue to read it and take up the precious time of this council.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! That is not a point of order. It is a longstanding tradition that ministers refer to their notes when giving their answers, and I invite the minister to do so. I do not think that people who live in glasshouses ought to throw stones.

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY:** It may well be that the Hon. Diana Laidlaw is not interested.

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** On a further point of order, Mr President, is the minister prepared to table the statement he is reading? We have already heard one page and clearly there is a second. Judging by the size of the folder, I believe there is more to come.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! There is no point of order. The minister has the right to table or not to table. That is done at his discretion. If he chooses not to table his response and answer the question in a manner which is in accordance with standing orders, he may proceed.

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY:** More hypocrisy from the former Minister for Transport! Gee, she must really be sour, must she not, Mr President?

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! Interjections will not help this issue.

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY:** I would have thought the eradication of fruit fly in this state was a matter with which all members in this council would be greatly concerned, because it has cost this state some millions of dollars. As I pointed out earlier, about \$250 million of commercial production and \$50 million worth of home production is at stake. It is important that the council is well informed about these matters. A 'pre-emptive' sterile Medfly release program was undertaken in the southern suburbs in late September 2001. The program was designed to redefine PIRSA's rearing and release processes for Medfly and to minimise the chances of carry over of Medfly following the suspension of cover spray activity in May 2001.

That program was successfully completed on 20 December 2001. As a result of the pre-emptive program, PIRSA has incorporated the release of sterile Medflies into future outbreak responses against this pest. Releases will follow an initial two week bait spotting program designed to reduce the number of wild Medflies in an outbreak area. A

similar program was successfully used against Queensland fruit fly in South Australia following trials in the early 1990s.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY:** The introduction of the use of sterile Medflies has very significantly reduced the need for chemical treatments and has seen the removal of the contentious cover spray treatment. Bait spotting requirements have been reduced by two thirds—

**The Hon. A.J. REDFORD:** On a point of order, Mr President. I am a patient man, but standing order 170 provides that speeches must not be read but members may refer to notes. Clearly the honourable member is reading a speech, and I would ask you to draw his attention to standing order 170.

**The PRESIDENT:** I am aware of the standing order. The minister is referring to copious notes and I think he is getting very near the end of his answer.

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY:** Revised competency based training programs have been developed and introduced for all staff involved in future eradication programs. A formal contract has been developed with Clements Techforce as the supplier of contract labour to the program pending the development of a whole of PIRSA contract for such services. Improved public notification and information processes have been developed and implemented for the current fruit fly eradication responses. This includes 24 hours notice prior to initial bait spotting treatment, advertisements in local newspapers and, where possible, individual householder contact immediately prior to bait spotting application.

In the event of a weekend outbreak declaration, notification is proposed by selected radio stations. Finally—and I think this is an important point—a new South Australian fruit fly standing committee—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY:** Again, it is very disappointing. I would have thought that, since some members opposite represent rural constituencies, they would show a great deal more interest in this very important matter. But a South Australian fruit fly standing committee is in the process of establishment. This committee will include representatives from industry, local government and the community. The committee will provide advice to PIRSA on fruit fly awareness, response and future funding operations.

Also, I am sure that members would be aware that in the past few days there have been reports about random fruit fly checks being made in this state. This is to prevent fruit fly being taken from metropolitan areas to the Riverland. I think it is very important that, as one of our major producing areas, the Riverland should be kept fruit fly free. The results of that preliminary analysis will be looked at when the last of these random fruit fly checks has been completed. I will be given a report and we can then make an assessment about how we deal with this problem of people taking fruit into the Riverland in the future.

#### QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL

**The Hon. SANDRA KANCK:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, representing the Minister for Health, a question about the Queen Elizabeth Hospital research foundation.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. SANDRA KANCK:** Medical research at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, based at the Basil Hetzel Institute, has received worldwide recognition. This recognition has been fostered by funding from the National Health and Medical Research Council. The 2001 research report states:

The year has seen a continuing increase in the amount of research dollars attracted to the institute, with in excess of \$12 million being expended in the past financial year. This has all occurred at a time when direct state government support for the research endeavours has decreased by almost 20 per cent.

The Director of Research, Dr Guy Maddern, has expressed concern regarding the status of the research facilities as plans for redevelopment include the demolition of the Basil Hetzel building. He says:

It is vitally important that an appropriate purpose-built facility be created to house the research endeavours of the Basil Hetzel Institute, and such a facility will need to be built prior to any contemplated demolition of the existing old but highly functional research facility.

During the election campaign, the Labor Party confirmed the following:

- a. Labor will continue laboratory-based research at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital;
- b. Labor will make arrangements for research activities to compensate for the demolition of the Basil Hetzel building, originally planned as part of the stage 1 redevelopment.

The shadow minister also stated:

In government, I will work directly with you to maintain and develop the important research effort being undertaken at TQEH. . .

My questions to the minister are:

1. What arrangements will the government make for the research activities of the institute, if and when the Basil Hetzel Institute is demolished?
2. Will a new research facility be completed before any demolition takes place?
3. Will the government increase its direct funding support for the research institute to 'develop the important research effort being undertaken at TQEH'?

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation):** I will refer that important question to the Minister for Health in another place and bring back a reply.

#### WIND FARM, SELICKS BEACH

**The Hon. T.G. CAMERON:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Regional Affairs, representing the Minister for Environment and Conservation, questions regarding plans for a wind farm at Sellicks Beach.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. T.G. CAMERON:** I have received the following letter from Mr Bob Richter of Sellicks Beach regarding his concerns for a planned wind farm in that area. Mr Richter's letter states:

I refer to the proposal to install a wind farm on the Southern Mount Lofty Ranges in the vicinity of Sellicks Beach and Myponga. This proposal concerns me, being a resident in the area but more particularly the proposed rape of the unique beauty in this spectacular part of our state.

As you would no doubt be aware the landscape of the ranges in the vicinity of Peddlers Creek on the coast road, or McLaren Vale heading toward Willunga is spectacular with its "bald hills" stretching to the coast.

Mr President, can you visualise 70 wind generators, the height of the SANTOS building, destroying the wonder of the Fleurieu Peninsula?

He goes on to say that he is not against the use of wind generation to supplement our power needs but cannot understand how we would even consider the placement of these 100 metre monstrosities on the crest of our hills. He goes on to state:

One must wonder how an application to place one or more 25 storey hotels in a similar position overlooking Aldinga Bay would be treated by government and local council.

I believe an application to erect a 40 metre Buddha in the vicinity was refused by the local council due to "visual impact".

I appeal to you to ensure a commercial development does not destroy an area of our state that is known for its scenic beauty.

The proposed location of these wind generators would visually contaminate one of the most beautiful parts of South Australia's coastline. While all members would support environmentally sustainable generation of power and a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, this should not be at the expense of the visual environment. That is my opinion I am expressing. My questions to the minister are:

1. Has an environmental impact study been conducted on the proposed installation of a wind farm at Sellicks Beach and, if so, when will it be publicly released?

2. When will a final decision be made as to the location of the proposed wind farm; and will the minister assure the council that local residents will be consulted before that decision is taken?

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS (Minister for Regional Affairs):** I will refer those questions to the Minister for Environment and Conservation in another place and bring back a reply.

#### MURRAY RIVER FISHERY

**The Hon. CAROLINE SCHAEFER:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries a further question on the river fishery.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. CAROLINE SCHAEFER:** Under the Lewis-Labor pact, the mathematical formula which was announced by Mr Lewis on 11 March on ABC radio for each fisherman to receive just compensation for loss of licensing was the monetary value of their catch per year; that is, approximately \$100 000 per fisher per year for as long as they had intended to work. I know many of those fishers: they are in the order of, say, 55 to 57, so that would be, say, 10 to 15 years at \$100 000 each. Based on this formula that would be at a cost of \$30 to \$40 million to the taxpayer. Can the minister give us the assurance that he will honour the Labor Party's promise to the Speaker?

