

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Monday 8 July 2002

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

## SUPPLY BILL

Her Excellency the Governor, by message, assented to the bill.

## QUESTIONS

The **PRESIDENT**: I direct that written answers to the following questions, as detailed in the schedule I now table, be distributed and printed in *Hansard*: Nos 3, 4, 11, 15 and 18.

## ELLIS, Mr B.

3. The **Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW**: Is Mr. Bob Ellis providing any advisory or consultancy role to the Premier and Minister for the Arts and/or Arts SA, and if so:

1. What is the role?
2. Why has he been engaged?
3. What are the terms of his engagement?
4. What meetings has he attended to date, and with whom?

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

Mr Bob Ellis has been appointed to the board of the South Australian International Film Festival and is providing speechwriting services to the office of the Premier as he did to the previous leader of the opposition.

Mr Ellis is highly regarded as a writer, journalist, playwright, radio and television presenter and as a screenwriter and director of major feature films. Mr Ellis has won four AFI Awards, four AWGIES (Australian Writers' Guild Awards), a Critic's Circle Award, a Sammy and two NSW State Literary Awards for Best Screenplay, two Cook Bicentennial Awards for Best Play and one NSW Premier's Award for Best Miniseries. He wrote *Newsfront*, regarded by some as Australia's best film. He was a committee member for ten years of the National Playwrights' Conference and for four years of the Sydney Writers' Festival. He has written regular film reviews for thirty-one years in *Nation Review*, *The National Times* and *Encore*. He has been nominated this year for best magazine columnist by the Australian Magazine Publishers

Association for his regular contributions to *HQ*. In an extraordinary tribute, a speech that he co-wrote on the events of September 11th has been read aloud to the US Congress. He has published four books on politics, one on economics and three collections of essays and speeches. He has provided speechwriting services to a number of political leaders including the Premier of New South Wales, the Hon. Bob Carr.

Mr Ellis will receive no payment for his Film Board membership other than payment of travel costs. His speech writing services are anticipated to cost a maximum of \$30 000pa excluding any travel related costs. I understand different and much more expensive speechwriting arrangements were made by previous Premiers. I have asked for a summary of the payments for speechwriting services provided by Ms Alex Kennedy for the Olsen government. The new Labor government will substantially save taxpayers funds related to speechwriting given that the Premier writes many of his own speeches.

Mr Ellis has attended, and will continue to attend, various meetings associated with his membership of the Film Festival Board, with my staff and with me in connection with his speechwriting services for the Office of the Premier.

## WATER SUPPLY, PRESCRIBED WELLS AREAS

4. The **Hon. A.J. REDFORD**:

1. In relation to each of the Lacepede Kongarong Prescribed Wells Area, Naracoorte Ranges Prescribed Wells Area, Padthaway Prescribed Wells Area and the Comaum/Caroline Prescribed Wells Area, for the 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001 financial years and the period to date:

- (a) How many licensees applied to transfer the water licence to another person, another licensee or to the minister pursuant to section 38 of the Water Resources Act;
- (b) How many applications were granted;
- (c) How many applications were refused;
- (d) How often has the minister reduced the water allocation of the transferred licence in granting applications;
- (e) How much was paid, or was to be paid, in respect of each such application;
- (f) How many appeals were lodged to the Environment, Resources and Development Court; and
- (g) What were the results of the appeals?

2. When will the water allocation plans for the Comaum Caroline, Lacepede, Kongarong, Naracoorte Ranges, Padthaway and Tatiara Prescribed Wells Areas be placed on the South East Catchment Water Management Board website?

The **Hon. T.G. ROBERTS**: The Minister for Environment and Conservation has advised:

(a), (b) and (c) The following table details the number of applications to transfer water licences and water allocations that were received, and then granted or refused, in the Lacepede Kongarong, Naracoorte Ranges, Padthaway and Comaum Caroline Prescribed Wells Areas for the last five years.

		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
Lacepede-Kongorong	Received	4	7	18	45	89
	Granted	4	7	18	45	88
	Refused	0	0	0	0	1
Naracoorte Ranges	Received	40	39	49	50	57
	Granted	39	36	45	47	56
Padthaway	Received	1	3	4	3	1
	Granted	6	9	6	15	11
	Refused	6	9	5	12	11
Comaum Caroline	Received	0	0	1	3	0
	Granted	20	23	33	48	49
	Refused	19	21	30	44	43
	Refused	1	2	3	4	6

(d) No water allocations have been reduced on any water transfers in the South-East. There have been no provisions requiring reductions in allocations on transfer in any of the relevant water allocation plans.

(e) Application fees for the transfer of a water licence or allocation were as follows:

1997-98	\$200-00
1998-99	\$209-00
1999-2000	\$214-00
2000-2001	\$220-00
2001-2002	\$227-00

(f) During the specified period a total of 38 appeals, pursuant to

Section 142 of the Water Resources Act 1997, were lodged with the Environment, Resources and Development Court. Three of these appeals involved water allocation transfers.

- (g) Two of these water transfer appeals were withdrawn and the third is still before the court.

2. The South-East Catchment Water Management Board has advised that there have been technical problems associated with placing the water allocation plans on their website but they should be available within the next two weeks.

### TEACHERS, ASSAULTS

11. **The Hon. T.G. CAMERON:** How many teachers have been assaulted by students for the years:

1. 1999;
2. 2000; and
3. 2001?

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

The department's database tracks all 'physical assault and harassment' accident/incidents reports against teachers and other staff. Data is not recorded on teachers only. The database does not identify the perpetrator of the incidents, ie. students, parents, intruders, other staff.

Year	Number of reports
1998-99	206
1999-2000	547
2000-01	541
2001-02 to 31 March	449

A detailed analysis, undertaken as part of a masters research program, of 221 incidents of physical assault and harassment in 2000-01 indicates that 54 per cent of these were assaults on teachers by students.

The department is negotiating with the Office for the Commissioner for Public Employment to develop a more comprehensive accident and incident recording and reporting system for the whole of Government which will improve the department's capacity to generate detailed reports.

### SPEEDING OFFENCES

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

1. How many motorists were caught speeding in South Australia between 1 October 2001 and 31 December 2001 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. Between 1 October 2001 and 31 December 2001 the following number of motorists were caught speeding in South Australia by:

Speed Cameras	76 663
Laser Guns	No Separate data available
Other means	13 448

for the following speed categories (relates to speed camera offences only, and to a variety of speed limits and speed zones):

60—69 km/h	491
70—79 km/h	56 862
80—89 km/h	5 112
90—99 km/h	5 609
100—109 km/h	2 154
110 kmh and over	2 427
Unknown	17

2. Revenue raised from speeding fines in South Australia for each of these percentiles was:

Speed Cameras	\$8 892 759
Laser guns	No data available to match question
Other Means	\$1 895 474

### SA WATER

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

1. (a) What is SA Water official policy for late payment of accounts; and  
(b) How is it implemented?
2. How much revenue was collected by SA Water as a result of fees of late payment of accounts for the years:
  - (a) 1998-1999;
  - (b) 1999-2000; and
  - (c) 2000-2001?
3. What criteria is used by SA Water to set the rate for late fees on payment of accounts?

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY:** The Minister for Government Enterprises has provided the following information:

1. (a) The charge was first implemented 25 June 1998 and came into operation 1 July 1998. Within Regulation 29 of the Waterworks Act (1932) and Regulation 36 of the Sewerage Act (1929), there is a provision to 'charge for additional administrative cost in relation to a charge or other amount due under these regulations but not paid by the date for payment in the notice served on the person liable'. The charge for the 2001-2002 financial year is currently \$6.00.  
(b) The SA Water Corporation billing system charges the overdue payment fee 2 (two) days after the due date of the final notice. There are circumstances whereby this charge is not raised:
  - Pensioner
  - Concession
  - SAHT (South Australian Housing Trust)
  - Payment arrangement
  - Returned account
  - Correspondence in
  - Balance deferred
  - Accounts with balances under \$31.25.

Only one overdue payment fee of \$6.00 will apply per quarter. Requests for the fee to be waived can be made at the discretion of the call centre supervisor, but the ultimate responsibility rests with the credit manager.

2. The 'Overdue Payment Fees' collected following late payment of accounts were:

(a) 1998—1998	\$223 050
(b) 1999—2000	\$326 864
(c) 2000—2001	\$375 620

3. A late fee of \$5.00 for overdue accounts was approved by cabinet in June 1998.

The charge for the 2001-2002 financial year is currently \$6.00. The late fee would not be charged in respect of overdue mains contribution accounts as they currently pay interest, or to pensioners who are given approval to defer payment of rates. Customer impact is minimal given that customers can choose to pay their bills on time. Introduction of this fee would also ensure customers paying their bills promptly would not be subsidising those customers requiring additional recovery procedure. In the event of customers experiencing financial difficulties or extenuating circumstances, customers can apply to the manager billing to cash for relief.

## QUESTION TIME

### TEACHERS, ENTERPRISE BARGAIN

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Leader of the Opposition):** I seek leave to make an explanation prior to asking the minister representing the Minister for Industrial Relations a question about the teachers' enterprise agreement.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** The subject of the teachers' enterprise agreement, in particular the cost of that agreement and its impact on the budget, has been an important issue for debate in both houses and publicly over recent weeks. My questions to the Minister for Industrial Relations relate to

various claims as to the total cost of the final agreement, which has now been reached with the Australian Education Union. Mr John Gregory, who is the President of the AEU, in the background material published in the teachers' journal of 5 June but which was available on the AEU web site for a number of days prior to the final vote of teachers in relation to whether or not they should accept the government offer, said:

This package is worth a little over a third of that—about \$240 million. In the circumstances, it represents a realistic start by a new and nervous government.

The Treasurer in another place—

*The Hon. P. Holloway interjecting:*

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** I was quoting John Gregory. If you want to abuse somebody, don't abuse me; abuse John Gregory. The Treasurer in another place on a number of occasions, but in particular, according to *Hansard*, in the House of Assembly on 28 May, claimed that the three year cost of the teachers' EB is not \$240 million but is actually \$335 million and he, of course, went on to accuse the former government of not having provided all the money for the settlement that the new government had arrived at with the AEU.

Then the most extraordinary of all claims was made by the Minister for Industrial Relations on ABC Radio on 13 June in an interview with Matthew Abraham and David Bevan. He said that the final bill for the three year agreement was about \$633 million. Whilst one can understand, maybe, debate, if you are a Labor minister, about \$240 million and \$335 million for a three year agreement, to have the Minister for Industrial Relations introduce a new figure of \$633 million is certainly out of the ballpark for all previous debate about the total cost of the enterprise bargaining. Some observers have noted that potentially the minister has just got it wrong completely. My questions are:

1. Can the minister definitively provide the council with the three year cost of the teachers' enterprise agreement? Is it the \$240 million as Mr John Gregory advised teachers and members of the AEU; is it \$335 million as Mr Foley advised parliament; or is it \$633 million as Mr Foley advised ABC Radio listeners?

2. Will the minister outline the impact of the teachers' enterprise agreement on the budget for the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 and, in particular, will he provide a breakdown of the particular items within the teachers' enterprise agreement in salary and non-salary items, including as much detail as can be provided of the non-salary items?

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

#### CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

**The Hon. R.D. LAWSON:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, representing the Attorney-General, a question on the subject of the Constitutional Convention.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. R.D. LAWSON:** On 22 June 2002 in the *Advertiser* there appeared an advertisement for four officers to 'assist the Speaker of the House of Assembly to facilitate constitutional and parliamentary reform'. The four officers are: a media liaison officer to provide advice and expertise in media issues in relation to the Speaker of the House—it's a big job this one, Mr President—and respond in a timely

manner to daily media inquiries; a senior project officer to provide support, advice and assistance to the Speaker on 'a wide range of corporate, management, operational and policy issues'; an administrative officer to provide administrative support service to the office; and a senior legal officer to provide advice and support on constitutional and parliamentary reform. The notice goes on to say that successful applicants for the positions will be employees of the justice portfolio reporting to the Speaker of the House of Assembly. My questions to the Attorney and Minister for Justice are:

1. Have any persons been appointed to the above positions?

2. At what salary and other conditions?

3. Who was responsible for the selection and what was the selection process for these appointments?

4. Given that the successful applicants are to be employees of the justice portfolio, what executive or management oversight will the Minister for Justice exercise in relation to these employees?

5. From what budget line are these officers to be paid?

6. As the brief description of the duties of each of the officers only provides that the legal officer will be strictly concerned with constitutional and parliamentary reform, will the minister assure the parliament that the media liaison officer, the senior project officer and the administrative officer will not be available to the Speaker for purposes other than those related to the Constitutional Convention?

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

#### GOVERNMENT, PERFORMANCE

**The Hon. CAROLINE SCHAEFER:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries a question about the first 100 days of the Labor government.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. CAROLINE SCHAEFER:** Over the past few weeks there has been quite a lot of publicity in the *Advertiser* and on the radio with regard to the first 100 days of the Labor government—its achievements and how well it has settled in—and there were quite a number of statements from the Premier. There was also a score-card on the abilities of the new ministers, and it deeply saddened me to see that neither of the upper house ministers rated a mention, let alone a score. Will the minister outline for us what for him, other than the removal of the livelihoods of 30 river fishers, are the highlights and major achievements of his first 100 days in office?

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY (Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries):** There have indeed been a number of achievements by the government right across the board in all portfolios. In relation to the Agriculture, Food and Fisheries portfolio in particular, I would have thought that one of the biggest highlights was that in collaboration with some of my colleagues we were able to announce the funding of the plant genomic centre.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY:** No, you didn't do it: what the previous government did was to leave South Australia in a bankrupt state. That government cut the budget funding beyond 30 June this year in a whole range of important areas. When the budget is brought down this Thursday the members

of this council will see that this government has had a particularly difficult task because of the incompetence of the previous government and the way it left the budget. One of the priorities of all members of this government has been to try to repair that damage and—to give an example in my portfolio—to try to deal with the fact that there would have been no funds at all to expand the aquaculture program.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY:** Well, sadly it's true. There would have been no funding whatsoever to fund aquaculture, because the funding ended on 30 June. There would have been no money for the TEISA after 30 June, or for NHT funding, and there are a number of other problems. Certainly, one of the main targets for this new government has been dealing with that crisis in financing that was left to us by the previous government. Notwithstanding that, this government has been able to achieve a number of things. We were finally able to bring to a close the new wheat breeding program, which had been hanging around for many months under the previous government and, as a result of that, an extra \$1 million a year will go into wheat breeding.

As I have said, we were able to finalise the funding in relation to the plant genomic centre. We have had the first meeting of the new Food Council and we announced that this program will now be called Food South Australia. It will take some new directions in relation to promoting the food program in regional areas.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY:** As my colleague has reminded me, of course, this government has also had to deal with the problems we inherited in relation to the wine centre. As a result of changes to the wine centre, I believe we can look forward—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY:** As a result of that, under the new management of the wine centre, there is every chance that the wine centre will be able to move forward and promote the interests of this state, which is more than it would have done under the mess left to us by the Treasurer who is now interjecting.

One of the key announcements made by the government just last week was the Premier's launching of the new program for the dairy industry aimed at doubling production of the dairy industry by the year 2010. The government will certainly be working on delivering that plan over the next few years. In relation to aquaculture, as I have said, this government has been busy appointing the appropriate advisory committees and other boards necessary for the implementation of the act to enable the aquaculture industry to grow in this state. If it had been left in the chaotic state it was in under the previous government in terms of the budget allocation, it would have ground to a halt. In its first 100 days, this government in a number of areas across all portfolios has made significant achievements, and it will continue to do so over the next few years.

