

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Monday 27 May 2002

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

QUESTIONS

The PRESIDENT: I direct that written answers to the following questions, as detailed in the schedule that I now table, be distributed and printed in *Hansard*: Nos 1, 5, 7 and 10.

GALE, Ms P.

1. The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW: What qualifications and attributes led the Premier and Minister for the Arts to engage Ms Penny Gale as his arts advisor?

The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY: The Premier has provided the following information:

Penelope Gale brings a wide range of experience to the position of Arts Advisor to the Premier. She has held considerable positions relevant to the portfolio. The most prominent being as follows:

In the 1980s Penelope was Presenter of *In Tempo*, an arts music program on ABC radio broadcast throughout South Australia and the Northern Territory.

She has also held the position of National Marketing Manager for Classic FM in Sydney, and has worked for the National Trust in this State.

More recently in the private sector, as Corporate Affairs Manager for United Water, Penelope was involved in the sponsoring of the arts through State Theatre and Splash Children's Theatre.

While with United Water she also initiated projects that promoted and supported the work of university art students and individual local visual artists.

In the late 1990s she worked for Arts Around Adelaide, a consortium of more than 40 arts organisations in this State.

While in Opposition Penelope joined my staff to write and coordinate a number of policy documents. Immediately prior to doing so she worked in local government.

A past member of Friendly Street Poets, Penelope is also a published poet.

SPEED CAMERAS

5. The Hon. T.G. CAMERON:

1. (a) Can the Minister for Police provide the guidelines speed camera operators are meant to follow to ensure cameras are not hidden in use; and

(b) What discretion do operators have to interpret the guidelines?

2. Are speed camera operators required to use 'speed camera in use' signs on every occasion the cameras are in use, or are they currently being placed at the operators' discretion?

The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY: The Minister for Police has provided the following information:

1. (a) and (b)

Speed Cameras are only deployed at locations established by Traffic Intelligence Section assessed as having a 'road safety risk' for that location or contributing to a 'road safety risk' at another location.

In assessing the 'road safety risk' for a location the following factors are considered:

- Whether the location has a crash history
- Whether the location contributes to crashes in other locations
- Whether the location has been identified by SAPOL Road Safety Audits as having a road safety risk
- Where intelligence reports provide information of dangerous driving practices associated with speeding, especially speed dangerous
- Whether the physical conditions of a location creates a road safety risk.

Speed cameras are not located to operate on the down slope or foot of a hill, unless there is an identified 'road safety risk' associated with that section of hill.

There is no discretion for operators/supervisors and managers to change assigned locations to other than an alternate location provided by Traffic Intelligence Section.

Further, general limitations upon the deployment of speed cameras are:

- Not to be placed within 200 metres of a change in speed zone sign (exceptions include school zones and roadworks)
- Two speed cameras or a speed camera and another form of traffic speed analyser equipment are not to be established within a distance of 1 kilometre of each other operating in the same direction of road

Not to be erected upon private property adjoining a road without the approval of the property owner.

2. 'Speed Camera In Use' signs are required to be displayed at each location where a speed camera is deployed. The signs are placed in a prominent position between 50 and 200 metres from the unit in order to advise motorists that they have passed a speed camera location.

The Deputy Commissioner and the Assistant Commissioner, Operations Support Service may authorise that signs not be displayed if this is determined to be appropriate in order to improve road safety. This permission is given very infrequently and requires strong justification.

Speed camera deployment is an important part of the road safety strategy, as speed remains a significant contributing causal factor in road crashes with higher speeds resulting in increased chances of a crash and increased road trauma at a crash.

SPEEDING OFFENCES

7. The Hon. T.G. CAMERON:

1. How many motorists were caught speeding in South Australia between 1 January 2002 and 31 March 2002 by—

- (a) speed cameras
- (b) laser guns; and
- (c) other means;

for the following speed zones:

- 60-70 km/h;
- 70-80 km/h;
- 80-90 km/h;
- 90-100 km/h;
- 100-110 km/h;
- 110 km/h and over?

2. Over the same period, how much revenue was raised from speeding fines in South Australia for each of these percentiles by—

- (a) speed cameras;
- (b) laser guns; and
- (c) other means?

The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY: The Minister for Police has provided the following information:

- 1. (a) 77 261
- (b) No separate data available
- (c) 14 622

for the following speed zones:

Note: Statistics are only available for speed camera offences

only

- 2. (a) \$9 145 743
- (b) No data available to match question
- (c) \$2 086 373

Over the same period, 29 people died on South Australian roads.

SPEED CAMERAS

10. The Hon. T.G. CAMERON: From 1 January 2001 to 31 December 2001—

- 1. How many speed camera expiation notices were issued and then subsequently withdrawn?
- 2. What were the main reasons for the notices being withdrawn?
- 3. How many speeding expiation notices were contested in court?

The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY: The Minister for Police has provided the following information:

1. SAPOL advises that between 1 January 2001 and 31 December 2001, 268 954 expiation notices were issued for speed camera offences with 24 969 being subsequently withdrawn.

2. Most of the notices withdrawn resulted from the receipt of a statutory declaration from the registered owner nominating the driver of the vehicle. In that case, the original notice was withdrawn and a fresh notice issued.

3. During the above period, 94 notices were withdrawn and forwarded for prosecution.

MURRAY RIVER FISHERY

The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY (Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY: As I have indicated in previous statements on the future of the Murray River fishery, I have been awaiting approval from cabinet before embarking on a consultation process with the affected Murray fishers on the removal of gill nets and future structural arrangements for that fishery. Following cabinet direction on this matter, I will be writing to each of the 30 affected Murray River fishers in the next few days, advising them of cabinet's decision and inviting them to attend a meeting in the Riverland in early June 2002.

The meeting will explain the government's policy decision relating to the structural adjustment process and it will allow consultation with licence holders on the implementation of the adjustment arrangements. I intend to chair the meeting personally, and senior officers from PIRSA Fisheries will also be present after the meeting to follow up on issues raised by individual fishers.

BEVERLEY MINE

The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY (Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries): I seek leave to make a personal explanation.

Leave granted.

The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY: On 8 May this year I stated in response to a supplementary question from the Hon. Sandra Kanck:

The operator of the Beverley mine, Heathgate Resources, has spent in excess of \$1 million upgrading the systems following the spill in January this year.

In fact, I was referring to the total cost incurred by the company, a figure which included lost production value. I have subsequently been advised that the amount actually spent by the company on the system upgrade itself was \$830 000.

ABORIGINES, RECONCILIATION

The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement on reconciliation.

Leave granted.

The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS: As members know, this week is Reconciliation Week, the theme for which is Walking the Talk. The South Australian government is committed to the reconciliation process and will continue the work that was done by the previous government at a state level. This morning I participated in the state launch of National Reconciliation Week 2002.

An honourable member: Hear, hear!

The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS: Reconciliation Week was set up under a former federal Labor government with support and funding continued by successive federal Liberal governments—I acknowledge the 'Hear, hear!' from the other side. The Hon. Robert Lawson and the Leader of the Opposition were in attendance together with the Hon. Sandra Kanck, the Hon. Lea Stevens and the Hon. Steph Key.

In recent times federal government support for the reconciliation process has waned, and this has resulted in state governments having to pick up the mantle of progressing reconciliation. An enormous amount of good work has been done in the past resulting in better understanding in the broader community and leading to collective responsibility to reconcile past deeds. All Australians need to work towards a sharing of the common wealth of the nation, and reconciliation assists in this process.

Reconciliation has also been used to progress the High Court decisions of Wik and Mabo. Australians now have a greater understanding of the relationship between indigenous people and the land through the reconciliation process. The wider community (through discussion) better understands land rights, and this has enabled a climate for the progress of Indigenous Land Use Agreements by discussing the issues in this state. Reconciliation in metropolitan and regional areas has resulted in a better understanding by local, state and commonwealth governments of our responsibilities in dealing with indigenous peak bodies such as ATSIC, regional representative bodies and communities. This has facilitated enterprise building and human service delivery.

It is worth noting that people who volunteer their time and effort carry out much of the hard work that is necessary for these programs to be implemented and continued. Everyone is committed to reconciliation and, without their contribution, the results that we have achieved to date would be far less substantial. We must use those relationships to target funding programs and eliminate the scourges of drug and alcohol abuse, violence and health problems that are so often the features of failed policies of the past.

I take this opportunity to thank all those individuals, communities, organisations and departments who work tirelessly in the difficult area of governance and human service delivery. Special mention goes to the State Reconciliation Council of South Australia, which has done an amazing amount of work with very few resources, and I hope that its commitment is continued. I urge all members and the general public to participate in the program of events during the course of Reconciliation Week.

VISITORS TO PARLIAMENT

The PRESIDENT: Before calling on questions without notice, I acknowledge in the gallery today some special guests who are students from the Adelaide TAFE, with their tutor, Magdelina Rowan. They are here to expand their vision of parliament. I hope they find it educational and enjoyable.

DISTRICT COURT CASES

The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation): I table two ministerial statements from the Hon. Michael Atkinson in relation to the Attorney's public comments in response to the decision in the District Court of His Honour Judge Lee in the Nguyen case and another case in the District Court in relation to Hanna v. Matthew.

QUESTION TIME

TEACHERS, CONTRACTS

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Leader of the Opposition): I seek leave to make an explanation before asking the Leader

of the Government, representing the Minister for Education and Children's Services in another place, a question on the subject of contract permanent teachers.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS: Prior to and during the election campaign the issue of the ALP commitment to convert half of all contract teachers in South Australia to permanent status was an issue of some controversy and public debate. The former minister, the Hon. Malcolm Buckby, was advised by officers within the department for Education, Training and Employment that the total cost would be tens of millions of dollars, and I think the estimate last used during the election campaign was of the order \$60 million. The current Minister for Education, the Hon. Trish White, and current Premier, the Hon. Mike Rann, both said that this was 'a no cost election promise' to convert half of all contract teachers to permanent status. My questions are:

1. In the transition to government briefing folder produced by her department on her elevation to the office of minister, can the minister confirm that she was advised by the department that the statements made by the minister and the Premier that this promise could be implemented at no cost were inaccurate?

2. What specific advice did the departmental officers provide about the estimated cost for the implementation of this promise?

The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY (Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries): Obviously, I will have to refer that question to the Minister for Education in another place, given that the documents were reputedly provided to her. In relation to the question, the leader said that the promise made by the Labor Party was the subject of some controversy and debate. All I can say is that my reaction is that it was a policy very well received by the teaching community and parents and students of this state.

ABORIGINES, RECONCILIATION

The Hon. R.D. LAWSON: I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation a question on the subject of Reconciliation Week.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R.D. LAWSON: I refer to the ministerial statement made by the minister earlier today, and I commend him for his launch this morning of Reconciliation Week. I endorse also the comments which he made in his ministerial statement concerning the wonderful work being undertaken by the Reconciliation Council. My question to the minister is simply this: what steps is his government taking in the immediate future to advance practical reconciliation and to provide immediate assistance to Aboriginal communities in this state?

The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation): I thank the honourable member for his important question. There are a number of aspects to the question. First, what are we doing to support the committee that has been set up in this state to advance the reconciliation process? The funding commitment that the previous government provided is being discussed and there will be an answer to that question before the final Reconciliation Week event, to which the honourable member has been invited, I think on Friday night. It is a ball to be held on Friday night with some guests. Hopefully, the announcement can be made on Friday night for continuation of that funding. The other

important facet of the question is: how are we building reconciliation processes into programs throughout the state in metropolitan, regional and remote areas programming?

For too long the reconciliation program has been confined basically to the narrow fields of the metropolitan and regional areas. Reconciliation needs to be taken out to a broader community, including remote regions. But the philosophy inherent in reconciliation needs to be built into our daily contact with and the daily lives of people in the broader community. One of the ways in which I as minister can do that is by speaking to as many organisations as I can, including those elected at both community level and peak level—that is, ATSIC and its representation and representatives—and to the local organisational structures of community-based bodies who are working to represent the interests of their language group or tribal group within the state.

We have some scores on the board in relation to reconciling the differences between Aboriginal groups within regions, and that is a facet that is underestimated as a benefit of many of the programs that are being considered. Also we have to reconcile differences within the broader non-Aboriginal community to work out ways in which to progress reconciliation through and across into our Aboriginal communities. So, it is an ongoing process.

Church organisations have made commitments to it over the years, and in many cases they have set up their own representative reconciliation bodies to discuss those issues within their organisational structures. Local government is another important area. Work was commenced by the previous reconciliation committee to work with local government to try to bring about reconciled change to communities through local government representation, and I think that has done very well in the short time that those programs have been operating. More work is still to be done in some areas but, in the main, whatever is used to measure progress, we can be reasonably proud of the work to date. However, as I said, improvements can be made on that.

Many organisational bodies—including the AMA, the teaching fraternity and all other bodies that have influence at a state level—have taken on commitments in relation to reconciliation, and it is up to the state to assist in that process where we can. I would hope that all representative organisations and bodies take up the challenge to inform their membership as to the role and responsibilities of reconciling our differences and hope that they can all be carried forward when those decisions are being made.