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY (Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries):** Yes, the government will honour its promise to the Speaker to phase out gill nets and remove all commercial fishing of native fin fish species in the Murray River within 12 months. That was the agreement. The Speaker has made some suggestions as to how he believes it should be done. I believe that the figure of \$30 million to \$40 million is quite ridiculous. The former minister knows that, because she put the submissions in the budget bilaterals, so she would know what the true figures are. I do not intend to repeat them here but, certainly, the former minister would know them, because she put them up as her top priority under the budget area.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY:** As I have indicated, the agreement that this government has in relation to that is to

phase out gill nets immediately, which is essentially what the Speaker is asking for and what the government will be delivering.

**The Hon. CAROLINE SCHAEFER:** As a supplementary question, will the minister indicate to the fishermen involved what compensation package they are likely to receive, given that they have six weeks to decide whether or not to take it?

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY:** When cabinet receives a submission that I will be putting to them shortly and, when I am in a position to put a position, I will be doing just that.

#### POWER TOOLS

**The Hon. J. GAZZOLA:** I seek leave to ask the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, representing the Minister for Consumer Affairs, a question about power tools.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. J. GAZZOLA:** Can the minister, representing the Attorney-General, advise the council what action has been taken in relation to the distribution of fake and dangerous power tools in South Australia?

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation):** Fortunately, I am able to reply to the member's very important question, and I thank him for it. It is an important issue to advertise more broadly through the parliament and in the press, because every now and again scams are run through communities and innocent people end up paying dearly because of them.

The issue of power tools is not only one of people not receiving the value for money that they would have had had the tools not been counterfeit. There is the other issue of safety, where people believe that they are buying hand tools with in-built safety mechanisms that do not appear, making it a life and death issue. It is not just a case of interstate scammers moving from place to place, but—

*The Hon. P. Holloway interjecting:*

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS:** Do you like that one? It is not—

**The PRESIDENT:** The minister does not need any lessons on how to waffle.

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS:** He is the polliest of all wafflers that I have heard. The trade measurement section of the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs received information from South Australia Police concerning the sale of allegedly counterfeit power tools at Glenelg North. As a result of inquiries by the police, a man was arrested for the sale of power drills misrepresented as 'Hilti' brand products. The police had receive information from Crimestoppers—another community initiative for being watchful regarding crime within the community—that the same man had approached building workers in the area offering to supply products. At the time of his arrest, this man was found to have a variety of products in the boot of his car, including power tools, leather jackets, suits and bottles of wine. The origin of the products appeared dubious. It is a wonder he did not pull up at the front of Parliament House; he might have been able to get a few sales here! The power tools were also of particular concern, because they appeared not to comply with Australian safety standards.

On Tuesday 19 March 2002, officers from the Trade Measurement Section took possession of the items from the police. Investigations into the tools have revealed the following information. Seven power drills were seized. Each of these drills was labelled as being a 'Hilti' brand drill.

Consequently, it has been found that these drills are counterfeit, and that there has been a misrepresentation of the genuine Hilti products. The non-compliance to Australian standards is a potential breach of the Fair Trading Act 1987 and the Trade Standards Act 1979.

Almost the same drill—pardon the pun—can be applied to a drill marked as a Makita power drill. The government is concerned about these counterfeit drills for the reasons I outlined earlier. Action is being taken by the officers in regard to non-compliance with standards and potential breaches of the Fair Trading Act. The action that the government is taking is that the independent assessment of the power drills that have been seized is expected to be completed by 10 May 2002. If the result of this examination is that the tools do not meet appropriate electrical safety standards action to ban them will be considered.

**The Hon. J.F. STEFANI:** I ask a supplementary question. Will the minister enlist the assistance of the electrical trade operators, because most power drills are required to be tagged every three months and, as such, the various contractors enlisted to tag the tools would provide a very good source of control?

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS:** I thank the member for his important supplementary question. Unfortunately, I do not have an answer, but I will refer the question to the minister in another place and bring back a reply.

## REGIONAL AFFAIRS

**The Hon. IAN GILFILLAN:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation in his role as Minister for Regional Affairs a question about South Australian regional affairs.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. IAN GILFILLAN:** In a document entitled 'Sustaining Regions', which is a commonwealth regional initiative, published by the Australia and New Zealand Regional Science Association International, there is a very informative academic article by Dr Philip D. Adams, a senior research fellow at the Centre of Policy Studies and IMPACT Project, Faculty of Business and Economics, Monash University. This article is entitled 'Prospects for Australian regions'. There are two tables to which I will refer before I ask the minister my question.

The first article is headed 'Macroeconomic forecasts (average annual growth rates, 1996-97 to 2007-08)'. Under the subheadings in this table, apart from Tasmania, South Australia is the worst performing. The subheadings to which I refer are: real private consumption; real investment; real public consumption (total and regional); real GDP/GSP; aggregate employment; and aggregate capital stock. The state is divided into seven regions: Adelaide, Outer Adelaide, Yorke and Lower North, Murraylands, South-East, Eyre and Northern.

In the scale—the tops of the pops as far as the country regions are concerned—in the figure 2, which is headed 'Sub-state regions ranked by average growth in real value added, 1996-97 to 2007-08, the best South Australian region comes in at No 27, and that is the Murraylands. The next is Adelaide, which comes in at 37th out of 56. The next is Northern at 40, Outer Adelaide at 42, the South-East at 47, Yorke and Lower North at 48, and, last of all, Eyre at 56. I ask the minister: will he explain why South Australia's

performance is so lamentable in comparison with other regions in Australia, and what does this government intend to do to correct the situation?

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS (Minister for Regional Affairs):** I am tempted to refer the honourable member's question to the minister in another place, but I will attempt to answer the question. I jest, Mr President. The issues raised by the honourable member are important. An Office of Regional Affairs is being put together, and a number of initiatives will come out of that office. We also have an Economic Development Board which will be in place and meet shortly. In part, it will coordinate all development, including regional development, in South Australia. We hope to be able to get better coordination through the integration of cross agencies to support regional development.

A number of initiatives are being taken at an administrative level to try to capture the energy and enthusiasm of people in regional areas and not to pick winners but to try to find financial support for seed funding for a whole range of programs and ideas that are being stymied in South Australia through a lack of funding.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS:** I, along with members opposite and Michael Elliott, sat on a committee, and one conclusion drawn from the evidence given related to the funding regimes required, particularly for environmental tourism, aquaculture and other projects that are predominantly carried out in regional areas. The financial institutions, including the major banks and some of the minors, were unable to make accurate assessments of the risk in relation to the benefits that were going to come from anybody wanting to invest in those products. In the main they had not been able to do assessments because in a lot of cases the banks had withdrawn their financial officers from the regions and were relying on head office assessments on a whole range of products.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS:** I suspect that is a major part of the reason that finance for major venture programs in this state is probably on par with, say, Western Australia more so than with Tasmania. Venture capital is not being supplied for a number of reasons. However, we are taking a number of steps to put together a whole new infrastructure regime to try to support regional development in this state.

## REGIONAL AIR SERVICES

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Regional Affairs a question about regional air services.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** On Tuesday this week, the Ansett administrator finally determined a preferred bidder for the Kendell/Hazelton Airlines regional carriers as a merged airline by 1 August this year. The preferred bidder—Australiawide Airlines—has indicated that within two weeks it hopes to be in a position to sign a binding agreement, but it is cautious about some conditions, one of which it deems to be critical, that is, negotiations with relevant state and federal governments, and that involves the South Australian government. I have a longer explanation but, because of the time, I will simply ask the minister: as the minister responsible for regional airlines, can he advise—and if he cannot do so will he seek information on the government's policy in relation to regional air services—whether he and/or the



Minister for Transport has been approached by Australiawide Airlines or whether he will approach it regarding the assistance?

This is an important matter for regional South Australia, the Kendell Airlines work force and the communities that Kendell serves. Therefore, I am keen to learn whether the minister and/or the Minister for Transport has been approached by Australiawide Airlines regarding the conditions that they need advice and answers on within a possible timetable of just two weeks and, if not, whether this government will take the initiative to approach Australiawide Airlines to find ways and means in which it can assist this company to complete its bid so that we can see Kendell Airlines secured in some form for regional areas in terms of social justice, economic development and our work force in the longer term.