#### AGRICULTURE, US FARM BILL

**The Hon. G.E. GAGO:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries a question on the US Farm Bill.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. G.E. GAGO:** The latest US Farm Bill was signed by the American President on 13 May 2002. As the council would be aware, each farm bill sets down determina-

tions for policy settings and guidelines for administration of support arrangements and other agricultural-related issues, such as trade. South Australian farmers have to compete with American farmers on the world market for export dollars. As a result of this bill, it would appear that they have been disadvantaged right from the start. Can the minister briefly explain the main elements of the US Farm Bill and outline what he believes will be the likely affect on South Australian farmers?

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY (Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries):** I thank the honourable member for her question, because the impacts of the US Farm Bill could indeed be very damaging for this country and for this state in particular. It is of considerable regret that farmers in this country have to continually face these sorts of threats on the trade front every few years.

It is my understanding that the US passes a new farm bill every five to seven years. The previous Farm Bill was passed in 1996. This proposed bill is a very costly one adding some \$83 billion in new spending above the cost of applying the 1996 bill to bring the estimated 10-year cost to \$US180 billion. Although the bill will be renewed after six years, it is my understanding that US farm bills are always costed over a 10-year period. The main elements of this bill that are of concern to South Australian farmers are those involving support to farm crop producers, particularly wheat pulses and feed grains as well as dairy farmers. It is in those areas that this bill could potentially be the most damaging.

The bill puts in place an additional layer of support that varies counter cyclical with market prices for farm program crops. For example, when world market prices drop, support increases and vice versa. So, consequently, US farmers now face unit returns that are almost completely insulated from world market prices, the reverse of what one might expect from US rhetoric on this matter. In real terms, the supported prices—or target prices—are above those that would have applied under the previous bill, hence the increase in the total cost of outlays with this new bill.

The bill provides signals for US farmers to plant more of the supported crops and to use more inputs to increase yields. They can now have even greater confidence than previously that, if they produce more, they will be able to obtain even larger government payments from the further updating of their historical base in future farm bills.

The bill is likely to make it harder to achieve a positive outcome in the present World Trade Organisation negotiations on agriculture, thus further disadvantaging our local farmers. The nature and provisions in the 2002 bill make estimation of the dollar effects on South Australian farmers and on their returns on affected commodities highly speculative. The fixed and counter-cyclical payments for farm program crops in particular are paid on the basis that they do not reflect current areas, yields or production; hence, the linkages that usually apply for estimating the consequences of US support arrangements on markets and prices cannot be relied upon.

The new linkages will be developed as prices and markets are monitored over coming years. However, what is clear is that the new US trade policies will have an even greater depressing effect on world market prices than the previous bill. I am not sure—

*The Hon. Diana Laidlaw interjecting:*

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY:** Exactly. I think it is a pity that members of the federal government could not have done a little more when they were over in the US.

*The Hon. A.J. Redford interjecting:*

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY:** Well, I think my colleague Mark Latham used colourful language to describe how the Prime Minister performed in relation to getting a better deal for the farmers of this country. I think it is a great pity that honourable members opposite did not do a little more to support our local farmers against what are clearly quite disastrous implications as a result of this new US measure.

#### DRUGS SUMMIT

**The Hon. M.J. ELLIOTT:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Leader of the Government in this place, representing the Premier, a question about the Drugs Summit.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. M.J. ELLIOTT:** I was a delegate at the Drugs Summit held the week before last. I note that a large number of delegates, when they first arrived, were somewhat cynical about how it might turn out, but, as the week progressed, the mood changed considerably. The mood changed again in about the last hour and a half when a series of recommendations were considered. For those who did not attend, it was a strange set-up. There were, I think, 25 recommendations put to the conference for voting, and you were asked to strongly endorse, moderately endorse, weakly endorse or totally oppose each recommendation, and there was a show of hands.

Of the 25 motions that came before the conference, 24 were overwhelmingly supported and strongly supported. One particular motion—and many of them were in up to 10 parts—had a subclause relating to the hydroponic growing of cannabis. As it turned out, that was the only part of that whole motion that was spoken against by any delegate, and this was the only motion that was not overwhelmingly or strongly endorsed by the whole conference, except for one later one, but I will explain that in a moment.

**The Hon. Diana Laidlaw:** Is this in a question that you will explain that?

**The Hon. M.J. ELLIOTT:** Just for understanding, yes. You can ask me a question if you like and I will answer it for you. As it turned out, I do not have the exact numbers at this stage for the voting patterns, but something less than a quarter of the delegates strongly endorsed and less than a quarter moderately endorsed and the greatest number weakly endorsed or opposed this motion. It was quite clear that one part caused some concern to the delegates of the conference, but I cannot debate why, so I will not try. After that motion had been voted on it was discovered that the Premier had held a press conference a hour before the vote was held, announcing that he was putting a total ban on hydroponic cannabis; in other words, the very issue that was being debated on the floor he had run a press conference on an hour before.

I have had delegates ring me saying that they have been going to the web site and the *Hansard* record for day five still has not gone up: they are wondering why that day's *Hansard* record is taking so long to appear. I understand that the recommendations are now being sent to the Social Inclusion Unit, which leads me to my questions:

1. What is the status of the *Hansard* record from day five? Does it have the same status and integrity as the *Hansard* record of the parliament?

2. When will the *Hansard* record from day five become publicly available, including voting figures for the various recommendations?

3. I understand that this material is now being sent to the Social Inclusion Unit for advice to the government. Will the Social Inclusion Unit directly advise the government and will its advice be made publicly available or will the government be able to choose those parts of the advice it wishes to make publicly available?

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY (Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries):** I will refer those questions to the Premier and bring back a reply.

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** By way of supplementary question, is the Social Inclusion Committee to consider or ignore matters that the Premier has already commented upon and in some instances dismissed?

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY:** I am not quite sure what the honourable member is getting at, but I will refer her question to the Social Inclusion Unit. I assume the former minister was referring to the Social Inclusion Unit. I will put that question to the Premier and bring back a reply.

#### INDUSTRY, GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

**The Hon. T.G. CAMERON:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, representing the Treasurer, questions regarding state government industry assistance.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. T.G. CAMERON:** The Victorian government Auditor-General has recommended that the Victorian government publish more details on the public money used to attract investment to avoid suspicion of corruption and waste. The report tabled in state parliament last month found that state and local government bodies in Victoria had handed out \$143 million in assistance over the six years since 1995-96? The report criticised the government for insufficient transparency in the reporting of investment attraction and facilitation programs and stated:

While it is accepted that some level of confidentiality is required in negotiation with companies of direct financial assistance, once those amounts have been determined we see no reason for the public to be denied information relating to progress against agreed milestones and other program outcomes.

The report found that Victoria's investment attraction schemes had been linked to a claimed \$8.3 billion increase in investment in Victoria, but it claimed that outcomes were based on assertions made by recipients at the time the assistance was received and not their actual outcomes. It concluded that insufficient information was being made available to the government and parliament to make informed judgments. My questions to the minister are:

1. Between 1999 and 2002, how much money has the South Australian state government spent on investment attraction and how much investment in dollar terms has this attracted to the state?

2. To enable informed judgment by South Australian taxpayers and to avoid any suspicion of corruption and waste, will the new government publish greater details of the public money used to attract investment to South Australia?

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY (Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries):** I thank the honourable member for his question. Within this state we have an Industries Assistance Committee, which is a subcommittee of the Economic and Finance Committee and which analyses and provides some additional level of scrutiny over industry assistance that may well not be available in other states. I point that out to the

honourable member. As to the specifics of his question, I will pass them onto the Treasurer and bring back a reply.

### WATER SUPPLY, ANDAMOOKA

**The Hon. T.J. STEPHENS:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. T.J. STEPHENS:** On a recent fact-finding tour of the Far North of South Australia, I had the pleasure of meeting with representatives of the Andamooka Progress Association, and I understand that that community has a problem with regard to the sourcing of its water supply. I am told that they are currently planning a route for a pipeline to bring water into the township from Roxby Downs, but there are some problems in gaining the necessary approvals or agreement with representatives of the traditional owners. My questions are:

1. Is the minister aware that the Andamooka community relies on water which has to be carted by road from Roxby Downs?

2. Can the minister explain what the situation is with regard to piping the water?

3. If there is a problem, what steps has the minister taken to negotiate a resolution with the traditional owners concerned and the community at Andamooka?

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation):** I am aware that water is carted from Roxby Downs to Andamooka, which is a very expensive exercise. However, I was not aware that there is a dispute about running a pipeline—

**The Hon. Caroline Schaefer:** It has held it up for five years.

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS:** It has held it up for five years? It has not been drawn to my attention that there has been a problem with piping water from Roxby Downs to Andamooka. I thank the member for his question, and I will invite the Andamooka Progress Association and the traditional owners, who have been recognised as the negotiating body for that area, to meet with me and to see whether I can provide some mediation services that may bring about a resolution to this problem.

### MURRAY-MALLEE STRATEGIC TASK FORCE

**The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Regional Affairs a question on the Murray-Mallee Strategic Task Force.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY:** On 6 June, the Hon. John Dawkins asked a question in relation to the Murray-Mallee Strategic Task Force, and it is important to highlight some of his comments, but I will not read them all because they are recorded in *Hansard*. He stated:

In October 2001, the task force finalised the development of the strategic plan for the Murray-Mallee, which is entitled *Getting Traction in the Murray-Mallee*. The Murray-Mallee community has played a major role in the development of this plan through a lengthy and intensive community consultation process. The focus of the strategic plan is to improve the viability of the Murray-Mallee on all fronts—that is, economically, socially and environmentally. In addition to the executive committee, the task force had a chairman appointed by the minister. This position has been filled, since the inception of the task force, by your predecessor Mr President, the Hon. Jamie Irwin. I know that task force members have much

appreciated having an MP as chairman, as well as the particular interest shown by Mr Irwin in the work of the task force.

In his reply, the Minister for Regional Affairs said that the future of the strategic task force was assured because of the demand of the community that the gap between the Regional Development Board, the economic development boards and the state bodies be filled by more direct contact with local people. It appears that this is working in the Murray-Mallee. The minister met with two members of the executive task force and gave them an assurance that the situation would be given consideration. He went on to say, 'I understand that the Hon. David Ridgway is a member of that committee.' I am not a member of that committee.

He also went on to say that, as a member of the opposition backbench, he was invited to sit on the committee, and he understood that an invitation was to be sent to both a government member and a member of the opposition and that the invitation was probably in the mail. To my knowledge, no opposition backbench member has been invited to sit on the committee. I know that we are critical of Australia Post but I think four weeks is a little too long to blame that agency for the length of the response. Because the minister has already given his assurance as to the future of the Murray-Mallee Strategic Task Force, we should revisit the Hon. John Dawkins' two questions, which were:

1. Will the minister indicate whether he intends to agree with the task force's request to appoint a member of parliament as the new chairman of the task force?

2. If that is the case, when can that appointment be expected?

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS (Minister for Regional Affairs):** I thank the honourable member for his question. The question is as valid now as it was then. The regional task force that was set up to bridge the gap between the Economic Development Board and the community and to be the pump primer for capturing the enthusiasm within that particular area still has support. It is a concept that is being driven by the community and, therefore, as Minister for Regional Affairs, I will be giving it as much support as I can. I apologise to the honourable member for pre-empting the invitation that I understood was going to be given to the honourable member. It was canvassed—

**The Hon. Diana Laidlaw:** Has it been withdrawn?

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS:** No, I don't think it has been withdrawn. I think the discussion is still continuing as to—

**The Hon. Diana Laidlaw:** You don't really want him?

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS:** No, that is not the case. I would welcome the honourable member's input on that committee, as well as input from any other opposition backbencher in relation to regional affairs. I acknowledge the carry-over knowledge of particularly the Hon. John Dawkins and also of other members in relation to building up and empowering regional communities to become more economically independent. I have already agreed to the invitation for the appointment of a member of parliament and will do whatever I can to encourage a member from both sides—I would like to see a member from both sides of the house—to provide input to that committee.

**An honourable member:** From all sides?

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS:** Well, from all sides.

**The Hon. Diana Laidlaw:** Paid or non-paid?

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS:** No, they are non-paid. They are voluntary.

**The Hon. Diana Laidlaw:** Is that why they don't want it?

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS:** No, the position has not been taken to caucus yet because discussions are still continuing, but I think it is up to the committee to decide to send out correspondence. I will contact the secretary of the committee, if that is the wish of the honourable member, and perhaps issue another invitation to read reports in progress. Certainly, I will take the proposition to the next caucus meeting in relation to inviting a backbencher to participate on the committee—not in its deliberations but at least have some input into the committee. The committee should deliberate in its own time and in its own way and make its own recommendations without interference from the government. In relation to an invitation to the Hon. David Ridgway, I suspect that that is still to come.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS:** I would not like to blame Australia Post, but administratively I will do what I can to achieve those twin aims.

### 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 about the Port Augusta and Whyalla Community Cabinet.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. R.K. SNEATH:** Just over a week ago the state cabinet visited Port Augusta to meet with local organisations, conducted a public forum and held a cabinet meeting. Does the minister believe that this was a successful exercise, and what were his impressions of the community's response to the visit?

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS (Minister for Regional Affairs):** I thank the honourable member for the question he has raised. The community cabinet meetings within the Murraylands and the South-East were major successes, and our presence was much appreciated by all concerned. I think it was a shot in the arm for people in leadership positions within the communities to be asked opinions on major issues affecting their community and to pick up firsthand across portfolios not only many of the problems occurring but also the economic strengths within those regions. It is not always easy for ministers in a Labor government who have responsibilities for their own electorates in the metropolitan area to find the time to visit the regional areas of their own volition, but the Community Cabinet involves a compulsion which makes ministers focus their minds across portfolios to cooperate in a unique way. The positive aspect to both the Murraylands and the South-East meetings was reflected in very good press after we left. I guess you think this is a dorothy dixer, but in relation to the press—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS:** Oh, what cynics! Well, I'm sorry: I have to raise the issue that we copped a caning in the press over our visit. I am being fair minded; I was happy to report that we got accolades from the other two areas, but certainly Whyalla was not too impressed. They were very cynical about the visit and were not quite sure what benefits we had promised the Whyalla region in relation to their difficulties.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS:** The honourable member says they were very astute; I would say that they are very case hardened to political life and that they have a whole lot of axes to grind because, although I would not say the city has

been in decline overall, it has not been growing as much as some of the other regions. That cynicism has been in-built since we were last in government.

The Mayor did try to impress us with a presentation in the morning, and we thank him for that, but the *Whyalla News* came out with the headline 'Mayor: major parties not interested in city', so he gave us both a spray. When I looked for the positive aspects of some of the programs that we indicated as being on the horizon for Whyalla, I did not find any mention of them in the press. It is not my intention to record those; that is how the Mayor saw the meetings. The *Whyalla News* does not appear to have made any contact with the Economic Development Board, which was far more positive than the Mayor's presentation, although I do not condemn him for that. The Economic Development Board certainly had a positive attitude that the mayoral presentation did not have.

The other aspects of the visit in which my colleagues participated (I was unable to attend) was a trip to Port Augusta, which I am told was a success. Many of the community leaders of the region attended and made positive contributions that looked to the future in solving many of the social, economic and developmental problems which Port Augusta wanted to get onto the notice paper.

I suspect that there is a certain amount of cynicism within the Whyalla area. In my experience in dealing with regional areas, people's expectation that governments have a lot of money to spend on infrastructure no longer applies. There are no silver bullets for major development projects. I think that regions now know this. The Economic Development Board certainly is aware that the aggregation of smaller developments is probably the best that can be argued for in regional areas. Certainly, when we were visiting the region I think that they were a little depressed by some of the news coming out in respect of the latest possibilities for growth in their region, and the disappointing results in the technology that was being used to prove up a process made people feel that their confidence may have been misplaced.