The Hon. R.D. LAWSON: As a supplementary question, what additional financial assistance and resources will this government provide to Aboriginal communities and organisations to advance practical reconciliation?

The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS: The first responsibility we have in terms of keeping reconciliation alive is to have a commitment to the refinancing of the reconciliation committee. As I said, that funding arrangement will be outlined by the end of the week. The special purpose grants for particular reconciliation programs within communities that perhaps the honourable member is suggesting can be looked at if or when applications are lodged. When applications are put forward by communities for special grants, those applications will be looked at by the departmental office and me in relation to the type of program that they are putting forward.

RAIL, SOUTH-EAST

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW: I seek leave to make a statement before asking the Minister for Regional Affairs, representing the Minister for Transport, a question about South-East rail.

Leave granted.

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW: As the former minister for transport, I pressed hard for the reopening of the South-East rail line and the conversion of that line to standard gauge. I was, therefore, particularly pleased last Friday to see a government commitment to reopen the South-East rail network. I also note that, in a statement made last Friday by Australian Southern Railroad (the company with which the government is negotiating to operate the Wolseley to Mount Gambier line), this company believes that, as part of the package for the reopening of the South-East line, it will seek a long-term lease of the line between Millicent and the Victorian border. That was always a secondary priority for me as the then transport minister. There is considerable concern that the opening of that line—Millicent to the Victorian border and then to Portland—will take business from the Mount Gambier to Wolseley line, which will then undermine the economic projections and benefits for the reopening of the South-East line between Wolseley and Mount Gambier.

Will the minister confirm, as part of the contractual negotiations that are continuing with Australian Southern Railway, that the government will agree to incorporate in the contract the long-term lease of the line between Millicent and the Victorian border in addition to Wolseley to Mount Gambier? Will the minister also provide clarification on a number of questions I have regarding the level of private investment? The Premier's press release makes no reference to any dollars from ASR in terms of its reopening of the Wolseley to Mount Gambier line. However, the Minister for Transport said on ABC radio on Friday morning that there would be \$10 million of state money and also \$18 million from private investment. Is the \$18 million up-front funding or is it over the 20-year life of the contract, or the 10-year life of the exclusive access regime that ASR is seeking for the operation of the line, or is the \$18 million, or part thereof, for the standardisation and reopening of the line between Millicent and the Victorian border and on to Portland?

The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS (Minister for Regional Affairs): I will refer those important questions to my colleague in another place and give a reply. I understand that there are continuing negotiations with the Victorian government in relation to the extension between Millicent and the rail link just over the South Australian border. I am not privy to any of the time frames or the amounts that they are discussing in relation to future spending programs, but I will refer those questions to the minister and bring back a reply as soon as possible.

MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITIES COUNCIL

The Hon. CARMEL ZOLLO: I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, representing the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, a question about the Multicultural Communities Council.

Leave granted.

The Hon. CARMEL ZOLLO: The Multicultural Communities Council is South Australia's largest representa-

tive umbrella organisation for groups and organisations of a culturally diverse background. In particular, it provides a voice for less established groups and recent migrant organisations. Funding and resourcing peak multicultural coordinating organisations is an important aid to facilitating bipartisan public policy. A multicultural society is one where all citizens are respected for who they are, no matter where they were born, what language they speak, what religion they follow or what cultural traditions they value or practice. Before the recent election the Premier gave a commitment to support the Multicultural Communities Council with a one-off \$75 000 capital grant to establish a meeting place for ethnic communities. My question to the minister representing the Minister for Multicultural Affairs is: what is the latest information on the commitment the Premier gave to the Multicultural Communities Council?

The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation): I thank the honourable member for this question. I am very pleased to inform the council for two reasons that the Minister for Multicultural Affairs has advised me that this commitment has been honoured in full, and I found the necessary information to give the reply. On Wednesday 22 May the Attorney-General and the Minister for Multicultural Affairs presented a cheque to the Multicultural Communities Council President, Mr Ron Tan. These funds were requested by the MCC, the peak representative body of culturally diverse communities in South Australia, to develop the ground floor of its premises.

The project aims to provide the meeting place for multicultural community groups and, in particular, for small and emerging communities without premises of their own. Many of these groups that meet, particularly in the metropolitan area, struggle to finance their own meeting places and just to administer the work they do, even though the cost to them is what we consider to be relatively small. Most of these organisations run a lot of self funded programs and have to raise a lot of funds of their own.

Since its establishment in 1995 from the merger of the former Ethnic Communities Council and the United Ethnic Communities, the MCC continues to grow. The MCC is involved in a number of different groups, such as its involvement in the reconnect program for youth at risk, involving Cambodian, Chinese, and Vietnamese communities and the community visitors scheme for frail and elderly people from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds. They are a credit to the organisation. I pay tribute to the management committee, volunteers and staff and acknowledge the MCC's role in ensuring the success of multiculturalism in South Australia and ensuring that cultural diversity programs are inclusive.

Labor pledged to improve equality and tolerance in our state and to invite, not impede, fuller participation. In providing this one-off grant to the MCC to establish a meeting place for all cultural and linguistically diverse groups—in particular emerging and newly established groups—the government hopes that it is taking a small but significant step towards fuller participation. Support for multiculturalism as public policy in South Australia is, of course, bipartisan, and the MCC can claim to be a beneficiary of this rare agreement in policy, as the Liberal Party has said that it will match the Labor pledge to fund the redevelopment. This government is very committed to multiculturalism and aiding the public where it counts, namely, on the ground, assisting grass roots organisations.

GLOBAL RULE ONE

The Hon. SANDRA KANCK: I seek leave to ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, representing the Minister for the Arts, a question about global rule one.

Leave granted.

The Hon. SANDRA KANCK: Recent media reports that Screen Actors Guild members will be forced by the guild to be paid at Screen Actors Guild rates, no matter where in the world a production is filmed, has the potential to threaten the local film industry. Although currently the South Australian film industry is involved in primarily local productions, there is an implication for our industry in this. I understand that, when big name stars come to Australia to make a film, it is usually because the quality of the script has attracted them. The local industry cannot fairly compete with the high salaries offered in Hollywood, which global rule one seeks to enforce. My questions are:

1. What discussions has the minister sought to ensure that the South Australian film industry is protected from the forces of the US based Screen Actors Guild?

2. Will the minister assure members of the South Australian film industry that he will do all in his power to protect local jobs?

3. What legal avenues have been explored in either the state or federal spheres to protect the livelihoods of those in the local industry and the rights of expatriates who would choose to work in South Australia?

The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY (Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries): I thank the Hon. Sandra Kanck for her question. I will refer it to the Premier for his reply. I know the Premier has a great interest in the film industry and I am sure he will be delighted to give a response.

MINISTERIAL STAFF

In reply to **Hon. A.J. REDFORD** (7 May).

The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY: The Premier has provided the following information:

The Office for the Commissioner for Public Employment assisted the incoming government by arranging advertisements, receiving and listing applications, and forwarding them to ministers. These are normal type duties for public servants.

The selection of staff from the large number of applications received was undertaken by the government, not by public servants.

In reply to **Hon. R.D. LAWSON** (7 May).

The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY: The Premier has provided the following information to the supplementary question raised by Hon. R.D. Lawson:

The Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment advises that approximately 700 applications were received from the advertisement and earlier expressions of interest.

Some staff, for instance those previously in the leader of the opposition's office, were appointed without going through the OCPE process.

SOLAR POWER

In reply to **Hon. M.J. ELLIOTT** (8 May).

The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY: The Minister for Energy has provided the following information:

Energy SA is currently following up on the issues regarding AGL's buy back rates for small solar generators.

In early February, Energy SA received a draft copy of AGL's contract in which they found a number of issues of concern, including that of the possibility of AGL changing the buy back rate at will and of the sale of Renewable Energy Certificates (RECS).

In order to clarify the situation with RECS, the annual value of these certificates from an average solar electricity system is around \$30 (assuming a 1 kWp system). When AGL claims the RECS from

a small solar generator, they cannot also sell the power produced as green power. A retailer may only choose to claim RECS, or green power, but not both.

On 21 February 2002 Energy SA met with a representative of AGL to discuss these issues. At this point AGL had already sent out 27 copies of the contract of which four had been signed. AGL agreed to look into the issues raised by Energy SA, and that in the meantime, would not pressure anyone to sign the contract. It was also agreed that the general public could be informed not to sign the contract until it had been reviewed, and that any signed contracts would be destroyed and replaced if any changes to the contract were made.

On 6 March 2002, Energy SA also met with a representative of the South Australian Independent Industry Regulator (SAIIR). SAIIR agreed to take a look at and obtain legal advice on the contract.

Following the meeting with SAIIR (on 12 March 2002), Energy SA sent a formal response to AGL outlining concerns about the contract. AGL has not yet responded and is still reviewing this document. Energy SA has been in contact with AGL regarding this issue, but has not yet received a formal reply. Energy SA will continue to follow up on this matter.

WIND FARM, SELICKS BEACH

In reply to **Hon. T.G. CAMERON** (9 May).

The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY: The Minister for Energy has provided the following information:

No. An environmental impact study has not been conducted. There has been no development application submitted for the project. Whether an environmental impact study, an environmental report or a development report is required will be determined on the basis of the actual development application.

The extent, location and timing of the project when a development application is lodged is purely an issue for the developer.

Once the development application by the proponent has been lodged, local residents will have the opportunity to make representation to the Development Assessment Commission on the environmental and other issues that you have raised. The public will have three weeks in which to formally comment on the development application. The date on which the application will be available for public scrutiny will be advertised in the *Advertiser*.

The documents will be available at the Yankalilla District Council Offices, Main Road, Yankalilla and at Planning SA offices, Roma Mitchell House, 136 North Terrace, Adelaide.

It should be noted that the developers of the project have already undergone significant public consultation holding three public meetings to advise residents of the proposed developments and to seek comments on the proposal.

TEACHERS, SHORTAGES

In reply to **Hon. M.J. ELLIOTT** (13 May).

The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY: The Minister for Education and Children's Services has provided the following information:

The Department of Education, Training and Employment is aware of the issues raised in the Australian Council of Deans of Education report. A standing committee of departmental officers and Deans of Education of the South Australian universities meets regularly to respond to these issues and other matters related to teacher training and supply. In addition, the department is actively involved in the Ministerial Council of Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA) taskforce that is addressing the issues of supply and demand nationally.

The government is currently in negotiations with teachers through the Australian Education Union to establish a new enterprise agreement with respect to wages and employment conditions for teachers.

I am confident the outcome of the negotiation process will be positive for teachers, the government and the public school system in South Australia.

FESTIVAL THEATRE

In reply to **Hon. J.F. STEFANI** (7 May).

The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY: The Premier and Minister for the Arts has provided the following information:

1. A schedule of works for redevelopment of the Adelaide Festival Centre was provided as part of a submission to the Public Works Committee in November 2001.

2. The method of procurement for the Adelaide Festival Centre redevelopment project is the standard Department for Administrative

and Information Services (DAIS) construction management method, whereby trade packages are let in separate ongoing contracts for each area of work. Extensions are not addressed in such contracts.

In regular updates provided both to the Public Works Committee and to the former Minister for the Arts, it has been stated that the original scheduled completion date of 30 June 2002 would need to be extended by some weeks. This extension has become necessary due to the discovery of latent unforeseen conditions on the site including large amounts of buried concrete.

Timetabling challenges have also resulted from carrying out significant demolition and building works in an active arts venue where rehearsals and performances are taking place.

3. While reinstatement of the site after the demolition phase has taken some weeks longer than expected, the paving work has commenced, and the first stage was opened on Thursday 9 May 2002. This work will progress rapidly and, by early June 2002, it is expected that a paved pedestrian access path will be provided from King William Road to the Dunstan Playhouse, and that a large portion of Festival Drive will be bituminised.

The redevelopment work is expected to be completed during September 2002.

4. There has been considerable pressure on the budget due to the latent conditions. However, at this time, the project is on budget.

5. The Adelaide Festival Centre has been carrying out some contingency planning in anticipation of wet weather, with temporary matting and covered walkways on stand by and extra staff members rostered to assist customers around the site works.

Because cars have been tracking dirt and mud into the car park, continuous cleaning of the car park is being carried out to ensure that public safety is not compromised.

In recognition of the inconvenience to parkers caused by the building works, the Adelaide Festival Centre has offered car wash vouchers to its permanent customers.

There have been very few complaints from car park customers during the building works.

SCHOOL CLASS SIZES

In reply to **Hon. M.J. ELLIOTT** (7 May).

The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY: The Minister for Education and Children's Services has provided the following information:

A working party of departmental officers and Australian Education Union representatives has developed terms of reference to facilitate the government's commitment to employing up to 160 extra primary teachers in the early years. The work of this working party includes recommending parameters for the deployment of the extra staff.

Those schools which are planning to re-arrange classes mid-year due to an additional intake of students, may not be the schools that have the most need for the additional teachers. This of course depends on the parameters that are established to ensure equity and effectiveness in the deployment of the additional resource. The intent is to allocate the additional teachers where they are needed, not necessarily where they are able to be placed short term.