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS (Minister for Regional Affairs):** I thank the member for her important question. Although it is part of the transport portfolio, I will attempt to answer as much as I can now and refer the rest of the question to the Minister for Transport. The issue itself is impacting adversely on regional development; there is no doubt about that. It is also affecting the carriage of local people, as well as interstate and overseas people into and out of regional areas. It is also hampering economic development in a number of other ways, so it is important that we get a secure base for our regional airlines.

A number of consortia have been talking to the government about interests that they have for particular routes. Some routes will be at risk because they will not be financially viable for any airline, and a case for special circumstances may have to be considered for those remote areas. However, where routes may be competitive enough for at least one if not two airlines to operate, I suspect that the government's favoured position will be to license the route to a particular airline.

**The Hon. Diana Laidlaw:** The Liberals are introducing a bill like that in the House of Assembly today which I thought would be helpful.

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS:** It appears that we are working in the same direction. With regard to the other issue in relation to Australiawide Airlines, I am not familiar with any of the discussions that have gone on, but I will refer that to the Minister for Transport in another place.

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#### MINISTER'S REMARKS

**The Hon. CAROLINE SCHAEFER:** I seek leave to make a personal explanation.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. CAROLINE SCHAEFER:** I believe I have been misrepresented by the minister. He has called me a hypocrite because I, as he said, was in favour of the removal of river fishing licences. I have never denied that; in fact, I read the Liberal Party policy as part of my question. He has also said that my party signed off on a compact with Peter Lewis. That is completely incorrect. He has said that the top priority in the budget bilaterals bid from the department of which I was in charge for a short time was the buy back of the river fishery. That is completely incorrect. By far the largest component was a bid for sustainable resources matters such as the control of pests and plants within the state. He

would be well aware that the budget bilateral process is a matter of bidding in order of priority—or it certainly was under the clever fiscal management of the previous Treasurer—and certainly that amount of money was not anywhere near the highest priority when I was the minister.

#### ADDRESS IN REPLY

Adjourned debate on motion for adoption.

(Continued from 8 May. Page 50.)

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! The Hon. Mr Ridgway will be making his maiden speech, and I ask all members to extend the normal courtesies provided for members in this position.

**The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY:** I thank Her Excellency the Governor for the speech with which she opened this 50th Parliament of South Australia and the manner in which Her Excellency has discharged her duties in the golden jubilee year of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Mr President, I offer my sincere congratulations to you on your election and extend my best wishes for your term as President of this council. I also offer my congratulations to the other new members of the Legislative Council—the Hons Gail Gago, John Gazzola, Andrew Evans and, of course, my friend and colleague Terry Stephens. I am sure we all bring a unique and special blend of talents to this parliament, and I am looking forward to a constructive and productive eight years for South Australia. I would like to say congratulations also to the members who were re-elected on 9 February 2002.

It is a great honour to be elected to represent the people of South Australia in this chamber. I acknowledge that, along with 21 other members, I am elected to represent the whole state. However, I believe that it would be fair to say that I have a greater understanding of the needs and circumstances of nearly half a million South Australians who live outside the metropolitan area, having lived and worked all my life in the Upper South-East.

In recent times a number of people have asked me why I wanted to become a member of parliament and when I became interested in politics. My earliest memory of any political awareness was when the then Prime Minister Harold Holt disappeared. My family did not have a television at the time, and I did not read any newspapers, but it was my family's, and especially my parents', reaction to the constant radio coverage of his disappearance that somehow sowed the first political seed in my mind.

With the purchase of a family television a couple of years later, I was always interested to watch the evening news bulletins and follow the daily events in both Adelaide and Canberra. But it was the years between 1972 and 1975—especially the events of November 1975—that I believe were the catalyst to my eventually pursuing a career in politics. It was quite remarkable to see the depth of feeling in my local community around those interesting times.

As I mentioned earlier, I have lived and worked all my life in the Upper South-East. I grew up on my parents' property, 10 kilometres north-east of the small railway town of Wolsley, some 16 kilometres east of Bordertown. I completed my primary and secondary education at the Bordertown primary and high schools, and it was my intention to go on to university to study marine biology. Although that did not eventuate, I still have a great love of the sea and all that happens in and around it.

Upon leaving school, I started working on the family's mixed farm which comprised beef cattle, merino sheep, cereals and gladiolus, for both cut flower and corm production. The property was really not big enough to provide a living for us all, and I was given a couple of choices: to expand the gladiolus business, or to take up shearing. As the Hon. Bob Sneath would know, it was not a particularly difficult choice. But as he referred yesterday to the shortage of shearers, maybe both of us would be better off if we were shearing today.

At the age of 19 I was given the responsibility of managing the gladiolus business for the family. Over time, we expanded the operation and, in 1997, my wife, Meredith, and I purchased the business from the family. We have continued to grow the business and today are the largest producers of gladiolus corms in Australia and New Zealand, and we have recently been approached to grow corms for an international flower bulb export company. It is our intention to continue to operate this business, although I will not be involved on a 'hands on' daily basis. Too often politicians are accused of not staying in touch with the real world. I cannot think of a better way to stay in touch than being involved in the running of a small business and dealing with the associated challenges and problems that face all businesses today.

One of the great experiences of my life was as a member of the South Australian Rural Youth Movement. As a member of the organisation, I was privileged to have many wonderful opportunities. In 1982-83 I was elected as state president. As some of you might recall, this organisation was funded through the Department of Agriculture. As president, I was in regular contact with the minister and departmental heads. This further heightened my interest in politics, especially in primary industries and regional development.

In 1984 I was fortunate to win a rural youth study tour to the United Kingdom for six months. This tour was hosted by the Young Farmers Association and the National Farmers Union. This trip gave me a much greater understanding of the European community, as it was then called, farm subsidies and rural communities in other countries. On returning from the United Kingdom, I again became involved in the family business, as well as with a number of community and sporting groups, such as the Youth Advisory Panel, the South Australian Rural Advisory Council, the Australian Council of Rural Youth, the Tatiara District Cricket Association, and the board of the Bordertown Memorial Hospital. These have all given me a broad range of experiences prior to being elected on 9 February.

I believe that I share a unique background with the Hon. Caroline Schaefer. We are the only two members of this Legislative Council who, prior to being elected, derived their only income from primary production: Caroline from broad acre dry land farming and I from intensive irrigated horticulture—a unique position, indeed, when you acknowledge the contribution our rural industries make to the state of South Australia's economy.

We all know that we are in the driest state in the driest continent in the world. Our farmers, and probably all South Australians, over the years have been some of the most innovative and resilient people in Australia. We always seem to be able to overcome adversity to go on to thrive and prosper. Of course, our rural sector has become much more diverse over the past 20 years, and under the recent guidance of the previous state government is enjoying one of the most prosperous times in our state's history.

Increased production has not been the only answer. Industries had to get smarter, work harder and deliver high quality products at world competitive prices. This increased prosperity has been greatly enhanced by the implementation of the State Food Plan and Food for the Future. In a recent series of articles, the *Advertiser* has highlighted the success of this strategy right across South Australia. The value of South Australian farm production will reach about \$5 billion in 2001-02, which is about a 100 per cent increase on the figure in 1994-95, while over the same period agricultural production in Australia has grown by only 50 per cent.

This improvement is due to a range of factors, including significant increases in cropping, horticulture and other industries, better yields, rapid diversification, increased prices, good seasons and a big move to irrigation. Primary producers have also embraced improved management practices and the latest in technology, and they now feel comfortable using a more entrepreneurial approach to realise the full potential of our mediterranean climate to grow a far greater range of products.

I think we should look at a couple of these sectors in a little more detail. The expansion in grain production has been quantified in two ways: first, there has been a vast increase in the area sown from some 700 000 hectares in 1992-93 to more than 3.8 million hectares in 2001-02. Together with the selection of new high yielding crops, this has resulted in a record harvest this season, in excess of 9 million tonnes. Coupled with that increased production are some very successful value adding companies; for example, the Blue Lake Oat Milling Company, based in my home town of Bordertown.