The other major issue where disappointment was expressed was what I think is now called a 'marine recycling project' which was under the name of a ship-breaking yard. That, too, has many problems associated with it, if not environmental then planning problems, associated with large investors. It involves overseas banking finance, and it involves a wide range of integrated players. Although governments have a responsibility to try to pull them together, it did not appear to be going as well as the local communities expected, and I can understand them being disappointed.

This is an honest attempt at an honest report to parliament in relation to the visits. I believe that Port Augusta was positive in relation to its approach to regional development. I think that the Economic Development Board was practical in the way it dealt with the difficulties it was facing and looking at a lot of the positives that could be developed. But I am afraid that the Mayor was disappointed that the government did not have a major project announcement in our pockets while we were there. However, we did say that we would build on some of the strengths that they had built on themselves, that is, the cuttlefish project. The position was put by the Minister for Environment that we would look at an extended marine park, or at least a marine park protection zone or sanctuary; and there were other initiatives around the protection of that for environmental purposes so that the economy could grow from environmental tourism. There were some positives, and I hope that the next time that we

visit the area the Mayor is a little more encouraged by some of the follow up work that we will do. Let us hope that we can assist Whyalla to get back to its former glory.

**The Hon. A.J. REDFORD:** Can the minister provide me with a list of places, dates and venues of previous community cabinet meetings and also the dates, venues and places of all proposed community cabinet meetings over the next 18 months?

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS:** I am sure that my staff would be very happy to accommodate the member's request in relation to past and future cabinet meetings. I am not too sure whether we have planned 18 months forward.

**The Hon. A.J. Redford:** How far forward?

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS:** The time frames that I have seen are about—

**The Hon. A.J. Redford:** This year?

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS:** Yes, this year.

*The Hon. A.J. Redford interjecting:*

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS:** Yes, I will bring them back.

#### PORT ADELAIDE REDEVELOPMENT

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY (Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries):** I table a statement made by the Treasurer in another place in relation to the Port Adelaide redevelopment.

#### INSURANCE, PUBLIC LIABILITY

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY (Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries):** I table a statement made by the Treasurer in another place in relation to reforms to bodily injury insurance.

#### TEACHERS, ENTERPRISE BARGAIN

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY (Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries):** I table a statement made by the Treasurer in another place about the final details of the teacher's enterprise bargaining agreement.

#### PICHI RICHI TOURIST TRAIN

**The Hon. J.F. STEFANI:** Will the Minister for Regional Affairs consider the possibility of taking a request by the Iron Triangle community to the government in relation to a small subsidy, particularly because they have been able to overcome the difficulty in relation to public liability insurance imposed on the Pichi Richi tourist attraction? It was a question of self help that the community was able to overcome, but I believe that the government should show some sign of assisting them.

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

#### GLENELG TRAM

**The Hon. SANDRA KANCK:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, representing the Minister for Transport, a question about tramway maintenance in Adelaide.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. SANDRA KANCK:** On Thursday 20 June there was an incident described in the media as 'a derailment of a tram' in Victoria Square. The event occurred during peak hour in the evening and caused disruption to tram commuters. Not so widely reported, on Saturday 22 June there was another incident, when I understand the same mechanical failure in the track caused a second derailment. My questions are:

1. Is the minister satisfied with the level of routine maintenance of the tram track between Glenelg and Adelaide?

2. Is the minister satisfied with a level of routine maintenance of the trams which operate between Glenelg and Adelaide?

3. Are the tram tracks in Victoria Square joined by track connectors, or do they rely on being partially embedded in concrete to stay in place?

4. Does the profile of the tram tracks require grinding to match the profile of the tram wheels?

5. If so, when was the last time this was done and when is it scheduled to be carried out again?

6. Were correct maintenance procedures carried out on Thursday 20 June and, if so, can the minister explain the second derailment incident on Saturday 22 June?

7. Are there maintenance crews specifically trained in tram operations working in Adelaide, or is it the assumption that training in heavy rail maintenance can be applied to light rail maintenance?

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

#### HOSPITALS, INDEMNITY INSURANCE

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation):** I table a ministerial statement in relation to private hospital indemnity insurance made by Minister Lea Stevens in another place.

#### LOCHIEL PARK

**The Hon. A.L. EVANS:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, representing the Minister for Government Enterprises, a question regarding Lochiel Park.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. A.L. EVANS:** Campbelltown residents have again contacted me about Lochiel Park. They have expressed their concerns and are very anxious about Lochiel Park being developed for private housing. They believe that the Premier made a promise. In a letter provided to me that the Premier wrote to a Campbelltown resident on 8 February 2002, Mr Rann states:

If a Labor government is elected this Saturday, we intend to save 100 cent of Lochiel Park for community facilities and open space, not a private housing development, as the Liberals had proposed.

In a response to a question I asked on 14 May, I was told the government was to place a moratorium on the sale and development of the land to the end of 2002. I was also told that there would be a process of public consultation which will examine the possible use of the site. My questions to the minister are:

1. When will public consultation commence?

2. Does the government have plans at the end of the moratorium to allow the Land Management Corporation to proceed with developing Lochiel Park as private housing?

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY (Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries):** I will refer those questions to the Minister for Government Enterprises in another place for his response. I think the honourable member asked whether the government had plans in place for a housing development. The only comment I would make in relation to this matter, from my understanding of it, is that, of course, a significant part of the Lochiel Park site was the old Brookway Park, and there are a number of buildings on this site, as well as some open space. I will refer the honourable member's question to the minister and bring back a reply.

#### ADELAIDE AIRPORT

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, representing the Minister for Transport, a question on Adelaide Airport charges and fares.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** At about the end of June, some eight days ago, the longstanding practice of country-wide price control was removed from the charges paid by all airlines to use airport facilities in all capital cities. In the absence of price control, Melbourne airport authorities have already announced a 40 per cent rise in charges, while it is speculated that hefty increases of over 100 per cent are proposed by other airport authorities around the country.

The management of Virgin Blue has already indicated in the *Financial Review* of 3 July that the airline cannot absorb these increases and that its fares will rise by \$1 for domestic passengers and \$3 for international passengers. I am not aware of the implications generally for freight.

At Adelaide Airport the matter of increased charges and fares is likely to be more complicated and controversial than anywhere else in Australia because our terminal facilities remain the worst of any capital city in Australia. Therefore, with the removal of price control, I ask the minister the following two questions:

1. Has he or have other government representatives made representations to the owners of Adelaide Airport to limit the rate of any increase in charges to airlines and hence to passengers, at the very least until negotiations have been finalised which will guarantee the construction of a modern airport terminal facility at Adelaide Airport?

2. What government efforts have been made to contain the additional impost on passengers to and from Adelaide arising from the combination of the removal of price control and a passenger facilitation charge to help finance the much needed new terminal facility?

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation):** I thank the honourable member for her important questions. It is due to the impact of privatisation that we see the lack of control over pricing mechanisms. Like the honourable member, I am an interventionist and would rather see some price controls in there, but unfortunately government influence wanes when airports are privatised. I will refer those questions to the Minister for Transport in another place and bring back a reply.

#### CREDIT CARDS

**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 Consumer Affairs, a question about rising levels of credit card debt.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. CARMEL ZOLLO:** A recent report by the Australian Bureau of Statistics has revealed that the total household debt of Australians has doubled since 1995 from \$267 billion to \$580 billion. The vast majority of credit card holders would be unaware that, for example, using the lowest minimum repayment percentage allowed by one credit card provider, I understand that a fully drawn \$3 000 credit card limit would take 39 years to pay off. My question to the minister representing the Minister for Consumer Affairs is: given the concern about rising levels of credit card debt in South Australia, what action does the government propose taking?

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation):** I thank the honourable member for her important question in relation to credit card debt. It is a rising problem in our economy and certainly with a lot of young people the interest rates being paid on credit cards need a thorough examination. I am not the only minister in the Labor government in this state to be concerned at the levels of credit card debt amongst South Australians and Australians generally, but I am also concerned that credit providers do not require complete statements of current financial commitments initially and when offering an increased limit do not request updated information about financial commitments and current income.

Next month's meeting of the Ministerial Council on Consumer Affairs will be considering a range of changes to the current system. One of the regulations being considered is that credit card providers issue consumer health warnings of the consequences of making only the monthly minimum payment on credit card debts. One way of reining in credit card debt would be by allowing only credit card issuers to increase the credit card limits of their customers as a result of a specific request by the customer. We all, on both sides of the council, have been canvassed at some time by credit card providers offering us extensions to our credit card limits.

Other regulations being considered are that credit providers not give applicants more credit than they can afford to repay and that increases in limits receive the same scrutiny for capacity to repay as the initial applications, which are far more stringent than the post-out invitations sent to us in the mail.

#### HINDMARSH STADIUM

**The Hon. J.F. STEFANI:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, representing the Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing, a question about the turnstile agreement at the Hindmarsh stadium.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. J.F. STEFANI:** Members would be well aware that almost two years ago the South Australian government took control of the Hindmarsh stadium. I am aware that in December 1994 the South Australian Soccer Federation, as the lessee of the Hindmarsh stadium, in conjunction with the two NSL soccer clubs at the time, entered into an agreement

with Weslo Holdings Pty Ltd to be the ground manager of the stadium during soccer matches played at Hindmarsh. Part of the conditions of this agreement bound the two NSL clubs to making monthly payments for the purchase of the turnstiles installed at the Hindmarsh stadium.

The ground management agreement with Weslo Pty Ltd was due to expire on 31 August 2001. I have been advised that the agreement was extended for another 12 months and is due to expire on 31 August 2002. Given that the NSL soccer competition is due to commence in early September 2002, my questions are:

1. Will the minister advise whether the government has formulated its position in relation to the new agreement?

2. Will the government negotiate more favourable terms for the management of the NSL soccer matches to be played at Hindmarsh, particularly in view of the financial pressure that has been experienced by the only surviving NSL club using the Hindmarsh stadium?

3. Will the minister advise whether the government is prepared to support the Adelaide City Force, a broadly based community sporting organisation from South Australia competing at the national level?

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation):** I, like the honourable member, have a great deal of sympathy for soccer at both state and national levels in relation to the participation levels and finance of the clubs within this state. South Australia has had a proud history within this state and has had very good results at a national level. Dealing with a very small population in comparison with the eastern states, our results over the years have been very good. It is frustrating to see the difficulties in which state soccer finds itself at the moment. I will refer those important questions to the Minister for Sport and Recreation in another place and bring back a reply.

#### MINISTERIAL DINNER

**The Hon. A.J. REDFORD:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Hon. Paul Holloway, the leader of the government and the ALP in this place, a question on the topic of access to ministers.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. A.J. REDFORD:** In an article appearing in the *Advertiser* of Thursday 6 June it was reported that some South Australians have been invited to dinner and drinks with the state government minister of their choice for up to \$1 500 a seat, to be held on 16 August. It is reported that the invitees have been asked to number in preference their choice of minister to host their table. I had calls that morning from a number of people who had a number of queries about the dinner to which they want answers, particularly before filling out the ballot paper. This is particularly so when they are paying such a large amount of money. Some of the questions put to me include whether the ballot will be first-past-the-post, proportional representation or optional preferential. One journalist told me that, if it is an exhaustive ballot, she is secretly hoping to get a leak on who would be balloted out first.

Already rumours abound, and I think they should be confirmed or denied as soon as possible. There is a rumour that the Attorney-General is offering a place at his table to the first listener on the Bob Francis show tonight who rings and complains about the former Attorney-General, Trevor Griffin. Another rumour is that, if the dinner is oversubscribed, the parliamentary secretaries, Carmel Zollo and Jennifer Rankine,

will step into the breach and host the \$1 500 guests. Another journalist said to me that only good listeners will be put on the Treasurer's table as he is such a good talker with such a lot to say.

People also want to know which table Secretary Ian Hunter will be on, or whether he will have one of his own. Patrick Conlon's staff are already making inquiries about improving the proposed wine list. One businessman asked me whether he can get his first choice if he slips an extra \$20 on the ballot paper. That might throw the ballot right out. Of course, the unions will have some say. It is common knowledge that the Minister for Transport will see people in his office only if there is prior AWU approval. Obviously they will want to vet who sits on the table.

One downside is that numerous welfare groups are anxious that the Minister for Gambling does not have a table full of poker machine operators, and they are wondering whether a couple of spots could be reserved for people nominated by the Hon. Nick Xenophon. I am thinking of offering coffee to members of the public at \$3 per head in the Blue Room where they will have the opportunity to stand in the queue with the likes of the Hon. Terry Roberts when he buys his tomato sandwiches. In light of this, my questions are as follows:

1. Does the leader agree that they can charge this much only because the previous state government and the current federal government have left the economy in such a good state?

2. What sort of ballot will be used and, in the spirit of open government, will the results be made public?

3. Are there other means that people who are not free on the 16th or do not have \$1 500 lying around can use to secure access to a minister in this government?

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY (Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries):** In answer to the first question, not many takers would want to line up with the past Liberal government in view of its performance in relation to the economy, but I am delighted that the Labor Party is able to organise a fundraiser. I think the honourable member was a little bit out with his cost per seat: I think the \$1 500 per seat figure is a little high. He might have got his facts wrong, and perhaps we will check that out. However, I am sure that any fundraisers organised by the Labor Party are very reasonable, and I am sure that lots of people will wish to take up the offer.

In relation to the final part of his question, I can advise the honourable member that, as far as I am concerned, I see a number of people all the time and, like other ministers, I am sure that we will be accessible to the South Australian community.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

*The Hon. R.K. Sneath interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order, the Hon. Mr Sneath! Before calling on the business of the day, I want to make one comment. A lot of members today have engaged in expressing extensive opinion and, although some of it is quite amusing, I do not think it will do the world of good for extensions in the future if we get long comment and debate in questions.

## REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

### CANTEEN SA

In reply to **Hon. T.J. STEPHENS** (29 May).

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS:** The Minister for Health has provided the following information:

CanTeen provides enormous support for young people living with cancer—a very difficult time in these young people's lives and for their friends and families.

In terms of government support, the SA division of CanTeen is provided with an office at the Women's and Children's Hospital and is not charged for costs such as rental, telephone calls and other office-related needs.

There is also the opportunity for CanTeen to apply for grant funding for a suitable project from the Department of Human Services through the Community Benefit SA grants scheme. There is no record of CanTeen having applied in the past to this scheme. I am advised that Community Benefit SA will send out an application to CanTeen if requested.

It would appear that while CanTeen, like many such organisations, would make good use of extra funding, I am advised that there is no record of CanTeen having approached the Department of Human Services for grants or ongoing funding, nor of having made any representations to the Department concerning any apparent financial distress.

From a broader perspective, the government is committed to the Generational Health Review as an essential strategy for the future of the State's health system. While there have been reviews of small sections of our health system under the previous government, primarily concentrated on acute care services, there has been no comprehensive review of SA's health system since the Bright Review in 1973.

This Review is about improving health services for all South Australians and ensuring that we can access the highest standards of health and health care.

Given that the health system is the government's most expensive service system outlay, it is imperative that such a Review be undertaken and the \$750 000 used effectively for the long term benefit of all South Australians.

The Generational Health Review will not duplicate previous work, but will include an examination of how primary care services, community based services and hospital services can better function within and between themselves. The outcomes are expected to set the direction for SA health system for the next 20 years.

To transfer money from the Generational Health Review, would provide a one-off benefit to CanTeen that would impact adversely on the outcomes of the Review and the opportunity to make real improvements to the health system as a whole.

I am certain that the Review will, in the longer term, be of benefit to all members of the community as well as to the many volunteer organisations, such as CanTeen, operating in partnership with our health system.