The factors which must be considered in maximising the benefits of this initiative are:

- identifying the schools with the greatest need
- maintaining the rights of permanent teachers
- minimising possible disruption
- planning for additional facilities
- effective planning to address long term learning needs of students

For 2002, schools have allocated their resources and planning is in place for all classes, including the new classes that will come 'online' during the year. Planning for new classes in Term 3, including class re-arrangements, and teacher deployment is occurring now.

SPEED CAMERAS

In reply to **Hon. T.G. CAMERON** (7 May).

The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY: The Minister for Police has provided the following information:

Is the State Government or the South Australia Police considering adopting similar plans to introduce a three kilometre margin for issuing speed fines to drivers caught by speed cameras.

SAPOL is not considering adopting the VicPol model.

GOVERNMENT PROMISES

In reply to **Hon. A.J. REDFORD** (7 May).

The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY: The Minister for Energy has provided the following information:

Within days of winning government both the Premier and the Minister for Energy set about meeting many members of the business community and privatised electricity utilities to try to remedy the very difficult conditions of the privatised electricity market in South Australia.

The government is proceeding with establishing the Energy Consumers Advisory Committee and ensuring as many options as possible are available to the South Australian electricity market including alternative power generation and supporting the SNI Interconnector in the National Electricity Tribunal.

MIDWIVES

In reply to **Hon. SANDRA KANCK** (7 May).

The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS: The Minister for Health has advised that:

1. On 15 May 2002 the Minister for Health announced approval for the extension of the Department of Human Services indemnity and insurance arrangements to student midwives, effective immediately. Final negotiations are currently occurring between the Department of Human Services and the University.

2. The approval given to extending indemnity and insurance arrangements to student midwives will cover them for their training in all public hospitals. This arrangement is similar to interstate schemes.

3. The Government has acted to assist South Australian midwifery students.

4. The matter of insurance for independent midwives is being considered at a national level through the Australian Health Ministers Advisory Council. South Australia will respond in a consistent manner with other States and Territories on this matter.

BARTON ROAD

In reply to **Hon. J.F. STEFANI** (13 May).

The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS: The Minister for Local Government has advised that:

1. The government is intending to consult with the Local Government Association and all other relevant stakeholders in relation to a proposal to repeal Section 359 of the Local Government Act 1934, which may have an impact on Barton Road.

2. While the Government is not required by statute to consult on this proposal, it would do so as part of the respectful relationship it seeks with local government.

3. The precise nature and extent of that consultation has not been determined. Consequently, no specific time frame can be given for the introduction of a specific Bill on the matter.

POWER TOOLS

In reply to **Hon. J.F. STEFANI** (9 May).

The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS: The Minister for Consumer Affairs has been advised by the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs (OCBA) of the following information:

The question raised is whether the minister will enlist the assistance of electrical contractors involved in safety inspections and tagging of power tools to help control the spread of counterfeit power tools.

The answer to the question is that it would not be appropriate to do so for the following reasons.

The Occupation Health, Safety and Welfare Regulations 1995 under the Occupation Health, Safety and Welfare Act 1986, require that "Any electrical installation, materials, equipment or apparatus within a workplace must be so designed, constructed, installed, protected, maintained and tested as to minimise the risk of electrical shock or fire".

The regulations do not however mandate any Australian Standards to be used for this section, with the exception of Residual Current Devices (RCD). This means that the most appropriate Australian Standard, AS 3760 does not have to be used to test power tools; it can simply be used as "best practice" in showing compliance with OH&S requirements. WorkCover suggests in their literature that power tools are inspected every 3 months, but this only applies to construction sites.

The test that AS 3760 requires is a simple one, designed to simply and cheaply check the safety of a power tool. This test is performed on a commercial basis by some businesses, for around \$3—\$5.00. In the workplace it can be carried out by licensed electrical contactors, or by appropriately trained employees. The test is aimed at loose earth wires and the physical condition of cables and it is expected that most if not all power tools in a reasonable state of repair will pass.

Electrical contractors, or people engaged in the inspection of power tools may not recognise counterfeit equipment. Whilst the Hilti branded counterfeit drills look totally different from the genuine article, not all people would be familiar enough with the products to make that judgement. In the case of the Makita sets, they do substantially resemble the genuine product, and again, may be harder to discern as a counterfeit item.

The WorkCover requirements allow for regular inspection of the electrical safety aspects of the power tools, which is not likely to include the labelling of the product. Power tools in industrial settings often lose labels or have them rendered unreadable through normal usage in a relatively short period of time.

Investigation Officers from OCBA have uncovered one case where a counterfeit power tool was sold to a second-hand store, and passed through safety checks without noticing either the lack of appropriate labelling or the fact that it was counterfeit. OCBA is also aware of another case where a drill was used by a contractor who had never had the tool checked by the company he worked for.

Evidence provided from interstate Consumer Affairs authorities suggest that these tools are sold primarily to the general public at weekend markets. There are no provisions made for the testing of power tools in private ownership. The counterfeit Makita power tool set is really designed for the home handyman, as opposed to professional tradespeople.

OCBA Investigation Officers visited a number of building sites in the same area that the counterfeit tools were allegedly being sold in. Discussions with building workers on those sites established that they would be most unlikely to purchase such tools, primarily on the basis that they may be stolen. Most of these builders said that they tended to buy their tools only from reputable sources, due to warranty concerns, and in general were fairly knowledgeable about the types of tools available. It seems unlikely that these tradespeople would readily purchase this type of equipment from such dubious sources as the 'boot of a car'.

The person who is involved in selling these power tools has told Police that he tries to sell them at building sites. Evidence suggests that he sells these tools more on an opportunity basis, and mostly to people who are prepared to take a risk. It is considered most unlikely that these people would then seek to have them tested by any recognised person or authority.

These examples highlight the limitations in relying on this system of checking to control the spread of counterfeit power tools.

WALLAROO HOSPITAL

In reply to **Hon. T.G. CAMERON** (7 May).

The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS: The Minister for Health has advised that:

1. The Board of Wallaroo Hospital supported the decision to suspend elective surgery primarily on the basis of a local general practitioner (GP) who provides anaesthetic services advising that he would be unable to provide these services for a period of time. Usually there are three GPs that provide these services, which complement the elective surgery lists. This means that for the period of suspension, the remaining two GPs were only able to provide Accident and Emergency Department services and all emergency theatre as required. The provision of additional funding may not facilitate the recommencement of elective surgery, due to the short notice of the vacancy and the availability of qualified and experienced anaesthetist in the area. Surgery will be restored on 21 May 2002 when the full complement of medical officers is available.

2. Each year the Department of Human Services (DHS) assesses increases in population growth, with the potential resultant service demands across regional centres. Where possible, DHS assists those regions within available resources. It is noted that recent census figures indicate an increase in the population in this area by 9.6 per cent, coupled with approximately 13 per cent of patients attending the Wallaroo Hospital who are outside the immediate service areas of Kadina, Wallaroo and Moonta. Wakefield Health with the Regional Board is responsible for the allocation of funds for the financial year. Wakefield Health has increased funding to the

Wallaroo Hospital by 11.8 per cent over 2000-01 and 2001-02. Discussions will take place with all regional centres about areas of growth and appropriate service and funding considerations.

QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL

In reply to **Hon. SANDRA KANCK** (9 May).

The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS: The Minister for Health has advised that:

1. Prior to the demolition of the building in which the Basil Hetzel Institute is located, research activities will be transferred to space vacated within the Maternity Building of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. To achieve this a planning team will be established including representatives of the Basil Hetzel Institute and other Queen Elizabeth Hospital staff.

2. There are no plans to build a separate research facility as part of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital redevelopment. Vacated space within the Maternity Building at the Hospital will be developed into appropriate research facilities prior to the demolition of the Basil Hetzel Institute.

3. Research funding provided by the Department of Human Services is currently under review. All of the health and medical research institutes in Adelaide undertake important research. I will ensure that all appropriate research activities are recognised and supported by this government in the context of ensuring appropriate levels of funding for patient care.

ADELAIDE WOMEN'S PRISON

The Hon. T.G. CAMERON: I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Correctional Services a question regarding the Adelaide Women's Prison.

Leave granted.

The Hon. T.G. CAMERON: Mr President, I note that the minister has a file in front of him with the heading on it 'hot issues'. I have observed that he has frequently had to open the file. It is a very thick file and I am wondering whether the government considers that it has a lot more hot issues in relation to this minister's portfolio than anyone else in this council recognises. I will be very disappointed if he does not open his 'hot issues' file to get the answer to my question. Time will tell.

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. T.G. CAMERON: But he does not know what the question is yet. Convicted criminals and women on remand are being locked up together at the Adelaide Women's Prison at Northfield, according to the *Advertiser* of 22 May, which says:

Remand prisoners make up 33 of the 37 female prisoners in the main gaol; another 32 prisoners were in separate low-level security units. Women on remand are taken to Northfield as there is no accommodation for them at the Adelaide Remand Centre. Apparently there is not enough room at Northfield to separate remand and sentenced prisoners. While the Northfield prison tries to keep them apart, they are generally placed together. The Women's Legal Services has called for a separate remand centre for women or a separate ward at Northfield.

I understand there is currently no legal requirement for remand prisoners to be kept apart from sentenced prisoners. However, women who are on remand and are still technically innocent are being treated exactly the same as those who have already been convicted, charged and are serving their sentences. Surely any person who has not yet been convicted of a crime should not be held in the same conditions as those who have already been sentenced. My questions are:

1. Will the minister provide figures for the last three years, 1999-01, on the number of female remand prisoners who were held at Northfield and were then subsequently found to be innocent?

2. Will the new government investigate the viability of either providing separate facilities for women who are on

remand or, at the very least, separating them from convicted criminals?

The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS (Minister for Correctional Services): I thank the honourable member for his question. I do have a 'hot issues' file that I refer to from time to time to try to anticipate what my parliamentary colleagues would require as a full and frank disclosure of the government's position in relation to answers. I prefer to give as much detail as I can without referring to the departments for those answers. It certainly saves a lot of time if I have been able to provide that directly rather than having departmental officers chase down the information.

I do not have in front of me in the 'hot' file the number of remandees who were currently found innocent of all charges after going through the court proceedings. It is not a question that I anticipated, but I will bring back a reply; and the same circumstances apply to male prisoners. Perhaps I will elaborate a little and say that we are looking at not only sentencing options but also the way in which remand prisoners are held: whether we can have bail hostels that separate remand prisoners from other prisoners to give Correctional Services the flexibility of the bricks and mortar—that is, the prisoners in the remand centre—giving another incarceration option, that is, to be confined to a bail hostel or home detention, in the lead-up to remand charges being heard. If home detention is to be looked at as an option, the seriousness of the case would also have to be taken into consideration, but it is a question that I will take up with my department and bring back a reply.

As to the second question, some steps are being taken at the moment to overcome some of the problems within the Adelaide Women's Prison system to try to give at least some management flexibility to the departmental officers who have to manage these difficult areas. An amount of \$500 000 has been provided for 11 additional beds at the Adelaide Women's Prison, and these are expected to be available by the end of June-July. I gave an answer to a question in relation to that from the Hon. Rob Lawson and perhaps one from the Hon. Ian Gilfillan some time ago. That work is proceeding. Of course, we had the fire in the prison which took out a number of beds, and again it pointed out the inflexibility of incarceration for women in the prison system by housing them, in some cases, in the watch-house and the remand centre.

We are working closely with the justice system to determine the reasons for the increased number of remand prisoners, because there has been an increase, and the numbers have nearly doubled in the past 12 months, so the honourable member has picked up—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS: I think it is time for filibustering, Mr President.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! The minister will not be distracted.

The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS: The other matter we have to look at is whether the state can afford the increase in numbers and how we can deal with those. So, we will be addressing those important issues immediately, as you will be addressing your important problems.

REGIONAL AIR SERVICES

The Hon. CAROLINE SCHAEFER: My question is directed to the Minister for Regional Affairs. Given the

minister's statement in this council promising a community impact study on all matters of regional importance, was a regional impact study completed before the government's decision with regard to assistance, or otherwise, for Australia-wide Airlines and, if not, why not? Will such an impact statement be prepared and, if not, why not? Will the results of any such study be made available to the public?

The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS (Minister for Regional Affairs): I believe that the policy applies only to decisions that are made. There is no impact statement on issues that are being considered, but—

The Hon. A.J. Redford interjecting:

The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS: No, I think the—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS: We would be tying up a lot of time with government assessments, and particularly when commercially confidential information is involved. It would be very difficult if every application for every dollar of government money had to be subject to a regional impact statement, but in this particular case I would have to refer the issue to the Minister for Transport in another place to bring back a fuller reply. However, my understanding is that wide consideration and discussions took place between various parties in trying to get the best possible solution to the regional airline problem. It is not an easy question when you are being asked to supply money from government coffers to support private sector operations.

Our position was spelt out early in the piece; that is, we would be licensing and giving consideration to route licensing and we would be loath to go down the track of offering subsidies for regional airlines on particular routes.