Blue Lake produces a range of rolled oats, quick oats, instant oats, oat bran, oat flour, rolled grains and other specialty flours, and it has become the largest producer of oat flour in Australia and is growing by about 20 per cent a year. This is one of the many companies demonstrating the enormous potential of the \$2.3 billion South Australian grain industry.

Livestock is South Australia's second most important food business after grain. It contributed \$1.8 billion of South Australia's food revenue in 2000-01. This result is due to higher livestock prices and world-leading innovative export companies such as the Tatiara Meat Company. While exporting traditional lamb cuts to many overseas countries, the Tatiara Meat Company has developed a market for 60 000 pre-cooked lamb shanks per week in the United Kingdom, used as bar snacks.

Increased horticultural production is linked closely to increased irrigation. The irrigated area in South Australia increased from 91 200 hectares in 1992-93 to more than 159 000 hectares in 1999-2000. This has seen South Australia become the strongest performing horticultural state in Australia. In fact, South Australia is the most sustainable in its irrigation performance and enjoys some of the nation's lowest water costs. The technology being used here is leading the nation in terms of efficiency. I am quite sure that horticultural production will grow rapidly over the next few years.

We are also well aware of the significant contributions that wine and seafood have made, with exports in the year 2001 of \$992 million and \$469 million respectively. I am sure the Hon. Paul Holloway will acknowledge that he is very fortunate as minister to have inherited an industry and a rural economy that is in its best shape since the Second World War, and he has a responsibility to all rural and regional

South Australia to continue the government's support for the industry and the very successful State Food Plan and Food for the Future.

Rural and regional South Australia has also benefited from this greater rural production, with many rural communities experiencing a building boom. Housing shortages and labour shortages are all quite pleasurable problems. Even some of our rural schools are experiencing boom times. By the end of this year the Bordertown Primary School will have some 575 students, making it one of the largest schools outside the metropolitan area.

Tourism is also playing a major role in creating wealth in rural and regional South Australia, with a steady and sustainable increase in both domestic and overseas travellers utilising this wonderful state. Rural communities are also becoming more attractive to older Australians, with more and more people seeking an opportunity to retire in a peaceful environment with less pressure, less crime and better value for their dollar when buying a home or unit. As a society we have an obligation to support and care for the older generations and maybe, with the appropriate government support and encouragement, regional and rural South Australia can play an important role as our community grows older.

I guess it is time to look to the future. At any time, the government of the day has to develop this states resources to the maximum in a sustainable and responsible manner and, of course, the resource I have the most understanding of is the land and our rural and regional communities. We need to encourage research in all agricultural products and farming practices if our rural industries are to continue to be world leaders. We must be mindful of land use changes and not be retrospective in our outlook but look forward to what opportunities may exist for future generations, especially as we aspire to offer them the same opportunities we have been fortunate to have in our lifetime.

One of the keys to the future development of South Australia is water. The water resource in this state is complex and fragile and comes from a number of sources. We need to be careful not to apply the same broad rules and regulations across all of this very important resource. One of the most important roles that this or any future government has to play is to oversee the management of finite resources, such as water. Nowhere is that more important than in the driest state in Australia. I am looking forward with a great sense of responsibility to playing a key part in the future management of this most important and valuable asset.

South Australia also has significant mineral wealth, much of which is as yet undeveloped, and I am excited by the enormous potential for the future expansion of our mining industry. The sea also presents another vast opportunity, and we have seen a large investment in aquaculture projects over the past 10 or 20 years. As I mentioned earlier, I have a great love of the sea; I am very interested in our marine environment and will follow with keen interest the future potential of this industry. As members can see, I am a very willing advocate of development, not only in rural and regional areas but also right across all industries.

In my view, we have an obligation to develop in a responsible and sustainable manner all the resources of this great state to provide a sustainable and certain future for our greatest asset—the people of South Australia. One of the greatest challenges facing future generations will be to continue to have a modern society where family and community values are still held in high regard. We must be able to provide for the ever increasing needs of our society,

but without development and wealth creation this may well become almost impossible.

I read with interest the article in the *Advertiser* of Saturday 23 February in which the Hon. Andrew Evans and the Family First Party discussed their policy snapshot, especially their transport policy and the establishment of a dual carriageway from Tailem Bend to the South Australian-Victorian border. I support that policy, although it may be a long-term goal. Our first priority must be to have a safe single lane road from Tailem Bend to the South Australian-Victorian border. The 16 kilometre section from Bordertown to the border is now the poorest and most dangerous section of road between Adelaide and Melbourne. The surface is badly fractured and it often holds pools of water during wet conditions. In fact, the surface is so rough that motorists often think they have a flat tyre. On a recent trip to Victoria even the Hon. John Dawkins had to stop and check his tyres.

As the third or fourth busiest interstate highway in Australia, with some 2 500 vehicles a day travelling on it and a third of those—over 800 a day—being heavy transports, it must be a priority for our new state transport minister to secure federal support to rebuild this road. Transport in general is vital to our rural and regional communities, now and for any future development. We need to develop a national plan, a blueprint for forward strategies. We need an efficient and modern transport network with a long-term vision that reaches far beyond state borders and far beyond the term of any government.

While on the subject of transport I would like to share with members a little story that occurred the last time the rebuild of the highway between Bordertown and the Victorian border occurred in the late 1980s. It would be quite amusing if it were not for the fact that taxpayers' money was being wasted. After the construction phase, the roadside verge needed to be revegetated. Two Highways Department employees collected seed from local native trees so the verge could be sown with seed direct from the local area. It was an extraordinary success; the seedlings grew extremely well. When they were about 18 months old and 1 to 2 metres in height, the Electricity Trust of South Australia decided it would shift the power line from 20 metres out in the adjoining farmer's paddock to the fence line, and therefore needed to poison most of the newly established trees. The irony of this is that a couple of years ago, with the establishment of the much needed overtaking lane, the road reserve had to be widened and the power line had to be realigned away from the original line of trees.

While on the subject of trees I must also make mention of the devastating disease affecting a large number of trees in my local area—Mundulla yellows. It is of the utmost importance that research funding is guaranteed into the future. While a great deal of information has been gathered on this disease, there is still a huge amount of work to be done. I urge the new environment minister, the Hon. John Hill, to throw his support behind this research project to find a cause and then ultimately a cure. The disease has the potential to cause billions of dollars in damage to our native tree industry and should not be underestimated.

I come to the Legislative Council as a proud South Australian, and at the time when this institution is under scrutiny and question about its relevance. In her maiden speech almost 20 years ago, my colleague the Hon. Diana Laidlaw said:

On occasions others in this Council have deplored the fact that politicians are probably the most mistrusted professionals in the

community. The public's perception of us colours their regard for our political system, a system that we should be preserving and strengthening for future generations. The onus is on us to restore credibility.

Some 20 years on, those words are as apt today as they were in 1982. Indeed, the onus is on us in this, the 50th parliament, to reestablish community support for our bicameral system. It has in the past and will in the future provide the best legislation South Australia deserves, with all the appropriate checks and balances along the way.

In our modern society it appears that we are becoming more and more confused. We seem to know our rights and neglect our responsibilities. It could be argued that this neglect is the source of many problems in our society today as we head more and more towards the litigious society of the United States. The crisis crippling our liability insurance industry is, I am sure, the result of the 'what's in it for me?' mentality. We have also seen this behaviour in our political arena since 9 February, where people have abused their rights then turned their backs on the responsibility they had to the people who elected them. At a time like this I am reminded of the Rural Youth Movement's aims and goals: to become self-reliant, responsible and effective members of our community. We must never lose sight of our community and family values.