### SMOKE DETECTORS

In reply to **Hon. SANDRA KANCK** (30 May).

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS:** The Minister for Health has provided the following information:

1. The expected life span of a domestic smoke detector containing a small amount of radioactive material is 10 years, under normal conditions.

2. Over the past five years, an estimated 500 000 domestic smoke detectors containing radioactive material have been sold in South Australia. During that period, approximately 400 smoke detectors have been handed in to the Radiation Section of the Environmental Health Branch.

3. Domestic smoke detectors that contain a small amount of radioactive material are labelled to advise the owner '*When this device is no longer required it shall be disposed of by returning to the supplier or State Health Department*'. However, this label does not require hardware stores, local councils, or the MFS to take back unwanted smoke detectors.

The clear labelling required on smoke detectors containing radioactive material serves as the written guideline to forward unwanted domestic smoke detectors to the Department of Human Services.

With regard to the guidelines for handling damaged smoke detectors, when sold, the packaging of smoke detectors must contain

written instructions for the installation and maintenance of the detector, including directions for cleaning the detector and replacing batteries, and a statement warning against tampering with the sealed radioactive source. The packaging of domestic smoke detectors must also display a label, visible on the outside of the package, containing a statement '*This device contains a small quantity of radioactive material*' and the radioactive source inside the smoke detector must be clearly labelled.

4. It is likely that many consumers dispose of unwanted smoke detectors via the domestic waste system, even though smoke detectors are clearly labelled as described earlier. This practice is not considered unacceptable as every cubic metre of normal soil contains radioactivity equivalent to a dozen or more smoke detectors.

5. MFS stations throughout metropolitan Adelaide and regional centres are willing to take unwanted smoke detectors from the public; these are then passed on to the Radiation Section. Most local councils now direct members of the public to MFS stations in their area.

6. The Department of Human Services does not propose to undertake a public education program about non-radioactive alternative smoke detectors. The issue of disposal of domestic smoke detectors containing a small amount of radioactive material in domestic waste streams is currently under review.

### STEM CELLS

In reply to **Hon. A.L. EVANS** (27 May).

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS:** The Minister for Health has provided the following information:

1. The launch of the 'Do No Harm' campaign on 29 May 2002 came to the attention of the Department of Human Services (DHS) a few days prior to the event. DHS in turn brought it to the attention of the office of the Minister for Health.

2. A DHS officer attended as an observer, but there was no designated government representative.

### MOTOR VEHICLES, SECOND-HAND

In reply to **Hon. R.D. LAWSON** (28 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:

Under Section 16 of the *Second-hand Vehicle Dealers Act 1995*, a licensed second-hand motor vehicle dealer, when offering or exposing a second-hand motor vehicle for sale, must display upon that vehicle a notice in a prescribed form which must contain certain particulars which include:

- The name and address of the last owner who was not a dealer; or
- If the last owner who was not a dealer has instructed the dealer in writing not to disclose his or her name and address on the notice, a statement that the last owner's name and address are available on request from the dealer.

The *Second-hand Vehicle Dealers Act 1995* does not allow for a dealer to state the information is not available because of NSW Privacy Laws.

The dealer may have a defence if they can prove they made reasonable inquiries and conducted a proper examination of the vehicle to comply with the requirements of Section 16 and its relevant subsections, to the best of their knowledge, information and belief.

In an open letter sent to all licensed second-hand vehicle dealers in September 2001, the Commissioner for Consumer Affairs, Mark Bodycoat stated his concerns over certain conduct, including the previous owner requirements, adopted by some operators in the motor vehicle industry.

In this letter the Commissioner reminded dealers of their obligations to comply with Section 16 of the Act.

Reference to the NSW Privacy Act has often been made in connection with vehicles that have been purchased by dealers through a NSW Motor Auction.

Interstate counterparts of OCBA have advised that previous owner details are in fact available from New South Wales motor vehicle auctioneers.

The NSW Privacy and Personal Information Act 1998, primarily addresses how public authorities deal with the handling and disclosure of personal information obtained during the course of business.

The Commissioner also indicated in his letter that OCBA will take action against licensees found not to be complying with the

requirements. Should any individual have information that would identify a breach of the Act by a licensed second hand vehicle dealer they are encouraged to report the matter to OCBA so this practice of non-disclosure can be eradicated.

#### NATIVE TITLE

In reply to **Hon. R.D. LAWSON** (3 June).

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS:** The Attorney-General has been advised by the Native Title Section of the Crown Solicitor's Office of the following information:

Financial matters such as the one raised are presently being considered as part of the budgetary process and thus an answer to this question will not be available until this process is finalised.

#### SA WATER

In reply to **Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY** (3 June).

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS:** The Minister for Government Enterprises has provided the following information:

SA Water has identified 40 positions across the Corporation that are surplus to workforce requirements.

Of those positions only 14 are rural and regionally based operational and operational support positions.

The remaining positions are comprised of vacancies or contract positions that will not be filled or renewed as well as corporate support and operational support positions all based in Head Office and at Thebarton.

These changes have resulted from improved technology, a review of business processes and industry self regulation and are expected to improve business efficiencies to achieve agreed financial targets.

Additionally, in some regional areas SA Water has closed its bill paying facilities. Less than 2 per cent of customers pay their water bill over the counter at SA Water Offices. Water bills can be paid at any Post Office (the method preferred by over 60 per cent of SA Water customers) and also by BPAY, via the internet and by credit card over the phone.

There will be no change to customer service levels in outer metro and country regions.

Under a proposed Water Services Operations Workforce Refreshment Program that is currently being developed by SA Water, substantial regional youth recruitment will be undertaken over a three year period.

#### PAYDAY LENDING

In reply to **Hon. R.D. LAWSON** (28 May).

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

The Consumer Credit Code is the legislation that regulates the provision of consumer credit and related transactions in South Australia. There is no requirement under the Code for credit providers to be either licensed or registered. It is therefore, not possible to provide exact information on the number of companies that are providing payday lending facilities in this State.

The Office of Consumer and Business Affairs is currently aware of only one company in this State which operates exclusively in the area of payday lending.

Through membership of the Uniform Consumer Credit Code Management Committee, the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs is aware of the extent of the problems associated with payday lending in other States but reports that the Consumer Affairs Branch have received only a small number of inquiries and no formal complaints against payday lenders in this State. They are, however, aware of anecdotal evidence that consumers are taking their concerns to other agencies such as financial counsellors and the Legal Services Commission. Accordingly, they are currently undertaking a survey, with the input and co-operation of financial counsellors, to try to establish the extent of the problem in South Australia.

In reply to **Hon. NICK XENOPHON** (28 May).

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

The Office of Consumer and Business Affairs will continue to monitor the activities of payday lending and will attempt to determine whether there is any link between consumers seeking small short term loans to either cover or supplement their gambling debts.

Again, the survey being undertaken with the input and co-operation of financial counsellors may reveal more specific information in this area.

The Office of Consumer and Business Affairs has no evidence of any causal link at this stage.

#### RADIOACTIVE WASTE

In reply to **Hon. J.F. STEFANI** (28 May).

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS:** The Minister for Environment and Conservation has advised that:

1. The management of radioactive waste was a matter on which the then federal government corresponded with all jurisdictions. Therefore it would be expected that there was written communication exchanged between the federal Labor government and the state Labor government about radioactive waste during the period from 1982 to 1993.

Of the communications between the state and federal government, several of these have been referred to during debate on *the Nuclear Waste Storage Facility (Prohibition) (Referendum) Amendment Bill* on 30 May 2002. I understand there may well be others, however considering the length of time that has passed, they are not currently at hand.

If the honourable member is seeking copies of correspondence I suggest the most practical mechanism is to lodge a Freedom of Information request with the Department for Environment and Heritage.

2. If the Hon. J.F. Stefani wishes to request a particular document from the current government then in accordance with the policy of adopting the highest standard of accountability and transparency the government will readily process any Freedom of Information request for this information.

The Premier has provided the following information to question 3:

3. The Hon. Mike Rann was sworn in the Ministry in December 1989 as Minister of Employment and Further Education, Minister of Youth Affairs, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Minister assisting the Minister of Ethnic Affairs.

In October 1992 he was appointed as Minister of Business and Regional Development, Minister of Tourism and Minister of State Services.

In September 1993 he was appointed Minister of Business and Regional Development and Minister of Tourism. He retained these ministries until December 1993.

#### YOUTH SUICIDE

In reply to **Hon. A.L. EVANS** (4 June).

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS:** The Minister for Youth has advised the following:

1. *Whom does the government propose to work with in addressing youth suicide?*

Youth suicide, as with suicide in all age groups, is a serious issue requiring a Whole of Government approach. Government strategies acknowledge suicide as a significant community concern, and provide for a coordinated, strategic approach to suicide prevention initiatives.

The Department of Human Services has a lead role in providing health related suicide prevention activities. Other areas of government will continue to contribute to broader suicide prevention strategies by addressing issues such as community capacity building in the education, welfare and justice sectors.

The Department of Human Services has a leadership role in health related suicide prevention activities, and it works cooperatively with the Social Inclusion Unit and the Office of Employment and Youth on the non-health aspects of suicide prevention initiatives. Strategies will continue to be based on best evidence of effectiveness, consistent with national approaches, but informed by local experts, clinicians and other stakeholders such as non-government organisations, community groups and public consultations. The strategies will continue to reflect broader community concerns and government responsibilities.

2. *Does the government have any specific strategies to reduce the rate of youth suicide within our state?*

Youth suicide rates, whilst of major concern, are not greater than overall suicide rates and hence initiatives directed towards all ages will be adopted as part of government policy.

The on-going reform of mental health services in South Australia specifically targets improving community awareness of mental health

issues and developing a comprehensive and integrated mental health service that will facilitate earlier intervention for mental health problems, thus reducing suicide risk.

The production of Mental Health First-Aid booklets and an initiative to raise awareness of depression in the workplace are two community awareness projects currently in place. These initiatives have occurred in partnership with the national depression initiative, *beyondblue*, and are an Australian first. South Australia is also an active participant in *MindMatters*, a national mental health campaign aimed at mental health problems in school aged children.

The Department of Human Services also funds a number of specific suicide prevention initiatives, including:

- youth suicide prevention service delivered by Centacare;
- three country based youth suicide prevention workers;
- a soon to be implemented 'suicide postvention' initiative to improve care for those bereaved by suicide; and
- specialist mental health services that contribute to suicide prevention, including Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, which contributes to suicide prevention through the provision of specialist assessment and treatment for young people.

The department is also facilitating shared service development with drug and alcohol and mental health services in the following four areas:

- substance misuse and mental health co-morbidity;
- health services for young psycho-stimulant users;
- prevention of heroin overdose; and
- drug and alcohol intervention services for Family and Youth Services clients.

The draft Youth Services Framework, for services funded by the Department of Human Services, provides direction in six key areas:

- improving access to services, particularly those most marginalised;
- ensuring that there is a full range of services available;
- ensuring that young people get to participate in decisions which affect them;
- ensuring that services work together;
- improving management practices; and
- encouraging creative and flexible responses to young people.

The Office of Employment and Youth is currently in the process of developing a Whole of Government Youth Policy Framework that will take account of the draft Youth Services Framework. The Whole of Government Youth Policy Framework will outline the intentions, principles and rationale behind government policy and government-funded services which impact upon young people aged 12 to 25 years. It will map out the intended course of action for government and identify the linkages between various government departments. The Whole of Government Youth Policy Framework will provide coherent and relevant suicide prevention services to young people through cross-department planning, policy development, and program coordination.

South Australia is also benefiting from \$1.8 million funding from the National Suicide Prevention Strategy. This funding is directed towards;

- reducing Aboriginal suicide risk behaviours in country areas;
- improving coordination of care between General Practitioners and specialist mental health services;
- increasing community capacity and promoting resilience against suicide risk.

3. *What steps has the government taken since its election to determine the causes of youth suicide?*

Knowledge about the causes of youth suicide in South Australia is drawn from the Department of Human Services and the Office for Employment and Youth. This knowledge is informed by national research.

It is recognised that suicide has multiple causes, risk factors or influencing factors. Health related causes include mental illness and poor mental health, drug and alcohol problems and physical illness. Environmental factors include stress and crisis, legal problems, problems associated with sexual orientation, loss and grief, family background, social connectedness, socio-economic status and employment.

The Drug Summit in June 2002 focused on young people and drug use, a high-risk behaviour strongly associated with suicide.

A recent meeting of the Suicide Prevention Advisory Group, consisting of experts in the field, has identified a number of priorities for government. There is currently a consultation process in place to confirm these priorities so as to inform government initiatives.

4. *What proportion of the \$2 million will be committed to helping youth at risk of suicide?*

The government will be working to improve mental health services so as to ensure effective care and treatment of people with mental health concerns. The Budget will reflect the need to direct additional resources towards mental health services. This is an appropriate priority as mental illness is one of the recognised major risk factors for suicide.

The government will continue to support the National Suicide Prevention Strategy that targets community resilience and the reduction of risk factors.

## YOUTH, PORT LINCOLN

In reply to **Hon. IAN GILFILLAN** (6 June).

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS:** The Minister for Youth, has advised the following:

1. *Will the Minister investigate this Port Lincoln matter and endeavour to find a solution for the youth of the town?*

The state government works closely with local communities to provide opportunities for youth throughout the state. Youth participation projects include Youth Advisory Committees, Youth Networks, National Youth Week, Youth in the Community programs and the *active8* Premier's Youth challenge.

Recently, Port Lincoln has been successful in applying for a Youth Advisory Committee grant of \$3 000, a Youth Network grant of \$4 000 and a National Youth Week grant of \$1 300. In addition the Port Lincoln Special School has received \$25 113 in funding to run an *active8* program for local students. The Tumby Bay Area School has also applied and received funding of \$34 000 to run an *active8* program.

A departmental officer is visiting Port Lincoln on 11 July to assist in establishing the Youth Advisory Committee. The officer also plans to meet with the Port Lincoln Youth Network, West Coast Youth Services and the Port Lincoln Council, to discuss potential expansion of youth initiatives in the area.

2. *Has she met with regional local government mayors to discuss plans to keep youth in regional South Australia?*

The Minister for Youth meets with local government mayors in the course of her regular duties as well as during opportunities provided by Community Cabinet meetings.

In addition, departmental staff from the youth portfolio are active in regional areas. In recent weeks officers have visited Port Lincoln, Tumby Bay, Elliston, Streaky Bay, Ceduna, Peterborough, Clare, Bordertown and Keith.

3. *Does she have a plan to ensure youth are not lost to regional South Australia?*

The Minister for Youth receives regular reports on the implementation of programs in her portfolio. These reports allow the Minister to monitor the availability and implementation of youth programs in regional areas to ensure that young people in those areas have equal access to the programs as their metropolitan counterparts.

## HOMELESSNESS

In reply to **Hon. A.L. EVANS** (3 June).

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS:** The Minister for Social Justice has advised the following:

1. *How does the government propose to fulfil its pledge to halve the numbers of people sleeping in the streets in the next four years, particularly given the decline in the public housing stock? In particular, what are the details of the government's strategy?*

One of the first initiatives of the government since it took office in March 2002, has been to establish the Social Inclusion Unit and the Social Inclusion Board, headed by Father David Cappel. One of the Unit's initial references is homelessness.

The current focus of activity by the Unit is defining the problem, reviewing existing programs and policies, and identifying innovative ways of combating homelessness. The Unit is required to report within one year on how homelessness will be reduced. This will be in the form of an action plan.

It is envisaged that the process for developing the action plan, and the recommendations of the action plan itself, will capitalise and build on current work to reduce homelessness in South Australia. The Social Inclusion Unit will work with the Department of Human Services (DHS) to further develop strategies to address family homelessness.