The Hon. Diana Laidlaw interjecting:

The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS: In relation to the issue of competition, you have to take into account what organisations and sections of the transport industry are already servicing those programs. If other regional airline bodies are looking at servicing those areas, then you would have to look at to whom you pay the subsidy. You would end up having a competitive subsidy war. Some airlines in particular are looking at providing, without a subsidy, services to regional areas. They are looking at their own figures and investment strategies. Certainly airlines such as O'Connor Airlines (which is a state owned airline) is looking at a wide range of support that can be provided to regional airlines. It has to be done sensitively; it has to be done in conjunction with tourism and transport. So I will endeavour—

The Hon. Diana Laidlaw: Did you say O'Connor is looking for government support?

The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS: No, I am suggesting that, if you offer subsidies to one airline, you have to look at the business plan of other airlines which may be looking at similar routes. As to that—

The Hon. Caroline Schaefer interjecting:

The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS: No. I will return to community impact studies eventually—I was answering an interjection. The community impact studies, as far as policy goes, are in line with budget submissions that have been made and therefore, when decisions are made and carried out, the impact of that decision on regional areas is part of the policy consideration.

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW: I have a supplementary question. Is the minister indicating that, in relation to the issue of regional airlines, a request for government funds has

not been taken to cabinet and therefore a regional impact statement would not be provided?

The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS: I cannot comment on what has or has not been taken to cabinet, but I can comment on the fact that, if an impact statement is to be made relating to the discussions that have led, or will lead, to a decision or an outcome, that will be done by the Minister for Transport, not me. I replied to the honourable member by saying that I will relay her question to the minister in another place to see whether an impact statement has or has not been done and whether a decision has or has not been made.

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS: No.

The Hon. CAROLINE SCHAEFER: I have a supplementary question. Am I given to understand that a community impact statement or study will be done only after a decision has been made? Unless I misunderstand the minister—and I stand to be corrected—all he is saying is that he will assess whether it is going to affect—

An honourable member: Retrospectively.

The Hon. CAROLINE SCHAEFER: Yes, retrospectively, he will assess whether or not it is going to affect a region. Would the minister like to clarify that?

The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS: In any assessment, when you are weighing up apples with apples and you are doing a—
Members interjecting:

The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS: Well, taking regional airlines out of it, if we are weighing up the purpose of whatever the decision is that you are making, obviously, if, in this case, you are ruling out, you would have to look at the impact of that decision. If you are ruling it in as part of a decision that you make, if it is going to have an impact regionally, you would have to produce an impact statement. It is a process that must be gone through as a natural part of the negotiations. It may have an impact on an individual or an organisation who is putting forward a program, but it may not have an impact on a region. That assessment would have to be done by each minister in relation to whatever program they are dealing with.

The Hon. CAROLINE SCHAEFER: I have a further supplementary question. Can you say yes or no as to whether or not you believe that the service of an airline to regional South Australia is of sufficient importance to require a community impact statement?

The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS: I would think that a reason not to would be of greater consequence than to run one. If you run one, the benefits generally become obvious. Administratively, if you do not have one the impact would be greater; well, it would be different. Anyway, I am not aware whether the Minister for Transport has completed or started an impact statement.

The Hon. Diana Laidlaw: Will you ask him to undertake one?

The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS: I can.

The Hon. Diana Laidlaw: You will?

The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS: If it is requested by the parliament under the rules we are governed by. Each minister is governed by a ruling in relation to regional impact statements. The previous government was governed by a rule as well. It had a social justice commitment, I think, that accompanied the cab sav. I will refer the question to the minister in another place and bring back a reply, and I will also ask the minister to make sure that a regional impact statement accompanies the ruling that he makes.

The Hon. T.G. CAMERON: By way of a further supplementary question: does the minister support community impact statements on issues which affect local communities, particularly regional areas?

The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS: In opposition, the President was one of those who made an approach through the party to write it into the rules as policy. He was supported by other country members, and we have stuck by that in government. So, the answer is yes.

TUNA FARMS, PORT LINCOLN

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 Port Lincoln tuna farms.

Leave granted.

The Hon. G.E. GAGO: The growth of phytoplankton in the marine environment is generally limited by the availability of nitrogen. The release of excess nitrogen can increase phytoplankton production, resulting in blooms. Blooms can reduce oxygen availability and, in some cases, produce toxins. Nitrogen discharge associated with aquaculture is generally relatively low compared with discharge from natural processes—towns, industries, agriculture and forestry.

In the Port Lincoln area, sources of nitrogen include effluent and stormwater discharge, agricultural run-off and natural processes such as trichodesmium blooms. Tuna farms represent one of the sources of nitrogen in this region. My question to the minister is: what steps are being taken to ensure that tuna farms in Port Lincoln are not having an adverse effect on the environment, particularly in regard to algal blooms?

The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY (Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries): Of course, the tuna industry is important to this state, as it produces in excess of \$200 million. It is also important that the industry be environmentally sustainable. The honourable member has discussed this matter with me, and I asked my department to provide some information, particularly in relation to the trichodesmium and phytoplankton blooms. It is not really my area of expertise, but I have an answer for the honourable member.

The potential environmental impacts of proposed aquaculture developments are identified during the assessment of applications. Aquaculture applications are assessed on the basis of individual merit in accordance with the principles of ESD (ecologically sustainable development). South Australia's aquaculture management plans play a significant role in this process by establishing a policy framework for the management of aquaculture development. The aquaculture management plans identify broad requirements for approval of fish farming and specific zones in which aquaculture development will be licensed.

The location and policies of aquaculture zones are determined following public consultation and consideration of scientific investigations in the region. In particular, management plans establish maximum allocation of the area, the total production and the maximum stocking densities for aquaculture development. The appropriate indicators are developed for all approved aquaculture developments to detect and manage impacts through environmental monitoring programs. Ongoing review and adaptation of licence conditions, based on the results of this environmental monitoring, ensures that the industry is managed in an ecologically sustainable manner.

With regard to Port Lincoln, the total allowable production and the maximum stocking density of tuna farms in that region is limited in accordance with aquaculture management plan policy. This limit on production is derived from modelling to conservatively estimate a level of production that will not adversely affect water quality in the region. Management plan policy is reviewed in the context of ongoing monitoring of environmental health in the region.

The monitoring of water quality under the Tuna Environmental Monitoring Program indicates that tuna farming has not significantly affected water quality in the Port Lincoln region compared with control sites located in the relatively pristine coastal environment of Thorny Passage. These conclusions were based on both the direct measurement of nutrients and the measurement of phytoplankton populations. It should be noted that phytoplankton blooms are not always associated with the presence of excess nutrients. The phytoplankton trichodesmium blooms is in response to seasonal climatic conditions.

Large trichodesmium blooms up to 25 kilometres wide and 100 kilometres long have occurred in South Australian waters annually since 1997. These blooms develop in deep water in summer in Thorny Passage and Backstairs Passage before drifting into shallow waters and being blown onto the eastern coasts of Eyre Peninsula and Yorke Peninsula by the prevailing south-east winds. During blooms, trichodesmium filaments decay due to exposure to ultraviolet light in surface waters, producing an oil-like unpleasant smelling slick. Trichodesmium is a nitrogen fixing organism and uses nitrogen from the atmosphere to rapidly multiply under conditions that are otherwise low in plant nutrients. These blooms are not associated with nutrient discharge and are common in the open ocean where they represent a major source of nitrogen.

The Hon. T.G. Cameron interjecting:

The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY: It is important, Mr President. Blooms extending over tens of thousands of square kilometres have been recorded in the Indian Ocean. Whilst it is unclear why blooms were first recorded in South Australian waters in 1997, current research indicates that blooms are the result of the introduction of trichodesmium through ballast water or changes in climatic conditions or ocean currents.

The Hon. T.G. Cameron interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! Interjections are out of order.

The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY: So, current research suggests that trichodesmium may be a result of the introduction from those sources. In conclusion, I guess we can say that the tuna program in this state is well monitored, and the information is that water quality has not been significantly affected.

RETIREMENT VILLAGES

The Hon. IAN GILFILLAN: I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Leader of the Government a question about retirement villages.

Leave granted.

The Hon. IAN GILFILLAN: The reason I do not identify the minister is that this government has shown its scant regard for the ageing by not actually having a minister for the ageing, so I have to appeal to the Leader of the Government regarding older residents of South Australia. It is rather perplexing not to be able to know to whom to address a question relating to the ageing.

South Australia has an ageing population, and I referred to that in my Address in Reply contribution. The proportion of people over the age of 65 is higher here than in any other state. Growth of the 55 years and over population is set to increase at a faster rate than the rest of the population over the next 50 years. There are 300 retirement villages in South Australia that cater for an estimated 15 000 residents.

Late last year a review was begun into the Retirement Villages Act by the Office for the Ageing. This was begun with the Retirement Villages Advisory Committee as the reference group. Submissions were sought on a number of questions and the invitations for submissions asked:

- Is the act achieving its primary objective ensuring that the rights of residents are clearly specified and adequately protected?
- What further changes, if any, are needed to the current act to enhance its effectiveness?
- Is there a continuing role for the government in regulating retirement villages as currently defined in the act? If so, should the ambit of the act be extended to encompass the range of new retirement living products now available?
- Were the ambit of the act to be extended, what additional protection might reasonably be extended to residents of retirement living arrangements covered by the act?
- Irrespective of the ambit of the act, what powers need to be conferred upon the body responsible for its administration to enable it to effectively monitor the operations of the act and, where necessary, enforce its provisions?
- What other matters should be considered in framing any new or revised act?

Members will realise that that is a very comprehensive and important series of requests. Submissions are due by the end of June 2002.

I have been approached by residents of retirement villages just recently, and they have repeated complaints about a lack of financial accountability, lengthy hard-to-understand contracts, long delays in getting refunds after quitting villages, maintenance funds spent on other things, difficulties in pursuing grievances through the courts, insufficient consumer education, and lack of enforcement of existing standards. They were led to expect some response from this government because the government's election platform stated that it would:

... conduct a full review of the Retirement Villages Act, including the future directions for retirement village accommodation, its relation to care services and the appropriateness of current funding models.

I have been approached by the Retirement Villages Association and the South Australian Retirement Villages Residents Association who have indicated that they have approached the government and are looking for a response. My questions to the leader are:

1. Why has the aged care portfolio been dropped from the ministry?
2. Does the government agree to continue with a review of the Retirement Villages Act and, if so, what is the form and timetable for the review?
3. Will whoever is representing the government in this area meet with the Retirement Villages Association and the South Australia Retirement Villages Residents Association to discuss the review of the act and issues relating to retirement villages in South Australia?

The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation): I will refer those important questions to the minister and the Premier in another place and bring back a reply.

STEM CELLS

The Hon. A.L. EVANS: I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, representing the Hon. Lea Stevens, Minister for Health, a question about stem cell research.

Leave granted.

The Hon. A.L. EVANS: The Hon. Julian Stefani, during matters of interest, raised this important issue, which will be a matter of debate in this place over the coming months. As the honourable member mentioned, I doubt whether anyone will object to adult stem cell research. However, embryo stem cell research is a moral issue that we need to thoroughly examine. As representatives of the people of South Australia, we have a duty to become informed of the pros and cons of embryo stem cell research.

The Australian Family Association is launching a nationwide campaign entitled Do No Harm to support adult stem cell research and oppose embryo stem cell research. Speakers will include Paul Russell, Director of Do No Harm, and Dr John Fleming, Director of Southern Cross Bioethics Institute. My questions to the minister are:

1. Is the government aware of the Do No Harm campaign that is to be launched on Wednesday 29 May at 7.30 at the Dom Polski Centre, 230 Angas Street?
2. If so, are any government representatives attending the launch?

The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation): I will refer those important questions to the Hon. Lea Stevens in another place and bring back a reply.

REGIONAL PONY CLUBS

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY: I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Regional Affairs a question about the regional impact of public liability insurance on pony clubs.

Leave granted.

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY: Horse riding, show jumping, pony clubs—in fact, a large number of equestrian events—take place all across regional South Australia each week. In particular, pony clubs are an integral part of many rural and regional communities and involve not only the participants but, in most cases, the whole family. This sport in South Australia caters for some 1 600 riders, with at least another 1 600 supporters and volunteers and probably in excess of 2 000 horses. The flow-on economic benefits of this sport to regional and rural South Australia are significant when one looks at the range of goods and services used by the sport—stock feed, farriers, the saddlery suppliers, clothing, transport and accommodation, to name just a few.

I have been advised that, as of 30 June 2002, no insurance company will cover pony clubs in South Australia. Last year, there were more than 55 000 members of pony clubs Australia-wide and there were only three claims, which totalled approximately \$3 000. They could hardly be regarded as a high risk. With just 34 days to 30 June, what urgent action will the minister take to preserve this sport for regional and rural South Australia?

The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS (Minister for Regional Affairs): As Minister for Regional Affairs, I also find it frustrating that the insurance industry is removing, or refusing cover for a wide range of community organisations. If that cover is not provided within the marketplace, certainly,

consideration needs to be given by federal and state governments as to what insurance regimes can be set up.