I should also make mention of the three retiring Liberal members of the Legislative Council. I listened with great interest and amusement on 5 March as you all spoke of the service of the Hons Trevor Griffin, Legh Davis and Jamie Irwin. I have known Legh and Trevor personally only for a couple of years, but I am well aware of the contribution they have made to the parliament and to South Australia. Jamie Irwin I have known for some 25 years. Jamie followed my father, Eric Ridgway, as Chairman of the Tatiara District Council, and our paths have crossed on many occasions over those 25 years. Jamie also made a significant contribution to this council as President, to the parliament and to South Australia. I wish all three the very best in their retirement.

In closing, I wish to thank a number of members from both houses for their generous and warm welcome, and especially the Hon. Caroline Schaefer for her help and guidance over the past couple of years. My most sincere and heartfelt thanks must go to my wife, Meredith, and my children, Ashleigh, Tara and Louis. Without their steadfast support I would not be here today. I must also thank my parents, Eric and Josephine Ridgway, although my father is no longer with us. They gave me a great set of values and principles and always supported me in all my endeavours. I also thank my father- and mother-in-law, Trevor and Nadine Olafsen, and my many friends and supporters who have encouraged and supported me over the years.

I also thank the Liberal Party of South Australia and the Liberal Party State Council for giving me their generous support at our party preselection in February 2001. I owe them all a great debt, and I trust that my efforts do not disappoint. My final thanks must go to the 373 225 South Australians who voted for the Liberal team on 9 February 2002—which, incidentally, is 65 819 more than voted for the Australian Labor Party's team.

The electors of South Australia have bestowed upon me my greatest honour as one of only 800 or so people to serve this state as a member of parliament since 1839. As with any public office you never have ownership; you are simply a custodian of the position. I accept it graciously; I will amend it purposefully; and, when the time comes, I will pass it on

proudly. I seek to serve the people of South Australia to the best of my ability. I commend the motion to the council.

**The PRESIDENT:** I call the Hon. Terry Stephens, who is making his maiden speech and again I ask members to extend all courtesy to him.

**The Hon. T.J. STEPHENS:** I thank Her Excellency the Governor for the speech with which she opened this parliament. I take this opportunity to pay a tribute to the dedication, the enthusiasm and the accomplishment with which Her Excellency is discharging her functions as a representative of Her Majesty the Queen. Throughout her public life Her Excellency's achievements have been widely applauded by all sections of the community. As someone who shares her love of sport and who has been involved in sport all my life, I have to admit it is her sporting achievements to which I relate most strongly.

I did not reach the heights of success that she did, but from a very young age I have always been involved in a number of sports. I am passionate about Australian Rules Football, basketball, cricket and soccer. Indeed, I have to say that there are very few sports that I do not enjoy and I certainly admire all those who participate at any level of their chosen sport. Sport instils positive self-esteem and gives us all-important social attributes such as commitment, discipline and self-sacrifice and it builds character. Those who learn to set goals, apply themselves and strive for excellence in their chosen sport often apply those skills and values throughout their professional and social lives. I believe that sport is a great medium for teaching our children appropriate morals, principles and disciplines. As a parent I have tried to share my love of sport with my own children, and so far being actively involved in keeping them busy has paid great dividends.

Mr President, may I also offer my congratulations to you on your election to high office and wish you a long and rewarding term as President of this council. I take this opportunity to congratulate the other newly elected members of this council. For me it is a great honour to be elected to represent the people of South Australia in this chamber, and I am proud to be part of the Liberal Party team in this parliament. I know that we will be a hardworking effective opposition. I will be concerned about where our economy is going and how that impacts on the community at large but, in particular, how it affects the small business sector.

I share with both the present and past state governments the intention to have the best possible education, health and police services for our communities, but, at the end of the day, we have to be able to fund these services. It is futile having the best intentions if you cannot bring those intentions to fruition. Along with the other 21 members of this council, I am charged with ensuring that those intentions are realised right across this state. As a Legislative Councillor, I am proud to have the whole state as my electorate.

All members bring with them their own particular background, expertise and interests. I am proud to say that I come from Whyalla. I was born and bred in Whyalla and lived there for over 37 years. Coming from a regional area, I feel I have some knowledge of the circumstances of those who live outside the Adelaide metropolitan area. I believe I come to this chamber with real life experience. I am indeed honoured to have been preselected and then elected as part of the Liberal Party Legislative Council team, and I reflect today on why I became a Liberal. My dream is very much for

everyone to aspire to and be able to gain satisfying employment, thereby achieving their potential and living the lifestyle they wish.

When the State Bank collapse happened in the early 1990s, my first concern as a small businessman was for my future and the future of those who worked with me. As an employer I have always felt great responsibilities towards my co-workers and I am acutely aware that any future success is only as a result of a team approach. As a businessman at that time I was concerned about the economic direction in which both the federal and state governments were taking us. Interest rates of 18 per cent were a reality and I, like many others, feared for the long-term sustainability of our businesses. I felt that, rather than whingeing and whining, I should be proactive and to try to bring about change.

I felt that the most effective way in which I could do that was to stand as a candidate in the seat of Giles. I decided to throw my hat into the ring. This is not the occasion to rake over the coals of the State Bank collapse, but sufficient to say I was supportive of the Liberal Party's plan to restore the South Australian economy: to rebuild jobs, reduce debt, to return to standards of excellence in community services such as health and education and to restore confidence in the institutions of government. Each of these commitments was and still is vital to the well-being of our state, particularly the last commitment.

A lot has been said about restoring confidence in politicians and the political process. All I can say is that my aim is to conduct myself with the appropriate proper dignity and exercise my duties to the best of my ability. I aim to be constructive and effective and represent the views in particular of the small business community and encourage the entrepreneurial spirit that goes with it, which is what I believe makes this country great.

I would like to say a few words about my time as a candidate for the seat of Giles. The Liberal Party gave me full support to stand in the 1993 and 1997 elections. I came from a labour background and was running in a state electorate that has been Labor since 1941. It is a humbling experience to think of the lengths people will go to support you in a virtually unwinnable seat.

In hindsight, I would always encourage people to stand in difficult seats because it is so very important that we give the South Australian voting community the choice, even when the odds of winning that seat are so minimal. It is the many Liberal Party members who, election after election, give up their time to support candidates such as me in these very unwinnable seats who, I believe, are the real heroes of the electoral process. It is not easy, and the fact that they continue to find enthusiasm and the drive to fulfil those roles is inspiring to say the least.

I particularly thank all who assisted me in Giles during those two campaigns. They certainly had a hand in my ultimate preselection as a Liberal candidate for the Legislative Council. I wish to share my electoral success with them and I hope that I can repay those who believed in me with my performance in this council. I hope Whyalla always claims me as their own; and they feel they have a Liberal representative in the South Australian parliament who they can turn to and who will represent their views and issues.

Expertise-wise I feel I bring to this chamber my skills as a small businessman. Small business is very much the engine room which drives the economy and which, in turn, funds the important social justice programs about which I spoke earlier. I believe that the revival of the South Australian economy is

largely due to the success of our small business community. It is undeniable that this state has had a particularly hard time over the past decade. This has been turned around by the sheer hard work and the persistence of South Australians and the businesses they run. They have been well supported by the past Liberal government.

Today, especially in rural and regional South Australia, there is much to be positive about. Agriculture, tourism, wine, mining and aquaculture industries, to name a few, are booming. All are well supported by entrepreneurs and business in the regional centres seeking to value add and to reach export markets. I personally have a keen interest in the fishing industry. I have friends in the fishing industry and I have a small commercial interest in aquaculture. I am pleased to say that South Australia is now Australia's leading aquaculture producing state. In the past 10 years, exports in the aquaculture sector have grown from \$2.5 million in 1990 to achieve \$260 million in 2001.

The aquaculture industry is projected to bring immense wealth and employment opportunities to the state. It is crucial to South Australia's wealth and further job opportunities and better living standards that the government continue our commitment to the sustainable development of our natural resources and to the growth of the business sectors. While I hope very much to represent the views of small businessmen and women in this chamber, I would like to flag today that I intend to be a strong supporter of both the hotel and racing industries. This is not to wave the red flag at my esteemed colleague the Hon. Mr Xenophon.