The government is aware of the decline in public housing stock and is also committed to the formulation of a State Housing Plan

which will, amongst other things, examine closely the issue of public housing and identify new and innovative ways to address housing needs in the community.

2. *Has the government carried out any investigation into the cause of homelessness for families?*

A discussion paper on family homelessness, developed by the Department of Human Services in 2001, scanned international and national literature concerning the causes of family homelessness. This work showed that the main contributors to family homelessness are:

- Disrupted and transient housing histories that are often due to a complex array of issues such as family violence and conflict, lack of social supports, or long term housing insecurity.
- Insecure housing arrangements, such as living with friends or relatives, or having only short-term accommodation.
- Financial issues, particularly poverty and the high costs of accommodation.

These contributing factors for family homelessness are supported by local data from community agencies that provide crisis accommodation and are funded through the Government's Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP).

3. *Does the government recognise that there is an urgent need for housing to be made available to homeless families?*

The government, through the Department of Human Services, recognises homelessness as a critical problem, and currently provides a wide range of services to individuals and families in urgent housing need. This includes prioritising housing waiting lists for the South Australian Housing Trust, the Aboriginal Housing Authority and the South Australian Community Housing Authority to ensure that households with the most urgent housing needs are housed quickest. To be eligible for the highest need category (Category 1), households must be homeless, or at risk of homelessness.

At the end of April 2002, 1626, or 45 per cent, of new Trust housing allocations were to Category 1 applicants (including families). Of these, 78 per cent were housed within 6 months. In 2000-01 the Trust made 2050 allocations to Category 1 households (including families).

Not including domestic violence services, SAAP provided \$1.5 million to 13 non-government organisations assisting homeless families in 2000-01. There were 1 740 periods of support to homeless families, 17.8 per cent of these being for Indigenous South Australians.

4. *Does the government have any proposed strategies to address in particular the increased number of families who are homeless in our state?*

The Department of Human Services has recently developed a homelessness plan, 'A Place to Live—A Strategic Response to Homelessness in South Australia'. This will be a source of information for the formulation of the government's integrated action plan on homelessness. Major strategies of 'A Place to Live' include:

- Reshaping family accommodation services by:
  - developing service responses which emphasise early intervention and housing security. Wherever possible support should be provided to families to prevent the failure of tenancies and cycles of homelessness;
  - building pathways through the system, including a single entry point to improve service outcomes;
  - promoting sector wide strategies for consistent partnerships between key agencies; and
  - identifying opportunities to strengthen the service capacity of the family sector in responding to homelessness.
- Improving the knowledge base of factors influencing family homelessness, including Aboriginal homelessness, pathways into family homelessness, links with gambling, substance abuse, and utility costs.
- Ensuring that responses to family homelessness are culturally sensitive to the needs of Aboriginal families. This will involve establishing a new partnership with Aboriginal communities to support the capacity of family and community networks.
- Developing partnerships at the local and regional level for people in rural, remote regions and metropolitan South Australia, to improve housing service models, collaborative case management and outreach support to families.

## GAMBLERS' REHABILITATION

In reply to **Hon. NICK XENOPHON** (3 June).

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS:** The Minister for Social Justice has advised:

1. *What additional resources are being specifically allocated for face-to-face counselling services as part of the Break Even Network?*

The 2001-02 Budget of the former government increased recurrent funding to the Break Even services by \$460 000. As a result, Break Even's face-to-face counselling service had an increase of eight additional full-time equivalent counsellors.

Any additional funding that this government is to provide to the Gamblers Rehabilitation Fund in the forthcoming Budget will be used to provide a balanced range of prevention and rehabilitation services, including community education programs. Additional resources for face-to-face counselling will be allocated according to demand for services, and to improve access to services for those most in need.

2. *When will these additional resources be allocated?*

Any additional resources that this government is to provide in 200-03 will be announced the Budget on 11 July 2002.

3. *Does the Minister for Gambling consider it unacceptable that no replacement staff are available for Break Even counsellors during times of sick leave and annual leave, as has been the case for some time?*

As pointed out by the Hon. N. Xenophon on 3 June 2002, the increased number of staff to provide face-to-face counselling services did not eradicate waiting times for counselling.

The Minister for Social Justice agrees that it unacceptable that people seeking help with gambling problems are experiencing waiting periods as long as 6 weeks to receive face-to-face counselling and that staff providing this valuable service are under undue pressure to meet this demand.

## ABORIGINAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

In reply to **Hon. SANDRA KANCK** (3 June).

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS:** The Minister for Social Justice has advised:

1. *How many names are on the current waiting list of the Aboriginal Housing Authority?*

The Aboriginal Housing Authority (AHA) currently has 1607 households waiting for public housing. The AHA is one public housing option available for Aboriginal people. Other options include public housing provided by the South Australian Housing Trust (SAHT) and community housing administered by the South Australian Community Housing Association (SACHA). The AHA also provides assistance through the Private Rental Assistance Scheme.

2. *Of those people, how many are assessed as category 1 clients?*

There are currently 207 Category 1 applicants on the AHA waiting list.

3. *What is the longest period of time a family or individual has been on the current waiting list?*

The current waiting list is categorised into 3 levels, which in turn reflects the length of time customers may wait for housing.

Category 1 is for those customers most in housing need, with multiple issues affecting their ability to secure accommodation. Applications are registered in sequential order from the date that the application was approved for entry into Category 1. On average a customer waits between six months to two years, depending on the area and the type of house requested.

Category 2 is for those customers who have multiple issues, but may have short term accommodation. Applications are registered in sequential order from the date that the application was approved for entry into Category 2. On average a customer waits between six months to two years depending on the area and the type of house requested.

Category 3 is for those customers who have met income and asset eligibility criteria, but do not pass the needs test for Categories 1 or 2. These applications are registered in sequential order from the date of application or benefit date. On average a customer waits between eight to thirteen years.

The AHA has applications that have been waiting for housing for up to 13 years.

4. *With priority being given to those with chronic health conditions and special needs, how long is it since a family or*

*individual has been moved to the top of the list and then placed by the Aboriginal Housing Authority without special needs applying?*

Consistent with the housing reforms introduced in 2000, applicants are not moved to the top of any housing list. Applicants are placed in housing categories on the basis of need and time of application. However, where a property has a history of disruptive tenancies, or its location is in a sensitive location, the AHA may select a customer from category 2 or 3 once applicants in category 1 have been assessed.

*5. Does the minister consider a review of the operations of the Aboriginal Housing Authority is necessary?*

During the past 18 months, the AHA has undergone significant restructure in relation to staffing and service delivery. Following the establishment of the AHA on 5 February 2000, and the transfer of staff and assets from the South Australian Housing Trust's former Aboriginal Housing Unit to the AHA, it was considered timely to review the services and programs the AHA delivers. The structure the AHA operates within was reviewed to ensure it is culturally appropriate and it meets the needs of the community.

Key outcomes of the restructure included:

- The establishment of the Asset Management Unit, which saw the amalgamation and redistribution of staff and resources responsible for the management of assets across the state for both the community and public housing program.
- The establishment of the New Initiatives Unit. During 2000-01, new initiatives including the National Aboriginal Health Strategy and the Fixing Houses for Better Health program were established. The New Initiatives Unit is also responsible for the delivery of the Community Housing Program.
- The development of a new service delivery model designed to provide a more effective and efficient service to customers.

As the AHA has only existed since February 2000, it is considered premature to further review its operations at this time. It is anticipated that a formal review of the AHA will be undertaken within the next 18 months. Any review of the AHA will take into account a range of operational and strategic issues concerning the provision of public housing services to the Aboriginal community.

*6. Does the minister think that the Housing Trust could absorb the operations of the Aboriginal Housing Authority and provide a better service to the Aboriginal community by increasing the number of Housing Trust workers with Aboriginal cultural awareness?*

In 1992, the then Minister for Housing and Construction commissioned a Review of Aboriginal Housing Programs. One of the significant findings of the report was that one organisation should administer all aspects of the Aboriginal Housing Programs.

Since its formation, the AHA has been highly successful in managing a \$22 million dollar program. Key performance areas include:

- An improved service delivery model.
- More efficient arrangements to recover customer debt.
- A significant reduction in the number of disruptive tenancies.
- The facilitation of transfers of housing stock from the South Australian Housing Trust allowing annual targets to be met.
- The development of an asset management plan through a complete property audit.
- A reduction in the vacancy turnaround time on properties.
- An increase in the provision of home ownership to AHA tenants.

The AHA has been successful in developing an organisation that meets the needs of its customer base in providing a full range of housing options. All funding received by the AHA is specifically targeted to Indigenous housing, and managed to provide better housing outcomes. The AHA now has input, and is involved in, extensive consultations at a national and State level through the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Council, Regional Councils, State-wide workshops and Indigenous community organisations.

The AHA also takes part in the annual national Social Housing Survey—Public Housing since 1996. Results of the 2001 survey found:

- 68 per cent of respondents were satisfied with the services provided by the AHA.
- 82 per cent of respondents were satisfied with their treatment by AHA staff.
- The efficiency of dealing with a query by AHA staff has increased from 67 per cent in 2000, to 80 per cent in 2001.

The AHA clearly provides a quality service to the Aboriginal community that is targeted and responsive to local needs. Accordingly, the Minister for Housing does not believe that it is appropriate for the South Australian Housing Trust to absorb the operations of the AHA.

## WINE GRAPE INDUSTRY

In reply to **Hon. T.G. CAMERON** (28 May).

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY:** There were mixed reports of wine-grape supply in the 2002 vintage, with cool-climate production down 30-50 per cent on last year. Warm climate growers had an excess supply of wine grapes with yields 10-20 per cent higher than predicted, which had a downward impact on grape prices, in particular reds.

Despite these seasonal influences, reports of excess supply of premium red warm-climate grapes have been confirmed and PIRSA estimates an extra 40 000 tonnes above the growers' contracted allocation in the Riverland. Prices for this uncontracted fruit fell significantly. Industry estimates that up to 10 000t of wine grapes remained unharvested in the Riverland. Large companies have honoured contracts, but some requested increased quality levels at prices similar to those of last year. Additionally, major wineries had crushing and storage capacities pushed to the limit, and there were delays in the intake of grapes.

With a relatively slow-growing domestic market for wine (2.5 per cent p.a.), the Australian wine industry is dependent on export growth to absorb most of the recent rapid production expansion. Export sales growth, although strong (20 per cent per annum), may be insufficient to absorb expected supply over the next few years.

Future wine grape supply and demand projections indicate that surpluses will continue to put pressure on winegrape prices over the next 2-3 years, but, with the slowing of new plantings, the market should return to balance after that.

The table below presents both the total tonnage and average price of red grapes picked in South Australia over the last three years. Unfortunately, no data showing actual farm gate prices for red wine grapes is available. All of this data was obtained from the Phylloxera and Grape Industry Board of South Australia via the Winegrape Utilisation and Pricing Survey's. Data is not yet available for the 2002 vintage.

It is very important to note that the data detailed is not strictly comparable from year to year. Changes in grape purchase contracts over these years have seen a transition towards additional quality based bonus payments on these base levels. The indicative prices shown below are derived from base level prices paid to growers and due to survey limitations do not necessarily include these additional bonus payments. For this reason, the extent of the fall in average red grape prices as shown in the table may not be the actual level of decline in farm gate returns/average prices.

Red Wine Grape Production Value and Price (weigh bridge)  
1999-2001

Year (vintage)	Volume of red wine grapes produced (tonnes)	Value of red wine grapes crushed (\$ millions est.)	Average price credited at weigh bridge (\$/tonne)
2001	445 875	\$576 m	\$1041
2000	287 813	\$344 m	\$1195
1999	260 936	\$345 m	\$1324

[note: the value and price details provided above are estimated]

In discussions with Industry representatives it has been identified that it is not government's role to enter into commercial arrangements about secured and unsecured creditors, and that the grape and wine industries need to obtain independent legal advice to address this issue.

## PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

In reply to **Hon. A.J. REDFORD** (16 May).

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

As mentioned by the leader in his initial response to the honourable member, it is difficult to foresee the circumstances under which ministerial staff members would be required to appear before any Parliamentary Committee.

Although committees undoubtedly have the power to summon witnesses and compel them to attend and produce relevant documents, these powers of compulsion are rarely used.

Each individual request, should one be made, must be considered on its merits and in light of the particular circumstances surrounding the request.

Ministers are responsible to parliament for their actions and the actions of the departments and agencies within their portfolio. Under

this government, all ministers will be expected to be open and cooperative with all Parliamentary Committees.

Ministerial advisers perform a very different role. They provide advice in the formulation of policy which it is the responsibility of Ministers and agencies to implement. Advisers do not normally become involved in the detailed day to day implementation of policies. It is therefore difficult to see any circumstances that would call for advisers to account to parliament for their performance in this limited role.

As with all other members of the community, however, ministerial advisers must comply with any lawful directions, including a summons to give evidence, properly issued in parliament's name.

#### BRANCHED BROOMRAPE

In reply to **Hon. CAROLINE SCHAEFER** (28 May).

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY:** The Minister for Environment and Conservation has advised:

Costings associated with the government's compact with the Member for Hammond are being considered as part of this years budget process.

In reply to **Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY** (28 May).

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY:** The Minister for Environment and Conservation has advised:

Licensed, professional contractors are engaged to undertake fumigation with methyl bromide as part of the eradication of branched broomrape. They operate to a strict code of conduct as part of their license conditions.

The program's preferred option is to maintain native vegetation but where the destruction of the seed of branched broomrape is a priority and fumigation necessary appropriate processes are followed. Approval for clearance is obtained from the Native Vegetation Council. In many situations native vegetation is replaced eg on road verges grass species are sown into the fumigated area.

In reply to **Hon. J.F. STEFANI** (28 May).

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY:** The Minister for Environment and Conservation has advised:

Costings associated with the Branched Broomrape eradication program are being considered as part of the budget process.

#### GLOBAL RULE ONE

In reply to **Hon. SANDRA KANCK** (27 May).

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

1. The government, through the South Australian Film Corporation, is monitoring the situation. Discussions on this matter are currently taking place between:

- the Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance, the Australian union representing actors;
- the Screen Producers Association of Australia, which represents corporate and independent producers;
- AusFILM, which represents all state film commissions including the SA Film Corporation and the corporate film industry; and
- the US Screen Actors Guild.

It is expected that a joint statement will be issued by the parties following meetings currently being held in Sydney.

2. This government has publicly stated its commitment to supporting the local film industry, as it recognises the cultural, economic and employment benefits to the State.

3. The US Screen Actors Guild's Global Rule One seeks to determine salaries, worldwide for members of the guild.

Global Rule One relates only to members of the US Screen Actors Guild working in offshore productions in non-union films.

The Screen Actors Guild members working in Australia are already covered either by the Screen Actors Guild agreement or by the offshore agreement between Australia and other countries, which is styled on the Screen Actors Guild Agreement.

Advice received recently indicates that, at present, Global Rule One constitutes a threat only, and it is deemed unlikely to become a problem. Therefore, on advice from the national industry organisations and unions, no legal action needs to be taken at this time.

#### PRIMARY INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT

In reply to **Hon. CAROLINE SCHAEFER** (29 May).

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY:** I provide the following information:

I undertook to provide the honourable member with the exact figures on the number of staff involved in the transfer from the former sustainable resources group within PIRSA to the new Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation. The figures based on the gazetted schedule are 168 staff transferred to the new department with 28 staff being retained in PIRSA.

#### BRANCHED BROOMRAPE

In reply to **Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY** (30 May).

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY:** The Minister for Environment and Conservation has advised:

The State Government will announce a comprehensive range of measures to deal with Branched Broomrape in the forth coming budget.