I understand that some preliminary work is being done by the state government to look at some of the reasons for the withdrawal of cover within some of the areas—and the honourable member's figures indicate that the withdrawal is not a matter of economics or profitability within the industry, so there must be another reason. I am not sure whether the industry has proffered any sort of public reason for the withdrawal of cover from pony clubs, but it has certainly withdrawn from trail riding and other horse riding participatory sports and recreational pursuits. It also has withdrawn from roller skating in one rink of which I am aware in the South-East. Theme parks is another area where cover is either very difficult or impossible to obtain.

Anywhere there is public liability and insurance companies believe they are at open risk to broader claims, they are withdrawing services. I will do whatever I can, in relation to the honourable member's question, to bring back a reply from the Treasurer, who I understand has met at a federal level with other state governments and the commonwealth to try to deal with this important question. I am not sure that the time frame enables me to give a satisfactory reply in relation to the particular question but, certainly if the national and international insurance companies are not prepared to cover regional and metropolitan sporting and community events, as a state and community we have to find alternatives.

The Local Government Association has suggested that perhaps some broader cover by local government is an answer for the question posed, but I suspect that unless we get some uniformity of approach to this very important question we will have a chequered response to it: some local governments might want to include in a broader range of cover some local sporting organisations and aggregate them into a covered program, but unless you get uniformity through discussions some areas will miss out. We need a uniform approach, a national-state approach, to avoid the subsidisation question being raised. It is already starting to occur where, in some states, some organisational cover is arranged and others are left out.

I do not think the question of merit needs to come into it. We need a bipartisan approach to this question as it is of a serious nature, and I hope the state and the commonwealth can work out a satisfactory answer, particularly for remote and regional areas. If the answer is that nothing can be done, certainly we have to find an alternative in the regional areas to hold in some moneys, which communities are apt to let go outside the community, to cover some of the programs themselves.

CABINET, COMMUNITY MEETINGS

The Hon. R.K. SNEATH: I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Regional Affairs a question relating to the South-East community cabinet.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R.K. SNEATH: On Friday and Saturday the Rann ministry and departmental CEOs were in Mount Gambier and Penola. I understand there were numerous meetings between individual ministers and community representatives. I also understand that there was a well attended public meeting where South-East residents were given the chance to quiz members of cabinet directly. Will the minister give his assessment of the community cabinet

visit to the Lower South-East and outline the benefits of such visits by ministers to regional areas?

The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation): I thank the honourable member for his question and will relay to the council some of the benefits that resulted from the regional cabinet meeting and meetings set up prior to the cabinet's arrival.

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS: It is not in the 'hot issues' folder but probably in the 'beneficiaries of interest' folder. Before the country cabinet met, one of the jobs I had as regional affairs minister was to arrange four meetings by individual organisations and business leaders to confer with various ministers and to get local government and the economic development boards to the table to discuss those issues that are relevant to those areas. To add to the Taillem Bend-Murray Bridge visit, the Mount Gambier-Penola visit was very successful.

It certainly took up most of my weekend, which I normally would have spent at home with my family; but these are the sacrifices you make. I have certainly had to use my home as a meeting place for people who are trying to arrange round-table conferences with ministers and departmental heads. These meetings are a bit of a novelty for departmental heads who, in line with ministers, have to face the community and answer a lot of questions that are being put forward by interested members of the public.

Country cabinet will carry on next month to, I think, Port Augusta which will give people in the Mid North the opportunities that people in the Murray Bridge, Taillem Bend and Mount Gambier regions have had, and I think that everyone, including the media outlets, appreciate being able to talk to ministers directly and get the answers required without any media bars being put on them. Departmental people also appreciate the openness with which they are able to talk to people without the media bars on them which some ministers (not all) of the previous government imposed on them. So I can say that it is a success. We will continue with it and I hope that the people in the Mid North will attend some of the meetings in the Port Augusta region when we are there next month.

ADDRESS IN REPLY

Adjourned debate on motion for adoption.
(Continued from 16 May. Page 186.)

The Hon. SANDRA KANCK: In this Reconciliation Week I acknowledge that we are on Kurna land. At the opening of Reconciliation Week this morning Georgina Williams, on behalf of the Kurna people, observed that it was difficult for her to welcome us to Kurna land because in fact the Kurna people had been dispossessed of that land. But, nevertheless, I believe we should acknowledge that there is an Aboriginal history to the land that we stand on. It is also important to me when I am addressing the Governor, effectively, that I make this acknowledgment because the Governor, although being Governor of this state, is also a representative of the nation that helped to push Aboriginal people into the background.

World-renowned bestselling author Arundhati Roy, in an essay in the *Guardian* entitled 'The Algebra of Infinite Justice', dated 29 September 2001—an essay that I recommend others should read—made this prediction about one of the likely impacts of the 11 September bombings of the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon:

The US government, and no doubt governments all over the world, will use the climate of war as an excuse to curtail civil liberties, deny free speech, lay off workers, harass ethnic and religious minorities, cut back public spending and divert huge amounts of money to the defence industry.

How right she was! Two weeks ago the federal government handed down its budget for the forthcoming year. The *Advertiser* headline the day after was 'Casualties of War', with a subheading 'Sick help fund Costello's Fortress Australia', and a photo illustration which showed health and welfare as the targets for the military. The *Advertiser* stated:

The money... will pay for the ongoing war in Afghanistan, keeping out boat people and a range of domestic security measures which will turn Australia into a fortress.

Then Thursday's *Advertiser* headline was 'Casualties of War—Part II', with a subheading 'Murray River Budget Victim'. As a state and as a society, we will suffer badly from this budget. People with disabilities, those with chronic illnesses, the environment, those already living in poverty will all suffer in the name of a war that is not even our own.

Australia's Prime Minister and Treasurer say that all this is necessary to fund our commitment to George Bush's so-called war on terror. Yet this is a war to which Australia should never have linked itself and one that was always unnecessary. The essay by Arundhati Roy continues:

The world will probably never know what motivated those particular hijackers who flew planes into those particular American buildings. They were not glory boys. They left no suicide notes, no political messages; no organisation has claimed credit for the attacks. All we know is that their belief in what they were doing outstripped the natural human instinct for survival, or any desire to be. It is almost as though they could not scale down the enormity of their rage to anything smaller than their deeds.

One has to ask: what could create such a degree of rage? Terrorists do not attack for no reason. What causes terrorism? In my view, terrorism results from a sense of anger about justice denied, and continually being denied. As a one-off victim of terrorism on 11 September, has the United States played any part in denying justice in a way that would create terrorism?

Let us look at the record of the US to see whether there is any good reason for a terrorist to attack that country. Is there anything the US has done that would foster the creation of partisans who hate the United States? The answer is very clearly and strongly—yes. In fact, the record is so bad it is a wonder that the US is not attacking itself as a terrorist country par excellence, because there are more than 40 countries that have had the steely might of the United States unleashed against them since World War II. Countries that have not adopted the same economic or ideological system as the US, such as the USSR, Cuba and Vietnam, have become the enemy by default. Countries such as Iran, which could be used to control a perceived threat to the US, were allies—at least for the time that it suited the US.

Let us explore Afghanistan as an example. In December last year the *National Geographic* featured an article on Afghanistan in response to the attacks on the World Trade Centre. The article included a map of Afghanistan, surrounding countries and a list of social and economic indicators for each country. Afghanistan was far and away the loser and,

according to the *National Geographic*, 'a land in crisis'. Let us look at some of those indicators. In respect of literacy rates, Uzbekistan is listed at 99 per cent; Turkmenistan, 98 per cent; Tajikistan, 98 per cent; Iran, 72 per cent; Pakistan, 43 per cent; and, at the bottom, 32 per cent in Afghanistan.

The Hon. T.G. Cameron: But the others were Soviet satellites, weren't they?

The Hon. SANDRA KANCK: I am talking about the indicators as to why Afghanistan is a good example of why terrorists might attack the United States. These are the states that surround Afghanistan, and they are the reason the figures are there. The article also lists the GDP per capita and gives the following figures: \$6 300 in Iran; \$4 300 in Turkmenistan; \$2 400 in Uzbekistan; \$2 000 in Pakistan; \$1 140 in Tajikistan; and \$800 in Afghanistan. In respect of life expectancy, it is 70 years in Iran, 64 years in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, 61 years in Pakistan and Turkmenistan, and 46 years in Afghanistan.

These figures are a consequence of US interference in Afghanistan—no wonder these people are angry. If they are indeed the people responsible for the 11 September attacks—and nearly nine months later this is still not proven—no wonder they have resorted to terrorism. The wonder is that it did not happen earlier.

What did the US do to either stop this happening or to make it happen? History shows that back in 1936 Afghanistan aligned itself, in a sense, with communism when it signed a mutual trade agreement with the USSR, but the US had an opportunity to redress this in 1953 when Afghanistan approached it for economic assistance. However, the US declined, and Afghanistan was forced once again to turn to the Soviet Union. I note also Ho Chi Minh's post World War II request to the United States for money for health and education, which was also turned down, and the subsequent war.

The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 was therefore not out of place in that history, although not necessarily justified, but, as part of the Cold War, the US took exception to it and began funding tribal groups such as the Taliban to defeat the Soviets. This shows a typical pattern of US behaviour—funding countries or regimes when it suited it. No matter the nature of the Taliban—the impact that regime made on the country's literacy rates, the destruction of the country's culture, the impact that this has had on women and the turning to opium production as a means of funding continual civil war—these were not considerations of the United States.

Before the US attacks on Afghanistan post 11 September, it was estimated that approximately 10 million land mines were planted across that country. Add to that the geological instability of the country with frequent earthquakes and the resultant loss of human lives. Then add to that a 30-year drought and consequent starvation and malnutrition, and you have a recipe for instability, fear and injustice. The US solution to its own Frankenstein creation has been to bomb Afghanistan. Imagine if the US had spent the money that it has been spending on armaments to bomb Afghanistan on feeding people and providing them with health services and education. Now that would be intervention that could be justified; that would be subversion. That would be a way to defeat the Taliban if that was what the US really wanted.

Afghanistan is but one example in an appalling list of more than 40 nations which have been and, in some cases, continue to be, subject to combinations of US interference, sanctions, destabilisation, bombing and invasion since World

War II; that list includes Cambodia, Chile, Colombia, the Congo, Cuba, El Salvador, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Nicaragua, North Korea, Pakistan, Palestine and Vietnam. These are just some of them. Sometimes it has been overt, sometimes covert, sometimes creating civil war, sometimes merely starving people to death.

Dag Hammarskjöld, the UN Secretary-General who died in the early 1960s, made the comment that 'It is when we all play safe that we create a world of utmost insecurity'. Perhaps our government ought to look to his words because its knee-jerk response to the 11 September attacks in the United States, aligning Australia to the US in the name of safety, has actually increased the risk and danger to Australians. Peace begets peace; fear begets fear; and terror begets terror. There is no doubt in my mind that the US tactics will only create more terror in the long run. By aligning ourselves with the US and sending troops into the region, the Australian government has made us more, not less, of a target.

Very few countries have the courage to say 'No' to the United States. It is a bit like the bully in the school playground. The power of the United States is such that Pakistan's 'Yes sir' response has created civil unrest in its own country. The current heating up of tensions between Pakistan and India may not necessarily be an accident in this context and may in fact be symptomatic of this cowering to please the United States, as the Pakistani government attempts to deflect overt criticism and reaction from its own people about its mendicant position.

On the weekend, yet again, George Bush claimed that the reason terrorists want to attack them is that they hate the freedoms that exist in the United States. Yet the truth is that the US is not a bastion of freedom and human rights. There are more people in prison per head of population in the United States than in any other country in the world and George Bush (prior to becoming the President of the United States) as Governor of Texas presided over a state with an appalling record with the death penalty.

At the present time, we are witnessing the basic denial of human rights and due process going on at the United States' Camp X-ray in Cuba. This is being executed by a country that labels itself as the 'home of the brave' and the 'land of the free'. In the article that I referred to earlier, Arundhati Roy observes that it would be a pity if 'instead of using this as an opportunity to try to understand why September 11 happened, Americans use it as an opportunity to usurp the whole world's sorrow to mourn and avenge only their own.' If the US had been willing to look and understand, there was much for it to learn. Osama Bin Laden did not personally plan or carry out the attacks on the US, but he is being hunted by the US because, as Arundhati Roy puts it, he is 'the CEO of the holding company'. She says, as an aside:

While talks are on for the—

The Hon. T.G. Cameron: That makes him liable.

The Hon. SANDRA KANCK: Exactly; then listen to this bit:

While talks are on for the extradition of CEOs—can India put in a side request for the extradition of Warren Anderson of the US? He was the chairman of Union Carbide, responsible for the Bhopal gas leak that killed 16 000 people in 1984. We have collated the necessary evidence. It's all in the files. Could we have him please?

Of course, as part of the injustice that the US so routinely dispenses, we know that this will not occur. The US proposed calling its campaign against Afghanistan 'Operation infinite justice', but where is the justice in bombing Afghanistan to

get Osama Bin Laden when one of their own was responsible for the deaths of 16 000 Indian people?