Of course, excesses occur in these establishments which cannot be tolerated. However, as I said, the roles that these types of industries provide in our society need to be fully appreciated and the positives that these two industries bring need to be put into a balanced perspective. Both the hotel and racing industries provide entertainment and recreational outlets for thousands of South Australians. They are places of social interaction in which to enjoy life and meet people; and they are also important for their role in South Australia's tourism industry. Most people do not appreciate how important the racing industry and the hotel industry are to South Australia.

The hotel industry in particular tends to be much maligned in the public arena. We have 630 hotels that directly employ 23 500 people with an undefinable number of jobs and supporting roles. Each year retail sales to the public in hotels exceed \$1.5 billion. Hotels pay over \$650 million in taxes to the state government and give \$9 million to sporting and charity groups.

The racing industry also makes a significant contribution to South Australia's economy and employment, with an economic turnover estimated at \$550 million, creating the equivalent of over 3 500 full-time jobs. I have been involved first-hand in the industry, being employed in my early life as a part-time bookmaker's clerk, and recently realising a long-held ambition to part own and race a horse.

I would like to take this opportunity to reinforce the point as to why the previous Liberal government actually sold the TAB. The major beneficiary of the TAB sale was the racing industry, with an \$11.5 million up-front payment and a guaranteed \$41 million per year, indexed for three years, and other financial guarantees after that. The sale of the TAB was about securing the long-term viability of this important industry. It was definitely not about the dollars and cents that the government or its budget could gain. So, I place on record that, when it comes to the racing and hotel industry, I intend

to support commonsense decisions that fit with the overall state agenda.

I hope to bring sense and sensibility when it comes to my vote in parliament, particularly on the many controversial issues that we will face in this chamber. Already, since becoming a Legislative Councillor, I have become wary of being pigeonholed into supporting one view or another. Yes, I am very proud of my Catholic faith, and I do my best to lead an honourable Christian life. I also enjoy life and all that it brings, but I do not have ironclad views on many topical issues, such as euthanasia, prostitution reform or stem cell research.

Finally, one other group in which I will continue to take a keen interest is the nursing fraternity. My wife was a nurse for more than 10 years, and I have been very fortunate to meet many of her colleagues over the years. As a result, I have the utmost respect and enormous admiration for the work that they do. I particularly want to use my time as a Legislative Councillor to support any action, within reason, to advance their cause when it comes to nurses being able to provide for better patient care, which I know is their ultimate goal.

I would like to place on record my thanks to the many organisations and individuals who have given me the opportunity to gain a wide range of life experiences, and to my political mentors, most importantly Caroline Schaefer, who absolutely guided me as a raw candidate for Giles through two state elections and who has become and remains a good friend, and also her husband Roy. To my campaigning partner and good friend David Ridgway, thank you for your support, and I look forward to working with you. Rob Lucas has also had an enormous influence on my becoming a Legislative Councillor and has given me significant encouragement, which I intend to repay with my performance.

I thank certain people in business life who have helped, guided, coached and tutored me in acquiring business and life skills. In particular, I pay a tribute to my original business partner and close friend Trevor Robertson. He introduced me into the small business world, and we eventually worked together on business interests, which grew substantially. Trevor taught me the value of positive thinking—that there are positives to be found in almost every situation. I am not saying that this is always easy to do. Another man who had a huge influence on my life was Kevan Taylor, the General Manager of Nacos Credit Union, where I worked for six years. Kevan was very much a mentor and, through my association with him, I learnt the importance of encouraging all people to fulfil their potential, be it in business, on the sportsfield or in realising individual talents. I also learnt through him the value of good employer/staff relationships. Today, I take great care to foster mutual respect and support with co-workers in my own business. I look forward to replicating that supportive relationship with those I will be working with in the parliament.

Three further people I want to mention have also been great friends and terrific role models and teachers in the business world: Harry Perks, my accountant and one of Adelaide's leading property syndicators; Rod Fairclough, one of my business mentors as a young man and a very loyal friend; and John Muscio, a high achiever in his chosen field and also a long time friend. I have a huge amount of respect for each of them. People in life I admire most are people such as John Muscio—someone who came to Australia as an Italian migrant with very limited English and financial resources—who have made great progress and worked hard

to establish themselves and have become great contributors to the community and to their country. John now employs over 50 people in his steel fabrication enterprise in Whyalla. When I speak of John, I know I am also speaking of the many migrants who came to my home town of Whyalla and also made similar contributions in their new community.

I am very proud and feel blessed to have come from such a culturally diverse city as Whyalla. The original migrants formed many cultural and sporting social clubs, which then and now embrace the youth of Whyalla. These hardworking volunteers and organisers continue to provide good active lifestyle and give positive guidance to the many young families and children in those communities. One club in particular, the South Whyalla Football Club, was my life for some 35 years. I was always treated as a son and brother, and I am proud to say that my parents and I are life members of this club. I would especially like to thank the South Whyalla Football Club for many positive influences on my life. Great names of the football club spring to mind: Ryan, Berryman, Taylor, Dahlin, Sampson, Jenkins, Travers. They were all magnificent contributors and selfless volunteers. Another club I make mention of is the Whyalla Croatia Soccer and Social Club, of which I was patron for many years, and a more hospitable group of people I have never encountered. I am grateful for my association with the many sporting and community clubs in Whyalla. They have each enriched my life and provided me with many friends for life.

Someone who I would dearly like to pay tribute to tragically is no longer with us, but he remains in my heart—my cousin Mark Wright. Mark was like a brother to me and was a great sounding board on all matters—personal, business and political. Politics was probably the only thing that we did not agree on, and yet he gave me unconditional support. The legacy he leaves is the beautiful relationship my family continue to have with his wife Tracy, and the countless treasured memories. To great friends such as Graham Taylor, Stephen Buckman, Steve and Deb Glacken, Lyall and Vicki Hancock, Bern and Steve Abraham, Mick Michael, Peter Raison, Greg and Kate Flanagan, who often put the question to me 'Why politics?' but also gave me their unwavering support, I say thank you.

I also pay tribute to the encouragement and unquestioned support of my family without which I would not be standing here today. To my parents Bill and Melva and sister Pauline, I say thank you. My father worked for 44 years for BHP and colleagues across the chamber would delight in knowing that my father was a Labor man for most of his life. I am very proud of his record as a hardworking loyal employee of BHP. I hope, as a Legislative Councillor, to match and maintain my father's humility and his ability for hard work. I also know that he is proud of my representing the Liberal Party today.

To my wonderful wife Donna, I could not be doing any of this without her. She is the one who has had to make so many sacrifices with regard to my new political career. She has genuinely supported me, for which I am very thankful. Without her encouragement, I would not have been able to pursue a seat in this parliament. It will be difficult being away, from time to time, from my two children, Courtney and Riley, who I treasure more than anything. So, perhaps the greatest acknowledgment that I can give my wife is that she is an incredible mother to our two children, and I know that she will be there to fill any void in my absence. Donna is my best friend, soul mate and my wife for the past 19 years. My life with her is one I am always grateful for.

In closing, I seek to serve the people of this state to the best of my ability. I look forward to working closely with my colleagues in this chamber for the betterment of all South Australians.

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!

**The Hon. A.L. EVANS:** I support the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply and join with Her Excellency in expressing my condolences on the recent death of the Queen Mother. I also note the sad passing of a number of prominent and former state and federal members of parliament.

I wish to thank the Governor for her address and greatly appreciate the fact that South Australia has such an outstanding Australian to represent our state in this important role. I also wish to congratulate you, Mr President, on your election. I am sure that you have enormous respect from all sides as you are a person of integrity and fairness. To the members of this council, who have so graciously welcomed me, my deep appreciation, and to my heavenly Father for the strength and wisdom to enable me to serve in this important role.

Over the past 40 years, I have literally given thousands of speeches to small groups and, on six occasions, to over 25 000 people. However, the preparation of this speech has probably been the most difficult of all as I have been searching for an outline and a theme that would suit this important occasion. I finally gained an idea from a journalist—none other than Peter Goers—who was probing me deeply about three aspects of my life:

1. My personal life—who is Andrew Evans?
2. Family First origins and its principles; and
3. The policies and the voting patterns that Family First will follow in this place.