#### 1080 POISON

In reply to **Hon T.G. CAMERON** (6 June).

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY:** The only product other than 1080 registered for fox control in South Australia is a carbon monoxide fumigant cartridge ('Den-co-fume') for use in fox dens. Use of this method is limited by having first to find the den, and then to be assured that the den is in use. This control method would be restricted to the months of September and October when the vixen and her cubs would be in the den. This method may have some utility in urban areas.

Strychnine is registered in Western Australia for dingo and feral dog control, but not for fox control. The Animal and Pest Control Commission indicates that it is most unlikely that a licence would be issued by the Department of Human Services for fox control. Strychnine in baits suffers from off-target hazards just as 1080 does. Queensland and Victoria are trialing a mechanical device, known as the 'M-44', that is hammered into the ground and covered with a specific attractant for foxes. When a fox tugs on the device, it delivers a squirt of cyanide into the fox's mouth, killing it within seconds.

Alphachloralose, a narcotic used occasionally for bird control, is another possibility for the further future.

Each of these has both possibilities and risks, but without wishing to prejudice the review that the National Registration Authority will conduct, it would seem that the responsible use of 1080 under strict guidelines is currently the best and most economic fox control method.

#### FESTIVAL THEATRE

In reply to **Hon. J.F. STEFANI** (4 June).

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

1. The project is a two-stage project with the second stage divided into three (3) distinct phases.

The current phase of the works is stage 2/phase 3 and comprises six (6) separate components. These are the upgrade of the patron services facilities, the Adelaide Festival Centre (AFC) environs including general accessibility to the Centre and disability access to the Dunstan Playhouse, the Adelaide Festival Centre administration, works in Station Square and the Adelaide Railway Station.

The overall budget for stage 2/phase 3 is \$16.084 million (excluding GST). This includes supplementary funding from the Open Spaces Fund (Planning SA), Arts SA and TransAdelaide to undertake some necessary infrastructure and base building works in the Adelaide Railway Station concurrently with the project.

The current phase of the AFC project is being procured with the assistance of a construction manager. Under this methodology, a construction manager is engaged by the Principal (the Minister for Administrative Services) to manage a number of individual trade package contracts that undertake the works.

In such circumstances there is no single tender. With regard to the current phase of the AFC project, a total of sixty-eight (68) trade package contracts have been awarded to date across the six (6) components that make-up the project. It is anticipated that a further ten (10) package contracts will be awarded to complete the project.

2. The expenditure to date for the phase 3 works is \$6.82 million including construction works, consultant and management costs, FFE (furniture, fittings and equipment) and GST.

3. It is prudent that all construction projects include a construction contingency as part of their respective budgets. This is equally

true, if not more so, in the case of the AFC which is categorised as a high-risk project.

Construction contingencies are allowances to cover variations to the construction contracts for design changes, ambiguities in documents, latent conditions and the like.

It is not policy to include contingencies in the construction contracts awarded. However, the expenditure approval as part of the approval to award a contract does include a contingency amount to permit the contracts to be administered by the superintendent (DAIS) on behalf of the principal. In the case of the AFC there was a contingency amount provided in the budget to accommodate changes and/or omissions in documentation.

4. Refer to the briefing notes to question 3 above.

As stated in the proceeding response there was no contingency figure in the accepted tenders.

### MOTORCYCLES

In reply to **Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW** (3 June).

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

The South Australia Police (SAPOL) is concerned at the high incidence of crashes involving motorcycles and the resultant injury and trauma. Research throughout the world indicates a substantial link between speed and road crashes. The risk of serious injuries is exacerbated when speed on motorcycles is combined with a crash. Riders of motorcycles are more likely to suffer serious injury or death from a high speed crash than using other vehicles.

There is an Australian wide concern for the safety of motorcyclists and the presence of motorcycles in crash statistics. Since the commencement of 2002, there have been 10 deaths involving motorcycle riders/passengers on South Australian roads. This represents 20 per cent of the total number of deaths for all types of vehicles. Speeding is one of the main contributing factors to casualty and fatal crashes involving motorcyclists.

In February 2002, SAPOL convened a meeting with key stakeholders including the Motorcycle Riders Association, Motorcycle Industry Association, Transport SA, RAA, Insurance Council of Australia, Motor Traders Association and the Adelaide University Road Accident Research Unit to discuss appropriate methods of motorcycle frontal identification.

This group has met on a number of occasions to review a range of proposals of frontal identification and has determined that in order to avoid duplication of effort in trialing alternative sizes and methods of front number identifiers, it should await results from a joint Victoria and Western Australia trial that is researching designs for an identifier that could be attached to the front of motorcycles. The results of the research are expected to be released in July 2002.

As a road safety initiative to improve road safety within the South Australian community, SAPOL will continue to advocate progress of front identification on motorcycles and will continue to work with stakeholders to determine the most appropriate means of a motorcycle front identification number.

### STANDING ORDERS SUSPENSION

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY (Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries):** I move:

That standing orders be so far suspended as to enable me to move a motion without notice.

Motion carried.

### HEWITT, Mr L.

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY (Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries):** I move:

That this council congratulates Lleyton Hewitt on his outstanding victory in the men's singles title at Wimbledon 2002.

I wish to pay tribute to the wonderful achievement of Lleyton Hewitt overnight when he won the men's singles title at

Wimbledon, the pinnacle of tennis. I am sure this council would agree that Lleyton has done this state proud. Since winning his first title on his home court at Memorial Drive in 1998, Lleyton has risen to become world number one. That win in Adelaide at the age of just 16 years and 10 months made him the youngest player to win a title on the men's tour since Michael Chang performed that feat in 1988.

In 1999, Lleyton was part of the Australian Davis Cup team which won its first Davis Cup title for 13 years. Last year, as I am sure members of this council would be aware, Lleyton won the US Open, defeating Pete Sampras in the final. Lleyton finished last year as the world number one. At 20 years and 10 months, he was the youngest player and the first Australian since the ATP ranking system was introduced in 1973 to finish the year at number one.

Since the start of this year, which began with his illness, Lleyton has fought his way back into outstanding form, culminating in his victory overnight when he became the first South Australian to win the Wimbledon singles crown. South Australia has produced many great champions over the years, and Lleyton Hewitt has added to that number. I understand that the Premier has already begun preparing a welcome home for Lleyton with a public celebration in recognition of his outstanding performance. I am pleased to move this motion of congratulations to a fine competitor to recognise his remarkable achievement. I commend the motion to the council.

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Leader of the Opposition):** I rise on behalf of Liberal members to support the motion. As with perhaps some other members, I stayed up until the early hours of the morning watching the Wimbledon final.

**The Hon. A.J. Redford:** You wouldn't have been preparing for the heavy legislative agenda, would you?

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** No, I was not preparing for the heavy legislative agenda, but we will not let politics intrude into this motion, which I am sure will be supported by all members in the chamber. I am sure that all South Australians would join in congratulating Lleyton, his family and his support team. For tennis lovers, perhaps other than we South Australians and the Hewitt family, it was probably a disappointing tennis final in terms of a contest. There have been many better tennis contests, particularly in Wimbledon finals, over the years. I can recall 15 years ago the final with Pat Cash, the classics with Pat Rafter in the last couple of years, and, when one goes back many years, the big finals between Borg, McEnroe and others, which will live on in memory as classic contests.

This was a contest between someone on the top of his game and someone who had done marvellously well in his first grass court tournament ever to have made it to the final of Wimbledon. Clearly David Nalbandian, the losing finalist, had virtually played his tournament prior to last evening's contest with Lleyton Hewitt. So, in terms of a tennis contest, for the purists amongst us—for the tennis lovers—it was not much of a contest, but, for Lleyton Hewitt and his family and all South Australians, we were nevertheless delighted and excited to have watched the contest last night.

I heard the tail end of an interview this morning by Matthew Abraham and David Bevan with Lleyton's grandfather—I think his Christian name is Max—who recounted the story of having visited Lleyton's school when he was in grade 4, and I am guessing that it would have been Immanuel College, when the ambitions of Lleyton Hewitt were made clear—perhaps it was even earlier than year 4, I guess he was

eight or nine years of age at the time—and what he wanted to do with his life at age nine was to win Wimbledon. Sometimes the dreams of little boys and girls can come true. It does not happen always, it does not happen often, but clearly it is a tribute to his single-minded determination that, from that age when he wanted to win Wimbledon, he worked single-mindedly to win this particular tournament. Having been successful last night, we are all delighted to share in his joy and his family's joy, and we congratulate him on that.

In conclusion, I congratulate his family, his support team and his previous tennis coach. I know that, last night, Jason Stoltenberg was given some credit, as indeed he should, as should his previous coach Darren Cahill, and his other coaches, including Pete Smith, who was interviewed again this morning, and other tennis coaches he had in South Australia who all had a role to play in his eventual success. But I think they would all probably concede and all would probably be correct that, whilst they had a small role to play, it was Lleyton Hewitt's single-minded determination over those years that was the difference between his being a competitive tennis player and a world champion.

**The Hon. IAN GILFILLAN:** My colleagues in the Democrats and I support the motion. It is, I think, significant that the Leader of the Opposition referred to dreams. Unfortunately, my dream was not fulfilled in quite the same emphatic way—

**The Hon. R.I. Lucas:** You became a Democrat.

**The Hon. IAN GILFILLAN:** Well, you can't win them all, but that's a win. I have struggled with the game of tennis and found it very enjoyable and ideally suited to Australia and we have, over the life of the modern game, enjoyed remarkable success. It is much tougher to reach the top these days because it is played by a wide range of countries, so the competition is tougher in my view. What I felt was so delightful about the fact that Lleyton Hewitt won is that, as an example of determination, dedication and skill, he is currently without parallel. But the hallmark which I enjoy is that he loves the game. Too often I feel that professionalism has killed the enjoyment of sport—sport has become no more than a professional activity, and it is very refreshing to see and hear, because others have commented on it, how he relishes playing the game. I hope that all South Australians are able to share in the delight and excitement of Lleyton's success. We do that. We do, I think, as a state enjoy the fact that he is one of us, and that is why we so enthusiastically support the motion.

**The Hon. A.L. EVANS:** On behalf of Family First, I also support the motion. A couple of things impress me about Lleyton, one being the support of his family. It does not matter where he is in the world, when you see photo shots of Lleyton playing, you see his family supporting him. That sends a message to our community that families are very important for the development of our children. The second thing I appreciate about him is that, apart from his growth as a tennis player, he has matured and developed as a person. He has become disciplined and he is a role model for young people who can see that the fiery young Lleyton, as he was two or three years ago, is now contained. It is very important for our younger generation to see that maturity.

I sat up until the late hours to watch the match. I have always been a keen sportsman—not a particularly successful one—and I have always been involved in it in some way. It is great for South Australia to have another champion.

Motion carried.

## AGRICULTURAL AND VETERINARY PRODUCTS (CONTROL OF USE) BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 6 June. Page 304.)

**The Hon. IAN GILFILLAN:** The Democrats support this bill. It is a simple bill in its intent and its method. However, the issue itself is not one of simplicity: it is an issue of some complexity. The fact that we have been waiting for this legislation for over four years gave me and others some hope that what would finally be presented to this place would hold innovative solutions to a problem that is becoming more and more commonplace, but unfortunately that is not the case. It is disappointing that this bill was reintroduced in essentially the same form by the new Labor government. I had hoped that Labor would take the opportunity to rework the legislation into something that would be more effective and useful to the community. Perhaps the issue of chemical trespass is not one that is a priority to the new government.

As I read through this bill, and following consultation with others, I came to an understanding of the implications of this proposed legislation and two words came to mind—lost opportunity. If this bill passes as is, we will have lost a great opportunity to establish fair and quality measures in addressing the issue of chemical trespass. This bill forms part of a raft of legislation that administers agricultural and veterinary chemicals in this state.

In 1994 the commonwealth parliament passed the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Bill 1994. This bill enacted into law created the AgVet Code. Following this, each state and the Northern Territory passed mirror legislation, and we did so in 1994. This code contains provision for the evaluation, registration and sale of agricultural and veterinary chemicals and, coupled with the national registration authority, provides for the national scheme to regulate agricultural and veterinary chemical products in Australia. The Democrats at a national level raised concern about this legislation at the time, as did my colleague the Hon. Mike Elliott, who had charge of the legislation in that year. It is interesting to note that, while we have been waiting for some years for this new control of use legislation, the AgVet Code was pushed through state parliament in a matter of weeks. Members have raised the form of this as a possible point of concern in regard to the transparency of the code.

When I looked for the definition of the AgVet Code (South Australia), the bill referred me to the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (South Australia) Act 1994. As this is enabling legislation for the national code, this act does not in fact hold the code within its text. Instead, you have to find the commonwealth Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994. It is the nature of the legislative arrangement that makes this difficult. However, what surprised me further was that the national registration authority web site, the federal Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry web site and the PIRSA web site also did not have the code in an easily discoverable form. While the AgVet Code and NRA regulate the registration of chemical products, it remains the role of the states and territories to regulate their use. In South Australia this is achieved through the Agricultural Chemicals Act 1955. It is widely believed—and it is my belief—that this legislation does not provide adequate controls on chemical trespass. It also fails to address veterinary chemicals.

In October 1998, the government released a green paper entitled 'Review and consolidation of the legislation relating to the regulation of agricultural chemicals and stock foods'. This paper was open for comment until March 1999. Concerns have been raised with my office over the extensiveness of the consultation and these concerns are realised in the focus of the final legislation in its focus on the implications of chemical trespass on trade.

At the close of the consultation period, the government spent 2½ years drafting legislation which was finally introduced into the other place on 1 November 2001. It had a short life there, receiving some debate, but did not reach the third reading stage before parliament was dissolved. Since that time we have had a change of government, yet the bill found its way back onto our *Notice Paper* in substantially the same form. The Agricultural and Veterinary Products (Control of Use) Bill was introduced into this place by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries on 15 May this year.

I note that a number of members have already spoken in support of this bill and although some questions have been raised there seems to be wide support for the bill. We recognise that with the support of both the government and the opposition this bill will be passed in largely its current form. We will move a number of amendments to the bill which are minor in nature and address the accountability of the minister and clarify some of the operational matters in the bill.

I would also like to use my second reading contribution to identify some of the deficiencies in the bill—deficiencies that I hoped the original review would have addressed, deficiencies that I hoped the Labor government would have addressed instead of simply reintroducing a disappointing bill and deficiencies that I will be seeking to follow with future amendments to the act. One could speculate about the reason that the minister chose to reintroduce the bill in its current form. The fact that we have had very little government legislation to deal with in this place since the change of government might have provided an impetus to get something on the *Notice Paper* quickly. In fact, in an ironic twist this government has proved that an increased number of sitting days does not necessarily mean that parliament will do more work. I challenge the minister to hold this legislation and open discussion on how to seriously amend the bill to properly address the issues of chemical trespass.

The bill before us is made up of six parts and 43 clauses. The design of the bill is in many respects very similar to the Environmental Protection Act 1993. It provides for a general duty for persons using or disposing of agricultural chemical products, fertilisers or veterinary products to take all reasonable and practical measures to prevent or minimise unintended contamination.

This involves three key areas of trade products, environment and human health. The bill also deals with the offence of the off label use of agricultural and veterinary chemicals. In addition, it allows for some regulation of fertiliser products that are not included in the AgVet Code. The intent of the bill is to encourage responsible chemical use and not the prosecution of offenders. Under the bill, if an instance of chemical trespass is reported and found to be true, there are two possibilities: first, if there is material damage, it could become the subject of a trade protection order if endangering trade; or, secondly, if it involved damage to the environment or human health, it would be referred to the relevant authorities under the Environmental Protection Act 1993, the Public

and Environmental Health Act 1987 or the Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare Act 1986. The matter could also be subject to civil action for damages.