The evidence against Warren Anderson is abundantly clear and far more compelling than any pointing to Osama Bin Laden. Had the US looked at its own record it might have understood the anger directed towards it in the form of terrorist attacks. The US response has been to create more terror by bombing, and to extend the terror with its chest-beating threats about the so-called 'Axis of Evil'. Sadly for us all, the US does not appear to have even attempted the beginnings of a search for understanding. I say 'sadly' because that incapacity is having a negative impact in so many places. The current instability in Pakistan is but one example. Here in Australia it is not political instability but simple unfairness and intolerance that has emerged.

But, additionally, thinking Australians are now potentially to be silenced with the Australian government's proposed new anti-terrorism laws, laws which, if Australia were to be plunged into another Vietnam-style conflict, would outlaw a Vietnam moratorium style of protest movement. I was one of many Australians—as were the Hon. Terry Roberts and the Hon. Ian Gilfillan—who played a pressuring role on Australian governments to bring about the independence of East Timor, but such protest would not have been allowed under the proposed new laws which are a response to the 11 September attacks. Wrongs will not be allowed to be righted in this brave new world; and criminals will be created out of people who are not.

In the federal budget we are being asked to believe the spin doctoring that says that cutting back support for people with disabilities will make our country safer. On top of that, we are being told the lie that incursions into our freedom of speech and the right to peaceful protest against injustice are necessary to make Australia safer. There is no doubt that the 11 September attacks were appalling, and I make it clear that my comments about the United States refer to the government and not to the people of the United States. They are two different entities. I know that an increasing number of US citizens are ashamed of the role that their government is playing as a terrorist organisation. The US response has been inappropriate and ultimately history will reveal the stance of the Australian government in backing the US at this time as being a backward step in our history. I support the motion.

The Hon. T.G. CAMERON: I rise in support of the Governor's address to open the 50th Parliament. After eight years of Liberals in government we now have a new Labor government sitting on the Treasury benches. I take this opportunity to congratulate Premier Mike Rann and his team and wish them well for the next four years. I also take the opportunity to congratulate the Hon. Ron Roberts on becoming the President of the Legislative Council—the achievement of a 14 or 15 year quest on his part. It is good to see people fulfil lifelong ambitions, so I take the opportunity to congratulate him.

It was a close election. It is history now, but, Mr President, if it were not for the member for Hammond the members sitting on your right would now be sitting on your left. Purely in terms of primary votes cast at the last state election, the Liberal Party outpolled Labor by 34 370 votes (40 per cent to Labor's 36.3 per cent). It is interesting to observe that we are now in a situation where governments can be elected if they receive slightly in excess of one-third of the votes of all those who voted. That is not a good thing for government but it is just the way that it is going. About one in four South

Australians did not see fit to vote for the Liberal Party or the Labor Party at the last election.

My role and that of SA First in this parliament will be to adopt a two-edged position. First, we will carefully examine all legislation put forward by the government and, as we have attempted to do in the past, judge all bills on their merits. Where appropriate, SA First will move amendments to ensure that legislation is of the highest standard possible and in the long-term best interests of South Australians. Secondly, we intend to use our endeavours to ensure that the government sticks to the promises that it made before and during the February state election. In the same way as I have done on a previous occasion, I will have a little more to say about government promises, and I will monitor how well they are kept, but for now I would like to make some comments about the current state of the South Australian economy.

Whilst I do not possess a degree in economics or a PhD in any other subject, I do take an interest in matters economic. From where I sit—and this has certainly been borne out by small business and business people with whom I talk—the South Australian economy is probably healthier than it has been for at least 10, if not 15, years. Overall there has been a strong rise in South Australia's state final demand in the second half of 2001, indicating a general improvement in the overall economic performance of the state.

This improved performance was largely due to increased household consumption expenditure, dwelling investment—and I emphasise dwelling investment—and the resumed growth in business investment in South Australia. They are not my personal views but those of the South Australian Centre for Economic Studies, which is not exactly known as a right-wing organisation that naturally supports Liberal governments, but it is a fact that the state of the South Australian economy has improved substantially over the past decade, especially when one recalls the abyss, the black hole, that we were staring into after the State Bank collapse when it looked as though generations of South Australians would have to spend 30 or 40 years paying off the \$9 billion debt that had accrued. The Treasurer suggests that it was closer to \$10 billion, but I suppose when you are talking about a state debt of \$9 billion or \$10 billion one billion here or there does not matter that much.

I indicated earlier that we have moved to stronger spending levels and that largely reflects improvements in consumer and business confidence which occurred during 2001 and which, according to the latest business surveys, has continued up until now. The fact is that consumer and business confidence is at levels that we have not seen in South Australia since the mid-1980s. Household spending was also supported by moderate growth in household incomes and reductions in fuel prices and, in particular, reductions in interest rates, which have continued to decline to 30 year lows, have also fuelled growth in household incomes.

For instance, South Australian retail sales grew strongly in 2001 while the sales of new motor vehicles rose very strongly over the second half of that year. Exports from South Australia were also stronger in 2001—well, at least until late 2001. In fact, the statistics—and I do not intend to fill this speech with statistical data because I am sure that most members would be aware of these figures—show that South Australian exports grew more strongly than national exports. Taken into account other economic indicators this shows that, instead of South Australia being the poor Cinderella in relation to states' economic performance—leaving aside Tasmania—it has moved to a position where we can at least

hold our head high with the other states. We are no longer economically the mendicant state of mainland Australia. Our economy is growing, we have reduced our debt, but there is still a lot more work to be done.

Following the 11 September incident in New York, there are signs and indications that the weakened international demand is likely to lead to a weaker exports trend. There is early indication that evidence of this is there to be seen. Any person would have realistically expected that we were going to have a deterioration in our export performance following 11 September, but the worldwide indicators are that the world economy is bouncing back and that America is bouncing back—although we are not too sure for how long that is likely to continue.

I would like to have a look at some of the key economic indicators. In building and construction, South Australia's building sector has continued to grow very strongly through the summer of 2001-02, suggesting that building activity levels are likely to be very strong over the coming few months. Unfortunately, whenever you get strong levels of building activity you also see a rapid increase in housing prices—in particular, land prices. The rapid increase in the cost of a building block in South Australia over the past 12 months is of concern to new homebuyers, something which I think the government ought to look at closely.

When you see blocks of land, which would normally be bought by people at the midpoint of the socioeconomic level, increasing by 50 and 60 per cent over a twelve month period, you can only feel happy for those who got in before the elevator started going up, but you must also feel sorry for the young under 25s who may still be trying to save for their first home. Not only have they been confronted with the GST and rapidly increasing land costs in South Australia but the home savings grant of \$14 000 has also been reduced. Residential and building approvals rose through late 2000 and into 2001 as activity recovered from the one-off depressing effects of the GST and were kicked along by the \$14 000 federal government First Home Owners Grant.

Given the influences of a natural recovery, falling interest rates and the temporary commonwealth government subsidy to first home buyers, it is not surprising therefore that the residential sector picked up in 2001. Another good indicator of economic activity is new motor vehicle sales. There was a strong rise in new motor vehicle sales in South Australia through the second half of 2001. Sales of new motor vehicles are a useful partial indicator of economic activity since they reflect underlying household and business spending levels.

Even more importantly, from a South Australian perspective, they are also an important indicator of local manufacturing activity, since interstate markets are the main source of demand for vehicles produced at Holden's and Mitsubishi's local plants, but the outlook for production activity is somewhat mixed. The fact that local sales were already at historically high levels suggests that local demand will probably weaken or remain steady over the medium term. Future growth in production activity will, therefore, depend on increased domestic markets sales and/or growth in international sales.

In relation to private new capital expenditure, business investment staged a moderate recovery in the second half of 2001, with increased spending on equipment, plant and machinery, and buildings and structures of between 11 per cent and 21 per cent. According to the National Australia Bank business conference index, business confidence remained strong throughout the middle of 2001 and is set to

retain its positive outlook during 2002. How many members are here listening at the moment? If it drops too many more, I will call for a quorum, Mr Acting President. Total capital spending for the first half of 2002—

The Hon. T.G. Roberts: He wasn't listening.

The Hon. T.G. CAMERON: If he wasn't listening, I had better remind him.

The ACTING PRESIDENT (The Hon. R.K. Sneath): I heard.

The Hon. T.G. CAMERON: If you didn't hear, Mr Acting President, I said that I would have to call for a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT: I heard.

The Hon. T.G. CAMERON: I should ignore the interjections, shouldn't I? Thank you for calling for order. Total capital spending for the first half of 2002 is expected to be 17 per cent higher than actual spending in the same period last year—a significant increase.

The value of South Australia's total overseas merchandise exports for the 12 months to January 2002 was up 29 per cent on the previous 12 months—a stunning increase in exports for a 12 month period. This robust growth was mainly underpinned by a strong rise in exports of wheat (up 121 per cent), which is very good news for our wheat farmers considering the low dollar and the high price—a bit of a pity about the late rains, but you cannot have everything—and motor vehicle exports were up 51 per cent, while wine exports were up 21 per cent.

The strong performance of South Australian exports, in the face of a deteriorating world economy, can be explained by several factors. First, export values have continued to rise over the past year thanks to the depreciation of the Australian dollar. I am not too sure whether many people in this chamber can remember it but, if they go back in history, at one stage the Australian dollar was trading at about \$2.50 to the US dollar. That was back in about 1900. It got down to 47.6¢ and is now trading at 55.6¢.

I suspect that exporters, who continue to benefit from an historically low dollar of 47.6¢ and have enjoyed a low dollar over the past 12 months or 18 months, will have to accept the fact that—and this is my view only—the low Australian dollar days are over. It is quite clear that our dollar has a firm foundation at 55¢, and it would not surprise me, over the next 18 months or so, to see the Australian dollar trading at over 60¢. That is something that will have to be taken on board not so much by the farmers and wheat producers who have to plant their wheat crops irrespective of what the Australian dollar is but particularly by our motor vehicle and wine industries which are very price sensitive commodities. I believe that people in those industries ought to take on board that we will have an appreciating dollar over the next few years and it could even go above 60¢.

While the growth of exports to some markets, such as Japan, have stalled—and there are local reasons in Japan for that—exports to the Middle East have grown strongly (up by 90 per cent to a total of \$1.8 billion) and exports to the United States have hit a record high (up by 31 per cent). Preliminary Australian Bureau of Statistics data indicate that short-term overseas tourists have declined by 15 per cent relative to the same period in 2000. While I do not have the statistics to hand, I have read that, over the past 10 years or so, South Australia's share of international tourism has increased—not to the point where it reflects the national average, but it is a significant improvement from where it was some 10 years

ago. I am sure all members appreciate the job intensive nature of the tourism industry and the jobs that flow from it.

The 15 per cent decline can be largely attributable to the 11 September terrorist attacks and the consequential deterioration in world economic conditions that flowed from that. The good news is that there are signs that international visitor numbers are starting to bounce back, and there is also evidence that visitors from Victoria and New South Wales have substituted interstate holidays for international holidays—a trend which has been exacerbated by the value of our dollar when you spend it overseas.

In South Australia, the latest six month period has seen even better labour market developments than has occurred across Australia as a whole. However, this should be tempered with the fact that most of the employment growth continues to be in part-time jobs, although I would be quick to point out that, if you cannot get a full-time job, a part-time job is better than no job at all. One of the structural problems, I believe, that we have in our Australian economy at the moment has emanated from the changes which have taken place over the past 20 years or so in the competition between full-time, part-time and casual jobs in the Australian work force.

The good news is that the state labour force participation rate for both males and females has risen from 675 000 in 2001 to an all time high of 695 100 in May 2001, or a rise from 60.2 per cent to 60.7 per cent. For those members who are economically minded in the government's ranks—and I look at Paul Holloway here—a significant indicator is not so much the overall unemployment rate but, rather, the critical factor is the participation rate. As at May it was sitting at 60.7 per cent.

South Australia's unemployment rate is steady at 6.6 per cent in seasonally adjusted terms. Youth unemployment, however, rose by 3.6 per cent to 30 per cent—an unacceptably high level—and it should be a priority for the new government. I have made a number of speeches in this place about the high levels of youth unemployment we have had to endure in South Australia over the past six or seven years. Again, I urge the government to look at the youth unemployment rate.

I would urge the Hon. Paul Holloway to look at the youth unemployment rate and have a word with Bob Such about some of the initiatives that he had. I do not agree with everything that Bob Such says because, at times, he is a bit out there but, in relation to his views on youth unemployment and the urgency to do something about it, I agree with him.

In particular, an analysis which was conducted by my office indicates that youth unemployment is at its worst in Labor held seats. There is a very high correlation between the Labor vote in a seat and the level of youth unemployment. It is the seats to the north and a few to the west that I am most concerned about. The unemployment rates of our kids in northern suburbs such as Elizabeth, Paralowie and Salisbury are sitting anywhere between 45 per cent and 55 per cent. I do not give a damn whether it is a Labor or Liberal government—I would paint them both with the same brush—but I would suggest that that is a government and a society that is letting its kids down. No wonder we have high levels of vandalism and youth crime. When you have young people sitting around all day with nothing to do, idle hands will soon get into mischief. If I have a criticism to make of the former Liberal government, it is that, in my opinion, it did not have a proper focus on youth unemployment and the medium to long-term implications and dangers that holds for a society.