When I asked him why he was probing me so deeply on these issues, his response was: ‘What you are and what your background is will generally determine your philosophies.’ So, to help you understand where I come from, I will follow that pattern.

First, who is Andrew Evans? I was born in India. I lived there for 11 years of my life except for a brief period of 18 months when my parents returned to Australia just prior to World War II. My mother came from Adelaide. Her family line includes some of the early pioneers of this state. They tell me that you have to be in South Australia before 1840 to be considered a pioneer; after that you are a settler. Our family line came in 1838. By the time she attained the age of 21 my mother felt a call to go to India and serve as a missionary for the Assemblies of God movement. My father came from Wales where he was a coalminer. He also felt a call to go to India and, after some period of theological training, he began to serve in that country. The two young people met, married and had four children, of whom I am the second.

My childhood was very happy—I was in a loving and caring home. The only disadvantage I had in growing up in these circumstances was due to the fact that my parents shifted location on a reasonably regular basis to further their work. I attended eight different schools in two different countries with different educational standards and different emphases which disadvantaged me educationally. It meant that I had to work very hard to make up the ground. After coming to Australia, I completed grade 7 at the Wallaroo Primary School and then came to Adelaide and enrolled with the Woodville High School which I attended until I went into my first job.

Due to family circumstances, I left school and commenced a four-year apprenticeship as a carpenter and joiner. During those years I joined the union—and I must say that I have respect for unions. In those days it was considered wiser to do that rather than go to university which perhaps only 2 to 3 per cent attended. I planned to continue work in the government upon completing my apprenticeship, but the opportunities in that area were limited. So, I decided to go back to night school and complete the equivalent of my matriculation. Upon completion, I commenced work in the third division of the commonwealth public service, which I thought would give me a secure position for the rest of my life.

It was at that point that I experienced a life changing event that totally changed the direction of my life. As I have mentioned, I was brought up in a Christian home, my parents were missionaries, and I went to church twice on a Sunday and once during the week. I was taught the Bible but, despite all of this religious training, I had no knowledge or experience of God himself. In fact, at the age of 15 I began to doubt the whole thing and questioned whether Christianity was the only way. I asked myself: what about the millions of Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists and atheists in the world; who said that we were right and they were wrong?

At that stage, I left the church and began to wander and search until I was introduced to some young people who attended a Salvation Army Corps and went to one of their services. These young people befriended me. So, I continued to attend, and I joined in their social activities, including playing for their local cricket team, joining in their aquatic championships, and playing in their local table tennis team. Eventually, I learnt to play an instrument and became a bandsman in the Salvation Army. I played every instrument from double bass to the cornet. I love music and I enjoyed this activity.

In 1956, our band was chosen to go to Melbourne for the Olympic Games. Despite continued church activity, I still had doubts and questions and never really took God too seriously but rather enjoyed the social and musical aspects of the Salvation Army. The spiritual side was something that held little of my interest and had no impact upon me. However, on Easter Sunday of 1957 I went to church and was impacted powerfully by a guest preacher. At the end of the service I prayed a very simple prayer: I want to find you, God. I cannot say that I encountered thunderbolts and lightning, but suddenly I became aware that there was a divine plan. I began to see the whole picture. It dawned upon me that there was a God, he was real, I could know him, I could experience him, and I commenced a spiritual journey which has carried me for the past 45 years.

It was during this time that I felt a distinct call to be a pastor. So, hesitantly, I left my secure public service position and went to Brisbane to study at theological college, which I completed in three years. During that time, the doubts once again arose, and this time I went on a very serious search to see whether what I was committing my life to was genuine. I studied all the major religions. I studied their leaders, their background, their history, the prophecy and the reliability of the manuscripts that had produced the holy books for the various religions. After completing an intense and sometimes stressful search I came to an absolutely undeniable conclusion that the Bible was true, that I could trust it, that I could follow it, and that I could believe it and it would be my guide for life.

On graduation from the theological college, I pioneered two small churches: one in Brisbane and one in South Australia at Elizabeth. I was then invited to go to Papua New Guinea to serve in the Sepik district as a missionary. For the next seven years we spent many happy hours amongst these wonderful people. I lived for some of those years in one of the most remote parts of Papua New Guinea. The people in my area could not read or write, except for a small proportion of them, so I started several literacy schools to teach them to read and write. I taught them myself, sometimes having to try to get the ABC across to 100 students per class. On our station we ran a fully accredited primary school and an aid post. As there was no hospital within many miles of us, I also applied to have a nursing sister brought to our station, and we opened up numerous aid posts and prenatal clinics across the area and saw many babies saved through these endeavours.

At this time, my wife became very sick, and this forced our return to Australia. As she began to recover, I was invited to become the pastor of what was then called the Assemblies of God Church at Klemzig, which now houses the Multiple Sclerosis Society. We had a congregation of about 200 people. This group declined in the first year of my leadership to about 150. I wondered what I was going to do. I then began to grasp certain principles and felt that if I put them into practice I would see the church grow. I saw the numbers begin to increase until we had to build a new church which seated 700 people. That became too small as we filled that building four times on a Sunday. People would be standing outside waiting to get in.

We then moved from Klemzig to Paradise and built what was the largest auditorium of any kind in Adelaide until the building of the Entertainment Centre. We seated 3 500 people, and the church has continued to grow until today it has about 4 500 as part of the congregation. During my 30 years as Senior Pastor at Paradise and Klemzig, we were very much involved in helping families. Each year we ran courses to help marriages, divorced people and people recovering from sexual abuse. We held grief seminars and budgeting seminars, and so on.

Because of the growth of the church, other opportunities opened to me. I became the National Superintendent of the Assemblies of God and held that position for 20 years. We opened one church every 11 days for the duration of that time. I was then appointed to the World Executive of the Assemblies of God and wrote its constitution. I became the World Secretary of the Assemblies of God which has a membership of 40 million in 160 countries. I was then appointed to the World Executive of the pentecostal movement, which is the second largest Christian movement in the world and has something like half a billion people, second to the Roman Catholics with one billion. Pentecostals are orthodox in their doctrine but quite contemporary in their worship style.

I have also been involved in the heads of churches in South Australia for many years. I have had a wide experience in administration, counselling, public speaking, problem solving, and so on. Today, I continue as chairman of the Paradise community services and the AOG care program and I am a founding member of WAGRA, a worldwide relief organisation. A few months ago, I became a respite foster parent for three little children whose mother is a drug addict. We take these three kids in once a fortnight and give their mother a break.

When I retired from the Senior Pastor's role at the Paradise Community Church upon turning 65, I looked

forward to a life of semi-retirement. This was to include travelling the world and speaking at major conferences to literally thousands of pastors on how to grow their churches and make them large. All told, I have spoken in 28 countries to thousands and thousands of ministers and, upon my semi-retirement, I was looking forward to continuing that kind of activity, but about 18 months ago I began to get an urge to become involved in politics. So, I now come to my second point which is Family First and its beginnings.

I have never been in politics, nor have I ever belonged to a political party. In the 1997 election I voted for the Hon. Nick Xenophon because I felt he was standing against something that was hurting our state and our families. Occasionally I would get involved in political activism. For example, in 1992 I stood on the steps of this place with several hundred others to protest against the proposed legislation on pokies. On another occasion I organised a letter-writing crusade against the legalisation of the prostitution trade and the decriminalisation of marijuana, otherwise I was a back-seat observer of events in this place.

About 18 months ago I started knocking on doors, so to speak, thinking that I may become involved in politics but no doors opened. I just left it, thinking I would forget all about it. But I could not shake this thought: 'I need to get involved.' Eventually, I met with a group of people and decided to form a party based on family values. Once we had decided on the party name, we drew up a constitution, registered the party as an incorporated association and called for membership. Very quickly the party had 600 members, and now it has 1 400 partners and members.