In a case where there has been no material damage, the matter could be dealt with through a trade protection order (TPO) if there is a potential threat to trade. Alternatively, this situation may involve the making of a compliance order. A failure to comply with such an order would result in penalties under the act. Trade practices orders are specifically made to protect trade in the short term. The bill provides:

An order may be made under this part by the minister if there are reasonable grounds to believe that the order is necessary to prevent or reduce the possibility of serious harm to trade arising from the use or disposal of agricultural products or veterinary products or to mitigate the adverse consequences of such harm.

These may last for 90 days, although they can be reissued. This provision is designed to address the case where problems are found with a particular technical chemical product, the use of which needs to be discontinued quickly. It is envisaged that the NRA would then look into the product and amend the label of registration accordingly.

Because breaching the general duty of care to prevent chemical trespass is not an offence of itself, enforcement is achieved through the use of compliance orders. Where there is an incident of chemical trespass, the user of the chemicals is issued with a compliance order in regard to a particular part of the act. This procedure is similar to that which exists within the provisions of the 1993 Environmental Protection Act 1993. Conceivably, the minister could use a compliance order in instances where environmental or human health is threatened. Presumably, the minister in these instances would consult with the relevant minister on such matters.

It is interesting to note that the Tasmanian legislation actually requires this to occur. I also note that both the Tasmanian and Victorian legislation have established an advisory committee on the matter of chemical trespass. I would ask the minister to clarify this point. Would the minister make compliance orders relating to the environment or human health, as the bill seems to suggest is possible, or would such matters be referred to authorities under other legislation?

The enforcement provisions of the bill, although it allows for compliance officers, will largely be complaint based; that is, the department will be relying on notification of instances of chemical trespass by second and third parties. It has been said that it is not the intention of the legislation to be a heavy policing authority. This is understandable, in that such agencies have a history of being underfunded and poorly resourced. One has only to look at the Environment Protection Agency's difficulties with compliance when monitoring our fisheries to see what I mean. However, if this is to be complaint based, there must be a clear understanding within the community of the definitions of chemical trespass and the signs to look for. As the nature of chemical trespass can in many instances be invisible, there are concerns over the effectiveness of this method of monitoring. I fear that this is a substantial flaw in this legislation that will severely hamper efforts to reduce chemical trespass.

In May last year I spoke in this place of the experiences of Arnold and Joyce Meyer from Edillilie on the West Coast, and I quote from my comments then:

Arnold and Joyce Meyer have made a living selling vegetables grown on their property in a glasshouse using on-site dam water. In the latter part of last year, they realised that their plants were not only not thriving but dying, and, in fact, they did so through the application of what proved to be contaminated water from dams on the

property, which have now almost irrefutably been shown to have been contaminated by chemical trespass: the flow of very powerful chemicals, sulfonylurea being the principal one, from a neighbouring property or properties.

It would seem that Arnold and Joyce Meyer would find little solace under this legislation. The contamination having occurred, the person responsible for the contamination would be told via a compliance order not to do it again. Organic farmers will similarly find little joy in this bill. I would ask the minister whether there is a duty for a chemical user to have regard for the use of surrounding land. For example, if I were growing crops and there was chemical trespass onto my land below MRL standard, it may not be a problem. This could be seen to be trivial, particularly as I myself am using the same chemicals. However, if I am growing organic crops, even this low level of contamination would be disastrous. In this regard it is very hard to argue that that would be trivial.

Both these instances highlight the choice the government has made to accept that chemical trespass is okay the first time you do it. The Democrats and many in the community have concerns with this. My amendments to the bill would provide for the minister to keep a public register of trade protection orders and reasons for any decisions the minister makes under the legislation. They would also ensure that relative agencies, whether they be the Environmental Protection Agency or local government, are kept informed about instances of contamination.

Much of the impact of this legislation will have to come in the regulations. Of particular interest are the minister's comments that there could be provisions for the licensing of chemical users within the regulations. I would suggest that, if that is to be the case, the principal legislation—that is, this bill—should quite clearly spell out the scope for the licensing of chemical users, otherwise the regulations may be difficult to draft without being disallowed.

In closing, although disappointed with the bill, the Democrats will support its passage, not because it is the best remedy to the issue of chemical trespass but because it is a small step forward. I will read into *Hansard* some comments from the Local Government Association which mirror some of the concerns I have raised in my second reading contribution. In a letter of 29 May this year addressed to me with the heading 'Agricultural and Veterinary Products (Control of Use) Bill 2002', the second paragraph under the heading 'Clause 5—General Duty' states:

Unless relevant agencies, for example, the Environment Protection Agency, are advised of a finding of contamination, the information cannot be built into existing registers and records for the purposes of assessing the merit of proposals for future land use changes. We seek that adequate requirements for notification and registration of contamination with relevant state government agencies are included in the proposed legislation.

Under 'Clause 20—trade Protection Orders', the association makes two separate observations:

TPOs [trade protection orders] are made to a person or persons or class of person or to all persons. Depending upon the nature of the TPO there is not necessarily any relationship between it and the land use which may be the catalyst for the TPO. It is conceivable, for example, that if a person to whom a TPO was made sold their land during the period of effect of the TPO there is no apparent means of ensuring that the responsibility attached to the person would be transferred to the new owner. Where TPOs are made for the purposes of affected land then they should be registered against the land, in the same manner as say for land management agreements under the Development Act.

In addition, the LGA seeks that there should be a central repository of information relating to the making of TPOs that can be accessed by the public. This system should emulate the process of

disclosure established under section 7 statements under the Land and Business (Sale and Conveyancing) Act and Regulations. In the absence of these mechanisms the effectiveness of TPOs is likely to be diminished.

The letter is signed by Mayor Johanna McLuskey, who is President of the LGA.

As the chamber can see, we are disappointed that the bill has not fully grasped what will be a growing area of concern. Many of the chemicals which are used agriculturally are extraordinarily potent, and we are moving into more and more sensitive markets for products that are used horticulturally and agriculturally. I repeat that in my second reading contribution I asked the minister to look at several points, some of which may lead to his supporting my amendments when they are moved in the committee stage. So, although it is far from being the perfect answer to the problem of chemical trespass, we will support the bill, because it does go forward at least a little.

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY (Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries):** I thank members for their contribution to the debate. Initially, I will address some of the comments made by the Hon. Ian Gilfillan. While he was highly critical of the new government for not introducing a new bill, he really gave precious few examples of how he thought the bill could be improved. I think that the council needs to recognise that this state has national obligations in the area of chemical control. It is important that we work with the NRA and the national scheme in relation to the regulation of agricultural and veterinary products. It should also be pointed out that there was very extensive consultation in relation to the preparation of this bill.

The honourable member is quite correct when he said that the bill was introduced in substantially the same form by the previous government almost 12 months ago. That, in turn, had come out of a very long process. If the new government was to re-open the process and go back to the drawing board, because of the time that these things take, it could be a very long process indeed. We believe that it is far preferable to get this bill in place and, if there are any problems or issues that arise, it is far better that they be addressed in the future rather than re-opening the whole process. I think it has been pointed out by a number of members during the debate, including my colleague the Hon. Gail Gago, that some of these issues have been around for too long and need to be addressed.

The Hon. Ian Gilfillan also suggested that we might have put the bill forward in this form because we had so little legislative work to do. I make the comment that, given that we have just had four weeks off, I find it surprising that the Hon. Ian Gilfillan has said that we have so little work to do yet he still has not put forward his amendments. I do not think that he can have it both ways. If he believes that we have had too little to do, I do not know what he has been doing in the last four weeks; perhaps he could have had his amendments ready. However, once we are in committee we will adjourn the debate, have a look at his amendments and deal with them tomorrow.

In relation to some of the specific issues raised by the honourable member, I will look at them and perhaps address them in the committee stage when we hopefully get back to this bill tomorrow. The honourable member gave an example of contaminated water in a dam, and I think that example really shows just how difficult it is in some of these cases to prove a case in relation to chemical trespass, and I think that we need to recognise that it is a difficult area. I will consider

the honourable member's comments in more detail and perhaps comment when we take up this bill tomorrow.

In re-introducing this bill, this government wants to ensure that the risks associated with the necessary and productive use of rural chemicals are properly managed. The assessment of those risks is undertaken at a national level by the National Registration Authority (NRA), which is controlled by inter-governmental agreement and the relevant template legislation. The risk assessment assumes good agricultural practice by rural chemical users. South Australia's responsibility is to ensure that those risk assessments are given effect in this state. The bill therefore indicates what constitutes acceptable behaviour to manage the human health, environmental and trade access risks successfully.

The development of the bill has taken account of national competition policy considerations, the desirability of greater harmonisation of control abuse legislation in the states and territories, the public desire not to be subjected to chemicals used by other people, and the need to abut but not overlap other South Australian legislation. In relation to the latter point, we need to consider some of the comments made by the Local Government Association in its letter quoted by the Hon. Ian Gilfillan.

The bill concerns itself with trade, species of animals and plants; for domestic use different risk mitigation measures apply. For the users of rural chemicals who cannot or will not exercise sufficiently responsible agricultural practice, the bill provides sufficient power to direct users in ways which prevent recurrence of adverse consequences. This can be at either an individual level or generally over a wider area. The bill provides flexibility for the state to require users of more dangerous rural chemicals to undertake competency training so that they are not a danger to themselves, other people, the environment or our trade prospects.

While the bill provides powers to control chemical use behaviour, it is mindful of the unusual nature of most chemical users' premises and appropriately restrictions apply to authorised officers concerning their powers of entry. South Australia currently exports in the vicinity of \$4 billion worth of rural produce annually. This bill seeks to ensure that such important trade is not jeopardised by innocent or cavalier misuse of rural chemicals or unacceptable levels of heavy metals. The government is intent on ensuring that the use of rural chemicals does not lead to unfortunate health or environmental outcomes. We wish to have a productive, healthy, clean and green state and this bill will materially help us to achieve that. I commend the bill to the council.

Bill read a second time.

#### **EDUCATION (COMPULSORY EDUCATION AGE) AMENDMENT BILL**

Adjourned debate on second reading.  
(Continued from 6 June. Page 372.)

**The Hon. CARMEL ZOLLO:** I join my government colleagues in supporting this important piece of legislation. The current Education Act 1972 requires young people to stay at school until the age of 15. Over the past century or so, the introduction and growth of universal secular education has no doubt led to many of the enormous benefits in our society, in virtually every field of human endeavour. The gradual opening up of education to women has, I think, completed one of our greatest achievements of the 20th century. There is no doubt that, after our basic human needs

have been met, education and health are our next top priority needs for which we all strive.

For those of us who are old enough to remember, it is now 30 years ago that then prime minister Gough Whitlam said, 'Education is the key to equality of opportunity. Education should be the greatest instrument for the promotion of equality.' Education itself, of course, is not something that is static. There have been enormous societal changes since the Education Act 1972 was enacted. Our baby-boomer generation has witnessed spectacular changes in the way education institutions are funded and organised, in the way teachers are trained and in the method of delivering education systems and the equipment used. Two key developments have been the growth of tertiary education and, as mentioned previously, the opening up of our schools and universities to women. Yet, one of our community's core values does not reflect those changes at a certain level. Under the current act, it is possible for our children to be able to leave school at 15 which, in most cases, equates to year 9.

When we talk about compulsory education at the age of 16, we are obviously in general not talking about those wanting to continue their education at both the secondary and the tertiary level. For this reason, I am pleased to see that the government recognises that simply raising the school leaving age will not address the problem of keeping students gainfully engaged at school—that schools must develop specific strategies to meet the needs of those young people who believe that schooling does not suit them and is not relevant to their lives.

The government has committed to improving counselling and one-on-one support services to help students to identify their path and to be there to assist them along the path. In recognition that there are some schools where a larger number of students leave school at 15, targeted programs will be provided for those schools. I understand that last year some 1 300 15-year-old students left school with no record of what happened to them—such a sad waste.

It is worthwhile mentioning that we recognise that maturity matters in terms of obtaining a good education and achievement in life. With that in mind, our children now benefit from spending longer in their earlier years in the junior primary school sector. However, at the other end of their secondary education the same emphasis does not apply. In today's complex society, where many skills and abilities are vital, it is very hard to survive in any work place without having a good basic education—one that is obtained by preferably completing secondary education.

I noted that the minister, in her second reading explanation, made the point that, for those leaving school at 15 years of age, such children are in fact leaving in year 9, and that is far too early to have obtained even basic life skills, let alone sufficient basic education to obtain meaningful and rewarding employment in most areas of our economy.

When I left high school in 1968 at the end of the leaving year, or year 11, one could obtain employment as an apprentice in so many fields, or in an office specialising in one particular skill. It could be anything from being a file clerk, to bookkeeping, typing, or being an apprentice tool designer; so many of these jobs no longer exist. In those days, only a small minority of high school students went on to tertiary education. In most cases, only those going on to university completed year 12, and preference and encouragement were usually given to males. At that time, for some, education for women was seen as a waste.

The minister in her second reading explanation talked about the strong link between the school leaving age and unemployment. No-one, I believe, can argue with such an observation, or should I say fact, because it is supported by statistics. The type and quality of employment will very often be determined by a person's educational background.

Education is often the only break that children can get when families are stuck in poverty traps. In some Adelaide suburbs we now have third generation families who have never had the opportunity to obtain useful full-time employment. When work is available, it is often of a precarious type. So, obtaining the most out of our education system in those circumstances is even more important. Staying that extra year can make all the difference for a young person, giving them time to change their mind as they mature, and partake in useful education or training which gives them better opportunities for employment in the long run.

I note that this amendment bill allows for children to be able to either stay at school until the age of 16 or participate in other forms of education and training, but that they will be required to remain enrolled at school to enable them to receive improved support and assistance, to stay engaged in their learning.

Given that other states in Australia and very many overseas jurisdictions have compulsory education to the age of 16 years, we are out of kilter with trends for young people to stay at school longer and for extending the period of compulsory education. As a parent, and given my own negative experience as a migrant of a diverse cultural background, I firmly believe that making it compulsory to stay at school until 16 is long overdue.

I know that the ethic of obtaining a good education is particularly strong amongst our post World War II migrants. When I think about my own experiences, regrettably I had only one teacher who bothered to take enough interest in me to suggest I stay on an extra year. She happened to be Janine Haines, which was, I guess, a bit of a coincidence as she ended up being the leader of the Democrats. It is interesting, when I think about it, given I had won a scholarship for my leaving year.

Nonetheless, whilst her interest was appreciated, it probably came too late at the time and was probably directed at the wrong person, given that I was not exactly empowered to make my own decisions. Whilst my own experiences and those of many others in similar circumstances had more to do with ethnicity and the lack of support available at that time rather than other reasons now more common for why some children are not staying on at school longer, there can be all sorts of other pressures in the lives of young people now and the compulsory support of an extra year is very welcome.

I am certain that we all recognise that raising the school leaving age will not solve all the problems that our young people have, but it is a good start. Staying within the education system with some direction is desirable to leaving early without skills and direction. The ability to prepare our children for a changing world can only be enhanced by trying to give everyone a better opportunity to empower themselves. I am pleased to support this legislation. I know it has general community support and I congratulate the minister for bringing this legislation to the parliament.

**The Hon. CAROLINE SCHAEFER** secured the adjournment of the debate.

## GAMMON RANGES NATIONAL PARK

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation):** I move:

That this council requests Her Excellency the Governor to make a proclamation under section 43(4) of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972 to vary the proclamation made on 15 April 1982 constituting the Gammon Ranges National Park to remove all rights of entry, prospecting, exploration, or mining pursuant to the Mining Act (within the meaning of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972) in respect of the land constituting the national park.