I take this opportunity to congratulate the previous Liberal government on its management of the South Australian economy. When it took over, the South Australian economy was probably the basket case of Australian economies. I always like to leave Tasmania out of this, because I think its economy is in serious trouble. But the former government had a plan, a fairly simple one: to get the monkey of state debt off the people's back. It certainly implemented that plan, and there have been a number of excellent results in many areas, to the point where I would suggest that, when Kevin Foley and Mike Rann took over the South Australian economy, it was probably operating at the best level that we have seen certainly in 10 years, almost certainly in 15 years, and probably in 20 years.

I wish the new government well and hope that it does continue to keep debt levels low and that it works at some of these problem areas, such as youth unemployment. A number of parents with wet eyes have spoken to me about how all of their kids have left South Australia to try to find work interstate, and the state usually quoted is Queensland. Oddly enough, for the past few years, Queensland has had a higher unemployment rate than that of South Australia, yet you still find—

The Hon. P. Holloway: Much higher jobs growth.

The Hon. T.G. CAMERON: Yes, but I suspect its higher unemployment figures compared to its high employment growth is a fact of interstate migration.

In general, there are some favourable signs for the South Australian economy in 2002-03, including high confidence levels, particularly for consumers, positive business expectations regarding future investment, and the likelihood that employment and incomes will be stronger going into 2002-03, at least, following on the trends evident throughout the second half of 2001-02. So, all of the signs are fairly favourable that, provided this new Labor government does not stuff it up, we will have a fairly good economy in South Australia over the next couple of years.

Activity levels in the building sector, however, are likely to weaken significantly, particularly over the last half of this year and the first half of next year. The international economy also remains fragile and is likely to recover only slowly, particularly if you look at the latest economic data emanating from the United States, which should provide only modest support for our exports. I am indicating there that we are unlikely to see the significant growth in our exports over the next couple of years that we have seen over the last couple.

We also have the possibility of higher interest rates which may contribute to a slowing in consumer spending. We have seen a quarter of a per cent increase so far, and we are likely to see another three interest rate increases within the next 12 months, bringing rate increases to a total of at least 1 per cent over what I call the 2001 year. On the balance of probabilities, according to the Centre for Economic Studies at the University of Adelaide, we will see South Australia recording a similar rate of economic growth in 2003 as in 2001-02, which is good news for South Australia.

I turn now to the promised activities of the new government. Media coverage on the new government so far has been favourable and would indicate that the government is still in a honeymoon period, particularly with the extraordinary press that it seems to be getting from the *Advertiser*. The Labor Party made many promises at the last state election, as do all political parties seeking office. However, South Australians are now entitled to believe that the new government will do

its best to implement these promises and that they will not be just cast aside and forgotten now it is in office.

There are many promises. There were some old recycled promises that get put up at every election by both the Liberal and Labor parties. There were some new promises, some were borrowed and a few were just plain unreasonable, and I do not think that even the Labor Party expects that it will implement them. I will look at a few over the next few minutes. It is important to put these promises on the record, so that, at some later date, we can have a look at whether or not this government has been able to live up to its promises, particularly its economic promises which, I would suggest, have usually been the Achilles heel of Labor governments.

The two main areas included in these promises are health and education. I will look first at health. Labor has promised:

- 100 new beds—76 acute and 24 emergency beds—at an extra cost of \$18.85 million per year;
- 50 new full-time cleaning staff at a cost of \$1.5 million extra per year to help infection control and provide for cleaner hospitals. That will certainly please the Miscellaneous Workers Union;
- Integrated personal health care plans for post-acute care patients detailing treatment they have received, post-acute services arranged, and how those services can be assessed;
- \$500 000 a year for a Health and Community Services Ombudsman. I do not know how it will run that office for half a million a year;
- \$500 000 plus \$250 000 capital expenditure for a pilot program of five rural mental health initiatives in Port Lincoln, Port Augusta, Whyalla, the Riverland and Port Pirie. I hope this pilot program does not turn into the government's permanent solution for regional health;
- \$1.5 million capital expenditure and \$250 000 for MRI machines at the Queen Elizabeth and Lyell McEwin hospitals. Labor has also promised that no public hospital will be privatised or closed. Its health promises work out at approximately \$22 million a year in additional spending.

With respect to the arts, Mike Rann has promised a film festival and will spend \$500 000 a year for strengthening and reviving the South Australian Film Corporation through local production, particularly to get us ready for this festival.

The Hon. Diana Laidlaw interjecting:

The Hon. T.G. CAMERON: I note the Hon. Diana Laidlaw's interjection. Perhaps she has already worked out that they are going to pay for the South Australian Film Corp. festival partly from the money they will save from shutting down the Barossa festival. I think they have saved \$200 000 there, and they will spend \$500 000 on this film festival—\$500 000 a year for thinkers in residence—to teach, work and live in Adelaide for three to six months a year. One only hopes that that program does not turn into a whole series of junkets for friends, etc. One wonders why we need to import thinkers, and particularly why they do not want to spend all their time in Adelaide. Just what do these thinkers think of us? An extra \$1 million a year will be spent on Premier Rann's pet projects in the arts.

With respect to community affairs, Labor has promised \$1 million a year for struggling families and family support programs. If the Treasurer thinks that \$1 million a year will sort out all the problems of struggling families here in South Australia, I intend sending the Hon. Andrew Evans around to remind him that the work that we need to restore families' pre-eminence in our society has a long way to go—certainly a lot more than the \$1 million a year allocated to struggling families and family support programs.

Some \$1 million a year has been promised for locally based early childhood health intervention and \$1 million a year for youth at risk and youth mental health programs. Labor has also promised to reduce homelessness by 50 per cent, from 7 000 to 3 500 per year. I guess it sounds good, Mr Holloway, when someone is writing it out as a campaign promise. I wish you well and I certainly hope that you achieve it. Some \$1.25 million a year has been promised for problem gambling initiatives, including early education, Independent Gaming Authority funding and licensed clubs initiatives; and \$0.25 million has been promised for the Multicultural Communities Council and Multicultural Grant Scheme. Total community investment promised by the Labor government is costed at \$4.5 million extra per year. So, we can see that the promises are starting to mount up.

Labor has promised \$2 million to reopen Sturt Street Primary School (that will be interesting), plus \$0.1 million recurrent for its upkeep (it is good to see how taxpayers' money is spent), and an additional \$2 million for facilities to upgrade our schools; \$1 million a year more for security upgrades; \$0.5 million for a priority schools unit; \$1 million for school service officers hours; \$1 million a year for 14 primary school counsellors; \$0.8 million a year for student support officers (that is, speech pathology, behavioural problems, etc.); \$0.05 million for education software programs initiatives; and \$11.78 million for 203 new teachers, 160 ordinary and 43 specialist (that is on top of the 12 per cent increase that they have just received); \$1 million a year for the expansion of professional development opportunities for teachers; \$2 million a year for computers in schools; \$1 million a year for teachers' IT training; \$0.125 million to assist schools with high truancy rates (one wonders whether, instead of providing money to round up truants, the Labor government will investigate and address the underlying causes of truancy); and \$2 million a year for a 10 per cent cut in TAFE fees.

I do not know whether honourable members have had any experience with what has been happening with respect to TAFE fees over the past few years, but it is now very expensive to send a child to TAFE. It was my understanding that TAFE was going to be a low cost entry type educational institution, but some of the courses now are as expensive, if not more expensive, than a university education.

The way in which TAFE fees have been bumped up over the years is outrageous. What sticks in my craw even more is that, with respect to a whole range of subjects, employers expect people to have a TAFE qualification as an entrance to apply for a job—not dissimilar to the older days when, if a person did not have matriculation, their application for a job would not be accepted. For example, in the information technology area, it costs as much, if not more, to study information technology at TAFE than it does at university. So, after spending three years at TAFE and paying something like \$25 000 for the course fees, if someone then wanted to switch to university, they would find that they would be lucky if they gave them a year's status, which would have cost about \$14 000 to obtain. That is one promise that I hope the Labor government keeps—that we are able to see a 10 per cent cut in TAFE fees.

I urge the government to look at the exponential way in which TAFE fees have increased over the past few years. In the good old days people used to be able to go to the Institute of Technology or the Department of Mines and Energy, and it would not matter whether they were on a pension benefit, they could still afford to pay the fees to send their children to

study there. Now it can cost \$1 000 to send a child to study gardening at TAFE. The fees are a disgrace. I do not know where their high fees are coming from. Maybe there is too much feather bedding in TAFE. Maybe it should be a bit like the old arguments that we used for the police force—that we want more police officers on the road monitoring crime. I think the problem we have at TAFE is that there are too few people delivering classes and too many people sitting around in offices twiddling their thumbs wondering what to do. I think that has a lot to do with why our TAFE fees have increased exponentially over the past few years.

The Hon. P. Holloway: I think the Feds have withdrawn a bit of support, too.

The Hon. T.G. CAMERON: That may be the case. But this \$2 million a year for a 10 per cent cut in TAFE fees will not allow too many more children from working class families at Salisbury and Elizabeth to be able to afford to pay the current rates. They are outrageously expensive. This is from a party to which I used to belong and which supported free education. I can still remember opposing the right wing and the centre left at the 1988 Labor conference, I think it was, when they introduced fees for universities.

Labor has promised to increase school retention rates from 56 per cent to 90 per cent. I notice that it very cleverly did not put a time frame on that. I hope it uses the same formula to calculate its success or failure at the end of its term as it did to discover the 56 per cent retention rate. We all remember Bob Hawke's promise that no child will live in poverty. This sounds a little like a Bob Hawke promise. Labor will increase the school retention rate from 56 per cent to 90 per cent. I put it to you that that is a stupid promise, anyway, and it does not match. We saw that during the late 1980s and the 1990s, where parents somehow or other were conned by politicians into believing that the quality of education that their children received was directly related to the size of the class.

I am not indicating that it is not a factor, but it is only one factor, and it then became a very blunt cudgel which was, I believe, used to bludgeon governments into taking their eye off what were some of the real priorities for education and focusing purely and simply on a couple of statistics—that is, what is the average class size and what is the retention rate coming out from our high schools? Education is a little more complicated than that. I wish Labor success with its rates, and I can assure the Hon. Paul Holloway that, prior to the next election, I will be having a close look at that issue to see how close it gets to that 90 per cent rate.

Labor has promised a five year economic plan, which sounds pretty familiar. It will work in partnership with community, business, unions and the research and education sector to develop a shared vision for economic development. Well, I think I have read that promise over the past four or five elections.

Regarding transport, within 12 months Labor has promised to draft a strategic transport plan to ensure integrated transport services delivery. I await this plan with great enthusiasm. We were also promised by the previous Liberal government that we would get an integrated, coordinated state transport plan. We were waiting for almost 10 years, and I do not think—

The Hon. Diana Laidlaw: We did do the agenda.

The Hon. T.G. CAMERON: You drew up the agenda—did you ever release the plan? If Labor has promised to draft a strategic transport plan within 12 months, then I hope it delivers on it.

The Hon. Diana Laidlaw: I trust it will be funded as well.

The Hon. T.G. CAMERON: The honourable member interjects that she hopes that it will be funded. We have the Hons Paul Holloway and Kevin Holy, sorry, Kevin Foley—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. T.G. CAMERON: That was accidental—it was not deliberate. You might think it fits, but it was accidental. We will see how close we go to achieving some of these plans. I note that the previous Liberal government was able to significantly increase the patronage of our public transport system. I suspect that had a little bit to do—and I support them—with the more stringent measures the Liberal government introduced to monitor who was paying and who was not.

I look forward to reviewing and working with the government to deliver on this promise in a responsible and viable way. Labor has also promised to redirect all revenue raised from anti-speeding devices, including speed cameras and laser guns, into the road and community safety fund. That would not be too difficult to implement. I can see that the Hon. Paul Holloway is smiling and nodding, which indicates that the government is already on to this one. We shall wait and see. The government stated that this fund will allocate funding to road safety projects and policing and that it will table an annual statement in parliament providing a breakdown of how much is in the fund. I refer to revenue sources and expenditure on road safety programs.

I can only hope the new police minister speaks to the police to ensure that speed cameras are redirected away from main arterial roads and placed on accident black spots, which is where the accidents are occurring. It is time the hypocrisy ended and speed cameras were used for what they were intended, namely, saving lives and not revenue raising. The government should also consider a far greater emphasis on the use of laser guns by the police. Speeding and dangerous drivers should be stopped on the spot. Simply sending them a fine through the mail a month later may be good for revenue collection, but it does little to put a stop to dangerous driving behaviour.