On 3 September 2001 our party was launched in the banquet room of the Adelaide Town Hall and about 150 people attended. The launch was MC'd by Michael Aish, the famous Australian Rules footballer, who introduced the president of our party, Andrea Mason. Andrea is a young Aboriginal lady who has played in the Australian netball squad, is part of the Australian Institute of Sport and is also in the final year of her law degree. Andrea then introduced my associate and me who were the only two candidates at the time standing for the party.

Our little party of two began to grow until we had four candidates for the upper house. There was then one for the lower house, then two, then three. Two weeks before the announcement of the election we had seven candidates for the lower house. Over the following two weeks another 20 joined. Eventually, we launched the campaign with 27 lower house candidates and four upper house candidates, including two Aboriginals. All up we had 17 men and 14 women.

Concerning preferences—and we are still learning on this, I might add—we decided to preference only Liberal and Labor in the lower house. Our preferences depended on each individual's stand on family and conscience issues. Whilst it was difficult to find out how some people felt in those areas, next time we will have a clearer picture. We have worked very hard at the grassroots, and inspired an army of supporters to spread the message, and I am grateful to have secured the 11th place in this council. Our securing this place in the upper house, given our humble beginnings, reflects the fact that South Australians care about the family. The family is the basis of the social fabric of society. Strong families build strong communities. My party is passionate about promoting and protecting the welfare of families in South Australia.

I am married to a wonderful woman, Lorraine. We have been married for 40 years. I have two sons, Ashley and Russell, and four grandchildren. Like any family, we have



had our struggles and our difficult times, but it has been our unity and our sense of togetherness which has taken us through each and every time. I enjoy my family and I value our time together. I would not be the person I am today without their support.

I come to my last point—that is, our policies and how we will vote in this place. First, let me say I am not an obstructionist by nature. I try to be realistic and am supportive of leadership. I am prepared to give and take and to compromise on issues. Our approach to this place will be that we will look at every piece of legislation. If it is something that affects the family and hurts the family, we will oppose it; if it is something that helps the family, we will support it and, in some cases, try to improve it.

For example, the education policy: leading up to the election the Labor Party promised smaller classes. We will support this for it helps families. Similarly, we are wholeheartedly in support of the Labor government's recent tough stance on crime. There will be times when we will either encourage the government to instigate change or suggest some of our own amendments to a bill.

Occasionally we will bring forth a private members' bill which will serve to protect, promote and enhance families. For example, on education, while the major parties have been focussing on the size of classrooms, research has shown that young males in South Australia are performing in literacy at a lower level than females. Twenty-five years ago it was exactly the opposite, so the government of the day put in policies to reverse the trend and achieve equality. Now it is the other way around. A recent survey of year 3 male and female students showed that there is a 3.4 per cent difference in favour of girls achieving the reading benchmark. We will examine why this is the case and what we can do to fix the problem. If necessary, we will seek amendments to some bills so that young men can be targeted and trained. Measures need to be put in place so that young boys start performing as well as our young girls.

Part of the government's health policy is the addition of 100 more beds. We will support that, because it helps families. However, we will alert the government to the fact that something is wrong with our hospital system when our country women have to leave their country areas and come to the city to have their babies due to the cost and insurance concerns associated with their having babies in the country. We feel that this should be addressed. We will encourage the government to address the heavy workload of carers and respite carers.

An area of great concern for my party is sexual abuse against children. In early April, I marched from Rundle Street down to Rymill Park with a group who were concerned about the fact that, if a person had been sexually abused before 1982, the offender escapes prosecution. I have counselled families who have come to me with some sad stories about the destruction of their own lives with the sexual abuse they experienced from a member of their family or even a parent. I have counselled them and sent them down to the local police station, only to have them return and tell me that, because it happened before 1982, the perpetrator cannot be prosecuted. I will explore every avenue to determine whether anything can be done to effectively remove this cut off date, including the introduction of a private members' bill.

Sexual abuse against children is one of the most serious offences that can be committed. Let us make sure that offenders never escape prosecution due to a time related technicality. We will also look at the drop in recent years in

funding for family and youth services, as millions of dollars have been cut from that department. We will seek amendments to the landlord and tenancy legislation to protect all honest tenants and landlords. We will look at the possibility of increasing funds for testing for prostate and breast cancer. We will look at the removal of laws which operate to decriminalise the production and growth of marijuana for personal use. We will seek to have greater resources allocated towards the prevention of youth suicide and more funding for community housing. We will seek increased police powers to interview youth gangs, and we would like to see the appointment of student councils in primary and junior schools. On non-family issues, we will look at the bills and see whether they help or hurt South Australia. We love South Australia, and we will support anything that helps this state.

Family First is very pro-conservation. We will push for the Murray River problem to be handed over to the federal government and it be given sole responsibility for ensuring that this vital waterway is not destroyed. We believe in conservation. We strongly support anything along that line. We are against nuclear waste being dumped within South Australia. We will be taking a conservative stand on conscience issues, for many reasons that will be debated when they come before the council. I will share with members two simple reasons I would like them to consider. When you legalise something, you spread it and, when you spread it, invariably it hurts families. The great evidence of this is poker machines. Gambling has always been present in South Australia. However, since the introduction of pokies and accompanying legislation, gambling has spread so that thousands and thousands of people who were involved only in minor gambling are now spending quite a deal of their weekly income on pokies. If you legalise something, you spread it.

Secondly, when you spread it, it hurts families. I am sure that the Hon. Nick Xenophon has given members many illustrations of families whose lives have been wrecked by the cursed poker machine. I will be leaving the charge to Mr Xenophon, but he can be assured that I will look favourably upon any bill he puts forward in this area. Prostitution is another example. If you legalise a trade, you spread it. It has happened in Victoria where, for instance, the number of registered private prostitutes increased by 50 per cent over a two year period. Street prostitution and the sexual transmission of diseases has not decreased, and illegal prostitution is twice the size of the legal, licensed trade.

The former Victorian Attorney-General (Mrs Jan Wade) conceded that the brothel legislation did not prevent the growth of a substantial illegal sex industry. The New South Wales experience stands as a similar sad picture of the impact of legalisation. The same will happen if the trade is legalised in South Australia. If you legalise the prostitution trade, more young girls will become prostitutes, more drugs will be used to deaden the pain, and it will breakup more marriages and hurt more families. When you legalise something you spread it and, when you spread it, it hurts families.

Marijuana hurts families, and its decriminalisation in South Australia has led to increased use. A recent New South Wales survey shows that 29 per cent of young people have never used marijuana and will not use it because it is illegal. If we repeal the law that decriminalised marijuana use, we will see a reduction in its use.

Now we come to the matter of euthanasia. Euthanasia was a trigger that gave us thousands and thousands of votes. When Dr Nitschke joined the campaign—the most high

profile person in Australia and he drew No. 1 on the ballot ticket—I knew that this was a trigger that gave us a chance. The voluntary euthanasia ticket received only 1.18 per cent of the vote. So much for the supposed 70 per cent support for euthanasia, according to the polls. For thousands of South Australians it is a religious conviction. You have a conviction on an issue that becomes more important to you than hospitals and schools. Muslims, Hindus, many Catholics, Protestants and Buddhists do not want euthanasia.

I was able to touch the grassroots everywhere and say, ‘I am the only party that is opposed to euthanasia.’ That brought us thousands of votes. The experience in the Netherlands, where euthanasia is openly practised, is devastating. The 1990 Dutch survey revealed that, out of 10 558 euthanasia patients, 55 per cent were killed without their consent. If

doctors can admit to killing this percentage of patients without their consent, what is the actual figure?

After a very hectic campaign, we were fortunate enough to win enough votes to get elected. I want to work with people of all parties. I want to be proactive rather than reactive. I want to be an open person who will listen to all sides. I trust that for the time I am here I will be an honourable person with integrity, so that together we as a parliament may work to make South Australia a better place. Thank you.

**The Hon. R.K. SNEATH** secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### ADJOURNMENT

At 4.34 p.m. the council adjourned until Monday 13 May at 2.15 p.m.