This motion applies to the section added to the Gammon Ranges National Park in April 1982 in numbers 1293, 1313, 1314 and 1315, out of the hundreds (Copley). This current government has a clear commitment to finalise the re-proclamation of the Gammon Ranges National Park as stated in our policy and circulated prior to the election—'Wildcountry—a Plan for Better Reserves and Habitats'. This reproclamation will remove all mining access from the national park and I would hope that, with the steps taken by the previous government, we would have the opposition's support for the proclamation. I also note that there is a notice of motion of the Hon. Mr Redford in relation to the same issue.

The Gammon Ranges National Park has an extensive and interesting history, and for those who have not seen it I would encourage them to visit the area as soon as possible—it is a lovely part of the state. The Adnyamathanha people who live in and around the area have had a long association with the land we now call the Gammon Ranges National Park. The park has great cultural significance to the Adnyamathanha people, and through their stories and related artefacts and ceremonies there is a close association to the area.

One of the areas we are describing is the Weetootla Gorge in the heartland of the Adnyamathanha country. If disturbances were to take place in that area and around it, the mining activities would not be confined to that gorge, but if mining took place the area itself would be destroyed and certainly a mining presence would be shown by way of roads, tracks, encampments and so on. The area has been visited by a whole range of people through the 1940s, the 1950s and later. The people who have raised their voices to protect the area are those who have had a close living and working relationship with that area of the state. Warren Bonython, Prof. Sir Kerr Grant and many others who visited the area felt that the features of that area needed protection. They were making recommendations about its declaration for a park of significance for some considerable time.

Applications for mining have been made in the area by BHP, which relinquished its rights. Those rights were taken up in more recent years by Manna Hill Resources Pty Ltd. The interest is in the mining of a mineral (I think magnesite) which would have a commercial value, and that mining licence is still being sought after by Manna Hill Resources. We have all been lobbied singly and as government and opposition members on both sides of the council to enable mining to occur.

There are many reasons for protecting the Gammon Ranges National Park from the disturbance of future mining, including the fact that the park has very unique flora and fauna not found elsewhere in Australia or on the planet. Many of these species are threatened. The other unique feature about the Gammons is that they rise out of a flat plain that gets very little rain. The ranges themselves have deep gorges that attract some rainfall. There are some areas within the

ranges in which you would think you were somewhere else in South Australia and not in an area such as the dry flat plains that surround what will hopefully be a wilderness or protected area.

The wilderness qualities of the Gammons make it particularly interesting to bush walkers, campers and, to some extent, chauffeured four-wheel drive tours or four-wheel drivers who are accompanied by guides through the area to make sure that no further damage can be done within the national park or within the Gammon Ranges area. It has been looked after reasonably well, although there is some scarring from mining shafts that have been sunk from time to time. They add to its mystique but they do not add much when you are viewing a vista and you see shafts dug into the sides of the mountains at particular points.

The park is also well visited by birdwatchers and astronomers, and I pay a tribute to the manager of the Arkaroola Station who provided a protection service of some quality in making sure that as little damage as possible was done to the area. There is a feature of significance within the Arkaroola area, and a couple of films have been made there recently using the Gammons as a backdrop. I think *Black Tracker* was the name of the last one.

**The Hon. Diana Laidlaw:** *The Tracker*.

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS:** I understand that it is about to be released.

**The Hon. Diana Laidlaw:** It opens the Melbourne Film Festival after opening the Adelaide Film Festival. Fantastic!

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS:** That will showcase the whole area and I am sure that visitations to the area will increase because that spectacular country has been used as the backdrop for *The Tracker*, which will be seen all over the world.

**The Hon. Diana Laidlaw:** General release in Australia in August.

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS:** That is a non-paid advertisement for the film called *The Tracker*. Astronomers are also interested in using the Gammons and the area around Arkaroola as a base because of the clarity of the skies and the vista that allows astronomers to view those skies at night, which are quite spectacular. The protection of the Gammon Ranges National Park provides certainty to the environment of the park, and we hope that it will be supported. The indications are that this motion will be supported by members on both sides of the house, and let us hope that we can get on with the protection that is required for the Aboriginal people in the area, for cultural and heritage reasons, and for the environmental tourism opportunities that it can bring. Hopefully we can meld together some of those opportunities, that is, environmental tourism, Aboriginal culture and heritage protection, astronomy and birdwatching, and turn the park into a passive recreational and tourist area that fits in with a general area plan for providing those opportunities in this state. Those management plans can still be put in place without being spoilt by large-scale investment projects which, in some cases, the eastern states would like to have done without.

We are starting well behind the other states in relation to investment strategies in our regional and remote areas, but that allows us to do it much better in a lot of ways and the protective mechanisms of extending the already existing national park will provide those benefits for us.

**The Hon. A.J. REDFORD** secured the adjournment of the debate.

## GAMMON RANGES NATIONAL PARK, PROCLAMATION

**The Hon. A.J. REDFORD:** I move:

That this council requests Her Excellency the Governor to make a proclamation under section 43(4) of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972 to vary the proclamation made on 15 April 1982 constituting the Gammon Ranges National Park to remove all rights of entry, prospecting, exploration, or mining pursuant to a mining act (within the meaning of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972) in respect of the land constituting the national park.

I note that a substantially similar motion was moved and spoken to not a few minutes ago by the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, albeit I note with all the passion displayed in a Woodville-South Adelaide game played in August in the 1960s. I also note that there was a complete absence of acknowledgment on his part of the extraordinary effort and work put in by the former minister for environment in advancing—

**The Hon. T.G. Roberts:** I left that to you; I didn't want to steal your thunder.

**The Hon. A.J. REDFORD:** Let me guess what the honourable member has done. He heard I was going to make a contribution today so he has given a pretty rambling speech because the Minister for Environment and Conservation did not prepare anything to assist the minister in this case of political jingoism, where he wants to get up his motion first. I see him nodding vigorously but trying to hide it.

In any event, the Gammon Ranges National Park is an icon park for South Australians. Last November, the Supreme Court of South Australia upheld a decision made in August last year to refuse the transfer of the existing leases from BHP to another mining company, Manna Hill Resources, which had the effect of preventing mining in that section of the Gammons. The court upheld the then minister's decision. It prevents a wonderful wilderness location—the Weetootla Gorge—from being exposed to mining. It is an important win for the South Australian environment and reinforces the former state government's stance on prioritising environmental issues, unlike the existing state government which seemed to have overlooked it until we moved this motion. These circumstances provide an ideal opportunity for the current government to review the joint proclamation of the Gammon Ranges National Park.

The Gammon Ranges National Park was initially proclaimed in 1970 for the purpose of preserving the wilderness character and the spectacular scenery of the Northern Flinders Ranges. In 1982, additions to the Gammon Ranges National Park were proclaimed to add to the wilderness values to protect a whole water catchment and drainage system in an arid area and to protect an area of significance due to its biogeographic and climatic conditions which support significant ecological communities.

**The Hon. T.G. Roberts:** I said that.

**The Hon. A.J. REDFORD:** The mountainous area within an arid plain creates a unique environment for many species that are endemic to the Flinders Ranges. The honourable member interjected that he said that but, as I looked around the chamber, some members were asleep because they thought they were still at a Woodville-South Adelaide game in August 1965.

**The Hon. T.G. Roberts:** Who won that one?

**The Hon. A.J. REDFORD:** I was asleep. The additions protect significant geological features including fossils, structures and mineralogy. When in 1982 additions to the

park were declared, there were nine existing mining leases in an area held by BHP. In order to preserve BHP's existing rights, the additions to the park were proclaimed to ensure that the existing mining rights were preserved and that future rights under certain circumstances could be acquired for entry, prospecting, exploration and mining. While there has been exploration within the park since 1982, there have been no applications for further mining leases.

In 1999, BHP agreed to transfer its mining lease within the ranges to another mining company, Manna Hill Resources Pty Ltd, which proposed to mine the magnesite deposit over which the leases existed. In order for Manna Hill to acquire the leases, Minister Evans' approval was required as the then Minister for Environment and Heritage. As the then minister responsible for the environment, he was required to have consideration for the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1982. Under section 37—and this is the detail we didn't get from the previous speaker—he had to have regard to a range of objectives in the management of the reserves constituted under the act. These included the following: the preservation and management of wildlife; the preservation of historic sites, objects and structures of historic or scientific interest; the preservation of geographical, natural or scenic interest; the encouragement of public use and enjoyment of reserves and education in the proper understanding and recognition of their purpose and significance; and generally the promotion of the public interest. Before making his decision, he visited—

*The Hon. T.G. Roberts interjecting:*

**The Hon. A.J. REDFORD:** It is a heck of a lot better put together than the four minute job that you delivered to this place not 15 minutes ago. Before making his decision, the minister visited the Gammon Ranges—a fact not acknowledged by the previous speaker—and the proposed mine site twice to inspect the area first-hand and to hear the views of both the opponents and proponents of the mine. He was provided with reports on the environmental considerations both by his then department and the then government's Wilderness Advisory Committee. It is worth recapping for the benefit of this place the environmental concerns raised with him at the time.

The yellow-footed rock wallaby is listed as a vulnerable species at state and national levels. The proposed mine would have removed habitat and caused disturbance through noise and mining activity. The permanent springs are also important for this species and the mining was quite likely to impact on the quality and quantity of the water source. The springs and creeks support a diverse array of aquatic life in an arid zone wetland. Disruption of the natural drainage pattern by removing a large portion of nearby hills would have affected a fish known as the Flinders Ranges purple-spotted gudgeon, which is listed as a vulnerable endemic species.

*The Hon. Ian Gilfillan interjecting:*

**The Hon. A.J. REDFORD:** The Hon. Ian Gilfillan interjects. I have to concede that I have been up there and visited the site, and I spent considerable time on the telephone and writing to urge the then minister to make the decision which he ultimately made but which he, unfortunately, was unable to implement because of the decision made by the Speaker in another place.

The mineral lease encompassed some of the most highly used walking trails in the northern Flinders Ranges—and they are beautiful walks. They provide exceptional scenic views, wild and remote experiences and allow people to view species of national significance. Construction and use of

access roads would have had a nationally significant impact on the unique reserve values of the park.

**The Hon. T.G. Roberts:** How did you see them all—by four-wheel drive?

**The Hon. A.J. REDFORD:** No, I walked it. How did the honourable member see it? He would have jumped in a plane, flown up there and got into a four-wheel drive vehicle. I will bet he did the long circular route. I walked there. Finally, the mine would have greatly diminished the wilderness capacity of the Weetootla Gorge in a rare, high quality mountain wilderness area of South Australia. Having regard to these major environmental concerns, including the presence of significant rare, threatened and unique species, the minister decided to refuse the transfer. There was very strong community support for that decision.

As all the mining leases have now expired and as the Supreme Court has upheld that decision, we are now in a position to seek to provide greater certainty for the special environment of the Gammon Ranges. Parliament's support for this resolution will remove the mining rights from the 1982 additions to the park, thus making the whole park free of mining. The act requires the support, in a bipartisan fashion, of both houses of parliament for a resolution to vary proclamation of the additions to the Gammon Ranges National Park to remove mining rights.

As I have indicated previously, many special features of the Gammon Ranges National Park justify its complete protection from the disturbance of future mining. According to extracts from the draft management plan, interest in establishing a national park in the northern Flinders Ranges region began in the 1940s when Prof. Sir Kerr Grant, who was referred to by the honourable member, commented during a visit to Mount Painter uranium prospects the following:

This wonderful country ought to be made a national park.

Mr Warren Bonython immediately followed this with a radio broadcast emphasising the wilderness and scenic values of the Gammon Ranges. The Adelaide Bushwalkers commenced walking the northern Flinders Ranges in 1947, a fact omitted by the previous speaker, and from within the group support for the park concept grew. Added incentive to this national park movement came in 1964 with the application for a mining exploration licence over the Gammon Ranges. Mr Bonython, with the support of the then Flora and Fauna Advisory Committee, of which he was a member, pressed the government to create a primitive or wilderness reserve. The Gammon Ranges National Park supports a diverse range of species, some of which are not found anywhere else in the world and many of which are threatened.

**The Hon. T.G. Roberts:** I said that, too.

**The Hon. A.J. REDFORD:** Yes, you did say that and it was in the notes provided to you by the minister. And I am surprised he did, because I understand that the minister was very busy last week grovelling and apologising to the member for MacKillop for misquoting and misstating what he said.

**The Hon. T.G. Roberts:** Is that right?

**The Hon. A.J. REDFORD:** Yes. You obviously haven't been home for the week, but he was quite grovelling. I am looking forward to talking to him about it. Some 37 significant plant species occur within the area, including 27 rare, six vulnerable and four in danger. The member did not say that. Of these species, many are endemic to this area, including the spidery wattle, which is endemic to the northern

Flinders Ranges. The Flinders Ranges bitter pea, showy speedwell, the Flinders Ranges goodenia and the Flinders Ranges spear grass are all endemic to the Flinders Ranges.

There are significant fauna species. Biological surveys undertaken by the Department for Environment and Heritage identified six significant species that occur within this area of the park. These include three bird species, two reptile species and, of course, the yellow-footed rock wallaby. Another species which is not currently listed as threatened but which is of regional significance is the short-tailed grass wren. This bird is restricted to the Flinders and Gawler Ranges and is one of only two endemic bird species in the state. Another significant species is the Flinders Ranges purple-spotted gudgeon, which I referred to earlier, which is rated nationally as vulnerable and whose existence relies upon the springs within the national park.

**The Hon. T.G. Roberts:** Did you see a purple-spotted gudgeon?

**The Hon. A.J. REDFORD:** I'm sure I did. There was an array of birdlife there and I am not qualified to distinguish between them. I am not sure that the honourable member opposite is claiming any qualification, either. The National Wilderness Inventory (Environmental Australia 1988) indicates that there is a substantial area—about some 45 000 hectares—of high quality wilderness within the 1982 additions. Mountain wilderness is a particularly rare resource in South Australia and is found only in the Mawson Plateau to the north of the Gammon Ranges and on Aboriginal land in the extreme north west of the state.

The initial 1970 establishment of the park reflected the important wilderness qualities of the area. The Gammon Ranges National Park has significant value to the Adnyamathanha people who have a long association and special connection with the area. The hills, the creeks and the gorges

have a lot of history in the stories of the local people. The park contains grave sites and art sites that form an important part of their cultural heritage. Bushwalkers and campers, many of whom appreciate the remote and undisturbed nature of the area, use the Gammon Ranges National Park on a regular basis. There are several walking trails within the park, and some have been described as the best walks in the northern Flinders Ranges.

**The Hon. T.G. Roberts:** How would you describe them?

**The Hon. A.J. REDFORD:** I'd agree. They provide exceptional scenic views, wild and remote experiences and allow people to view species of national significance such as the yellow footed rock wallaby. The Gammon Ranges National Park is a well frequented area for ornithologists and is visited by interstate and overseas bird watchers.

**The Hon. Diana Laidlaw:** He did say that.

**The Hon. A.J. REDFORD:** Yes, he did say that. The hills, gorges, cliffs, diverse vegetation associations and permanent water support a wide range of birds, some of which are listed as significant in South Australia. It is clear that the only outcome for the future is one in which this special place is protected from mining. It has the strong support of the Conservation Council of South Australia, the Wilderness Society, the Nature Conservation Society, the Nature Foundation and the local Aboriginal people. Now is the time for the parliament to deliver the permanent protection of the Gammons for future generations. I urge members to support this motion.

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW** secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### ADJOURNMENT

At 4.42. p.m. the council adjourned until Tuesday 9 July at 2.15 p.m.