Since this government came to office I put a question without notice to the police minister asking whether or not the South Australian minister or the South Australian police force would follow recent initiatives in Victoria. I received a very clever answer today. The answer said that the South Australian police force is not considering any of these initiatives. Perhaps the police minister could consider the second part of my question, namely, whether he or the government is considering the matter. By raising the matter now it will save me having to ask another question without notice. Once again, Labor can look forward to my active and thorough participation in this process of accountability.

Labor has also promised to freeze the issuing of extra taxi plates in South Australia for the next four years and will extend by 12 months, to February 2003, the moratorium for the mandatory installation of security cameras in taxis. I note that the government's outrage and rhetoric at the unfortunate attack that took place on a South Australian taxi driver was not matched by any offers to assist the industry with the mandatory installation of security cameras in taxis. As the recent spate of attacks on taxi drivers demonstrates, urgent action is required. I do not know whether cameras, screens or other methods are required to ensure that taxi drivers can go about their work without the threat of violence.

Labor has promised to establish a youth conservation corps and to issue an extra \$1 million a year for the existing conservation corps. It would develop an integrated water management strategy for metropolitan Adelaide to reduce water diversions from Adelaide's water supply from the river by 50 per cent over the next 20 years. It has promised to publish yearly environmental priorities and progress reports. It has set a target to reduce energy consumption in government buildings by 15 per cent. There is no time frame, but it is a notable promise anyway. It has also set a 5 per cent purchasing target of green energy by government departments, and \$100 000 towards heritage meeting initiatives has been promised.

I refer now to industry, science and technology. Labor has said that it will ensure that all South Australians have access to online services, and it has promised to increase the number of government services available online, which currently stands at 60 per cent. Will it be upgrading and rebuilding existing online services so the internet becomes South Australia's 24 hour link to its government?

Labor has also promised to hold monthly community cabinet meetings across the state. We will see how long they last. Every minister and department head will be required to make themselves available for community consultation at these cabinet meetings and any member of the public can seek a representation with government on any issue or concern. On the surface it is a good idea, although I am a little concerned about the possible cost.

The new government has announced a raft of inquiries and hired a number of consultants to look into a variety of issues. It was my understanding that the \$100 million a year that the Liberal government was wasting on consultancies would be slashed and reduced, but 20 reviews and inquiries into state government programs and legislation have been announced.

The Hon. Caroline Schaefer: Twenty and rising.

The Hon. T.G. CAMERON: Yes, 20 and rising daily. One can only assume that, if the government is not going to hire consultants, it is going to use public servants to conduct these reviews. I can understand how you could get away with using internal public servants to conduct an internal review of their own operations and it will come about if you refuse to employ consultants to conduct independent objective assessments or reviews. However, the government has got itself into a bit of a cleft stick if it is going to continue announcing reviews and inquiries at the rate it has been, yet refusing to employ outside or external consultants or people to work on these. Let us look at some of these reviews.

The Hon. P. Holloway interjecting:

The Hon. T.G. CAMERON: The Hon. Paul Holloway interjects. There is some hypocrisy there. It all sounds very good in an election promise: 'We will save \$100 million and will not employ any consultants.' We had better look closely at the end of the year at how many consultants it does employ. I will be watching very closely one firm of consultants to see whether or not it is employed. In referring to the reviews announced so far, I am sorry if I have not included the latest reviews announced as I concluded this speech only two or three days ago and we have probably announced a few more reviews since then.

The ones I have caught up with so far include: the government radio network, the North Terrace redevelopment, the Entertainment Centre, the regional development boards, HomeStart, the Housing Trust, the Woomera detention centre, outsourcing contracts, industry and trade, the National Wine Centre, the Adelaide Festival, child protection, public

transport, industrial relations, racing, the Murray River, the EPA, Partnerships 21 and freedom of information, to name just a few. If we announce too many more reviews we will be able to prorogue parliament for six months whilst we wait for the outcomes of all these reviews so that we can get back to work again!

The Hon. G.E. Gago: Which review don't you support, Terry?

The Hon. T.G. CAMERON: The Hon. Gail Gago interjects and wants to know which review I do not support. It may be surprising to her that I do not have a particular view on supporting or opposing any of these reviews, but I thank her for her interjection, because she gives me an opportunity to reply. The government so far has announced more than 20 reviews and inquiries. I inform the Hon. Gail Gago, who is only new to this place, that a review or inquiry is not a substitute for action and answers. Only time will tell how long this list of reviews that has been announced is going to take, and how many more there will be. I notice that the government has now changed it—it is now talking about conducting assessments rather than reviews.

The Hon. Diana Laidlaw interjecting:

The Hon. T.G. CAMERON: Yes, even that. But I make the point—and I am focusing on this for the Hon. Gail Gago's information—that the government should be consistent. Voters have had enough of politicians playing political games and one-upmanship. What they would like is for a government to play it straight, honest and, where necessary, to take the tough decisions. If decisions have to be made, then make them—don't skirt around the issue and conduct a review.

I would be very interested, and I intend to put questions on notice at a later date, in asking the government to conduct a calculation as to how much these reviews cost. If the government is going to conduct a review, or an inquiry, or an assessment, or whatever other word it wants to use in avoiding having to make a decision now, then it ought to be costed, particularly if we are going to have the open, transparent and fully accountable government that I have been hearing—whispering across the radio waves during the election campaign and ever since.

If we are going to have honest, open, transparent and accountable government then the government in announcing all of these reviews should be prepared, once they are concluded and once they hand down their grandiose statements, to state how much they cost. The indications that I see here are that the government has already committed South Australia to somewhere between \$10 million and \$20 million worth of reviews; unless they are not going to be proper reviews but shams conducted by a few public servants who happen to be on the ministers' payroll. People are not stupid. They understand outside forces and events. Sometimes these events force governments to change their priorities. However, they do want politicians to be aboveboard and they do want them to explain the need for such change.

I also make the point that it is all very well to announce a review but if the government is going to keep announcing these reviews, and the government is not prepared at the end of the review to give an approximate cost for conducting that review, then I would indicate to the government that, whether it be 12 months or two years down the track, it would be appropriate for this place to set up a legislative select committee to investigate the actual cost of conducting these reviews. It is all very well as a throwaway line in front of the TV cameras to announce that you are going to conduct a

review because you have not got the answers to whatever the problems are.

The Hon. P. Holloway interjecting:

The Hon. T.G. CAMERON: Well, if they are only very quick reviews it should be very quick for the government to work out how much it costs. I sat behind the Hon. Paul Holloway for some six years and he was constantly attacking the government for lack of accountability and lack of transparency, and in fact just about anything he could have a go at them about, if they were not forthcoming with information. I do not expect the Hon. Paul Holloway to respond, but as a previous shadow minister for finance—and somebody whom I thought would have made a good minister for finance in a Labor government—I would be very interested in what his views are on this, as to whether or not he thinks that any government, whether it be Labor or Liberal, should willy-nilly announce that it is going to conduct reviews into this, that and everything else. More often than not it is just playing politics, anyway. Mr President, you are not allowed to interject. You are in the President's chair now. If you interject, I will take a point of order.

The PRESIDENT: I was just clearing my throat.

The Hon. T.G. CAMERON: You were just clearing your throat. I apologise. I would have thought that this was something that the Hon. Paul Holloway would support—accountability and transparency. If we are to conduct a far-ranging inquiry into, for example, industrial relations or the racing industry, at the end we should be able to give taxpayers some idea of the cost, and I think you would receive bouquets from the voters if you did.

Premier Rann says his government is fully committed to financial responsibility and balanced budgets. I believe the council's role over the next four years will be to hold both him and the government accountable for that promise. The Premier has said that Labor's election commitments will not require additional taxes, although, as is often the case after an election, the ink was hardly dry on the Governor's proclamation when we saw the Treasurer (Hon. Kevin Foley) attempting to build a case to state that the previous government had lied about its budgetary position. That is not a new trick; just about every incoming government claims that the former government fiddled the books, etc.

If I could give some advice to the Hon. Kevin Foley, I suggest that he should be very careful with any extravagant statement about the previous government's performance. There is a man sitting in this place called Robert Lucas who will reply, no doubt, if Mr Foley has that wrong.

On behalf of the government, Mike Rann has promised to provide a competitive taxation environment for small business. If Premier Rann and his government fail South Australians in regard to economic management, they will be held accountable at the next election. New governments enjoy a honeymoon period, and this government is no exception, and I guess that is fair enough; how long it lasts will depend on how well the government fulfils its promises to the people of South Australia, particularly in relation to transparency and accountability.

Having been elected, the government should be provided an opportunity to implement its promises. We who are independent of the major parties should be vigilant in monitoring its progress, and certainly over its term SA First and I will be vigilant in our responsibility to hold the government accountable to fulfil its promises, particularly in relation to transparency.

The Hon. J.F. STEFANI: I support the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply and commend Her Excellency the Governor of South Australia, Mrs Marjorie Jackson-Nelson, for her speech in opening this session of parliament. I congratulate Her Excellency on her appointment as Governor of South Australia and wish her a rewarding term in office. I acknowledge the contribution of the former Governor of our state, Sir Eric Neal, and Lady Neal, and I pay tribute to their tireless work as they discharged their many vice-regal duties. I express to them both my personal appreciation and the thanks of many multicultural community groups, including the South Australian Migration Museum, for their support and dedication, and I wish them well in their retirement.

It is with sadness that I note the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, and the sole remaining Anzac, Mr Alec Campbell, the last of the Australian diggers who fought in Gallipoli. I express my condolences to the families of the former members of parliament who have died recently. I also take this opportunity to pay a special tribute to the staff of the Legislative Council for the professional assistance which they provide to all members of this chamber.

In noting the death of Mr Campbell, I acknowledge the importance of Anzac Day, which is held on 25 April each year. Since 1915, this day in the year has involved the whole of Australia in solemn ceremonies of remembrance, gratitude and national pride. Australia as a nation pauses to remember this day because 25 April 1915 was the day when Australia faced the supreme test of quality and courage—the landing on the beach at Gallipoli by the Australian and New Zealand soldiers. It was very pleasing to see so many people participate in this year's remembrance day ceremonies, taking the opportunity to express sincere gratitude to all the men and women who have helped keep our country free from invasion since 1915. From my experience, the dawn service at the War Memorial is always a very moving ceremony, because as a community we acknowledge our debt to those who have fallen, and in particular to the families who have lost their relatives, to protect our way of life.

Now I would like to say a few words about some of the future challenges we face as a community and as a state. The Murray River system is under enormous pressure and urgent action is required to tackle the salinity and water quality problems in order to achieve the sustainable use of this precious water resource. The South Australian government must work to develop strategies at state and national levels to ensure that we meet the targets of a salinity reduction plan and achieve adequate environmental flows of water for the Murray River system. The state government must continue to take a forceful interest in this important national issue in order to protect the quality, quantity and rights to the waters of the Murray River. Priority planning must also be undertaken to protect water quality in our catchment areas, particularly in the Mount Lofty Ranges, and plans should be implemented for the management and better allocation of water resources across the state.

South Australia is facing a growing ageing population and, as a consequence, there will be greater demand for health services by many of our senior citizens who have worked hard for most of their life and who are entitled to receive quality health care services. Nursing home beds and other mental health services will be under increasing pressure as more people become severely affected by coronary heart disease, cancers, stroke and depression. The state government must give careful consideration to providing adequate

funding in order to achieve improved health facilities and services and, where necessary, redistribute the necessary resources to meet the increased demand and needs of the community, including those in country areas.

Another important priority faced by the new government will be our future energy supplies and pricing structure. We are all aware that an effective and competitive electricity system was expected through the restructure of the national electricity market. Unfortunately, to date, our efforts through the Council of Australian Governments at a national level have not significantly improved our position in relation to the cost of electricity to consumers, as well as a better and more competitive source of electricity supply for the next summer season. Considering the greenhouse effect and the cost of generating electricity from fossil fuel, the Labor government must give urgent consideration to developing strategies which will encourage our community to reduce energy consumption and implement plans to increase the generation of alternative and renewable energy.

I have mentioned only a few of the many challenges facing the government. We all know that many other important issues and decisions will test the ability of the new Labor government to deliver on its promises and to administer the affairs of the state in a manner that will achieve progress, fairness and benefits for all South Australians. Before concluding my remarks, I acknowledge the heavy burden borne by all South Australians who have paid and are

still paying an enormous price for the calamitous debacle of the State Bank. That period will go down in history as a time of total irresponsibility and incompetence. It was a time during which the people who were in charge of our money and who were required to safeguard the public interest acted like lunatics and threw our money around as if there were no tomorrow.

Through their actions they wrote off and destroyed a substantial part of the state's wealth which had been carefully accumulated by the hard work of a generation of South Australians. As a community, we have worked hard to overcome the crippling effects of the state debt, and in the process we have forfeited the ownership of many public assets. After a long period of time and hardship, South Australia is now experiencing a high level of confidence and great economic growth. I sincerely hope that the Labor government will make every effort to nurture and encourage a strong partnership with all South Australians to continue to work together so that we may reduce our debt further and create a sound financial base for future generations. I support the motion.

The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY secured the adjournment of the debate.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.52 p.m. the council adjourned until Tuesday 28 May at 2.15 p.m.