

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Monday 14 October 2002

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

PAPER TABLED

The following paper was laid on the table:

By the President—

Report of the Auditor-General and Treasurer's Financial Statements, 2001-2002, Parts A and B.

BALI BOMBINGS

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

That the Legislative Council expresses its horror at the senseless killing of so many people, including Australians, in the terrible bombings in Bali, and that the council mourns the tragic loss of life, prays for the injured and expresses its deepest sympathy to the families and friends of all who are affected by this appalling tragedy. Further, that this council calls on the leaders of all nations to work with the Indonesian government in taking the action required to find the perpetrators of this heinous crime and bring them to justice.

It is with great sadness that I move this motion. It is hard to find the words to express the magnitude of this tragedy and the deep grief that is felt by all Australians at this time. We are aware that we live in a world which is no longer as safe as it once was, but nothing can prepare a community for the devastating loss that we have suffered as a result of the act of terror which occurred less than 48 hours ago at Kuta Beach in Bali.

Australians, especially young Australians, have always felt a strong affinity with Bali and have seen this beautiful island as a favoured destination for holidays, end of season trips for sports teams, honeymoons and get-aways. Many South Australians have wonderful memories of an exotic location which is so close to home and yet so different from our own lives and culture.

We must now face the tragedy of these car-bomb attacks and the loss of life this terrible act has wrought. As a result of the explosions at Paddy's Bar and the Sari Club, it has been estimated that more than 180 lives have been lost, with hundreds of others injured or missing. Around Australia grief-stricken families are waiting to hear news of loved ones and, as a community, we are drawing together to acknowledge their loss and offer our comfort.

As grieving Australians, however, we are very aware that this tragedy is not simply our own to mourn. Tourists from several other countries were lost in the blast as well as local Balinese people, and we offer our sincere condolences to the families of those victims. Closer to home, our thoughts and prayers are with the Sturt Football Club as it comes to terms with the fact that two of their own, Bob Marshall and Josh Deegan, are currently missing.

Bob Marshall, a club official, was a Sturt footballer in his youth and has had a 50-year association with the Double Blues. Josh Deegan, aged 22, is a promising young player for the club. Both were among a party of 20 who arrived in Bali, only hours before the blasts, to celebrate Sturt's first SANFL premiership for 26 years. Our hearts go out to their families and the Sturt club as they struggle to comprehend this tragedy.

I am aware that other players suffered injuries, some serious, as a result of the blast, and every effort is being made to ensure that they receive the best medical attention possible. The Premier has offered the club access to any trauma or other counselling they feel they need. The South Australian government will work closely with other governments to ensure a coordinated and effective response to this tragic event.

I would like to read out part of the Premier's statement to the House of Assembly, which sets out the actions the government has taken to respond to this tragedy. Yesterday, the Premier's staff made contact with the office of the foreign minister, Alexander Downer, and immediately offered the assistance of South Australian doctors and nurses. The Royal Adelaide Hospital sent three medical teams to Darwin yesterday on two chartered Lear jets. They are treating the injured who are being retrieved by the Royal Australian Air Force from Bali. Dr Bill Griggs heads the state's retrieval trauma assistance team; Dr Peter Sharley heads a retrieval team; and Dr John Greenwood heads a specialist burns team.

These three teams involve 10 medical personnel from the Royal Adelaide with a reputation internationally for their expertise and professionalism. They have responded to tragedies before around the world, including in East Timor and the Persian Gulf. They are the best in the business. So far, two female patients—sisters—have arrived in Adelaide. They are being treated in the Royal Adelaide's burns unit, and I understand that family members from Melbourne are on their way to Adelaide to be at their side. It is likely that there will be another retrieval from Darwin later this afternoon. The Royal Adelaide Hospital is on stand-by, given the tremendous pressure being placed on medical facilities in Darwin. In preparation, emergency cases are already being diverted away from the Royal Adelaide to the Queen Elizabeth and the Flinders Medical Centre.

The Royal Adelaide has cancelled one elective surgery case today, and all metropolitan public hospital intensive care units are on stand-by. There is every possibility that a more substantial evacuation of burnt and critically ill patients will be made to Adelaide. If this happens we may need to cancel some elective surgery involving intensive care units in South Australia. I ask everyone who might be affected by any cancellations to understand that these are exceptional circumstances. This is a crisis, and we must all play our part. I know everyone would understand that we must bring our injured people back home. Some will have terrible injuries and burns.

Our mental health services have organised a three-stage response. They have set up a dedicated hotline at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital under the supervision of Professor Sandy McFarlane. He is a world renowned expert in post traumatic stress disorder. The hotline telephone number is 1300 661 231. Anyone who wants to discuss the weekend's events will be able to get advice and counselling.

The Queen Elizabeth's department of psychological medicine is establishing and coordinating counselling teams. They will be available to people who arrive back from Bali. Although they may not be physically injured, they may have observed the traumatic events and the casualties. Those people retrieved from Bali who need hospitalisation for their injuries will be provided with trauma counselling at each hospital. Their relatives will also be offered counselling support. South Australians are at their best in a crisis. I understand they are already responding magnificently to the need for more blood supplies.

In the event of a disaster, a number of key national coordination measures are activated. South Australia is linked into these networks, including intelligence organisations through the police and the Department of Premier and Cabinet. Cabinet was briefed this morning and we will continue to get regular updates on the situation. The Premier spoke earlier today with the foreign minister, Alexander Downer. He told him that whatever resources South Australia could make available would be made available to the commonwealth during this crisis. Specifically, he offered Mr Downer assistance in the forensic analysis area, trauma counselling and, of course, our excellent medical retrieval services.

South Australia Police are offering intelligence and investigational support. It is important that everyone arriving back in Adelaide from Bali is interviewed by police. We urge everyone to cooperate with this debriefing process. There may also be requests for assistance with disaster victim identification. SAPOL is on stand-by to offer any help necessary.

Reports suggest that Australian officials in Bali have worked above and beyond the call of duty in the most difficult and distressing of circumstances. We know we are in a battle now—with whom it is hard to say. We will care for the sick, the injured and the bereaved. And how else do we respond? Not with the rhetoric of revenge against people who may have absolutely no involvement with this vicious act, not with words of hatred for another culture or faith and not with easy abuse of another race of people or another way of life on a planet we must all share. I believe we should, as with any other murder, investigate and vigorously pursue those responsible and bring them to trial and bring them to justice. But first we must find out, not guess, who was responsible and who is really behind this terrible atrocity.

Violent death is unlike any other kind of death. Many of us, in our extended families and friendships, know what it is like. The loss of a son or a sister or a father by murder or accident fills the mind with an unendurable darkness that you cannot imagine yourself living through. The innocent are dead or injured; there are parents, children and loved ones to be comforted and wounds to be healed; there are words to be uttered and tears to be shed. In doing so, we must all contemplate the fragility of the life we are in. We should gather the evidence carefully and choose, after much thought and careful debate, the course Australia must take in a different and changing world.

This evening there will be a memorial service at St Frances Xavier's Cathedral, at 5.45 p.m. This will be a chance to offer our prayers and sympathy to everyone affected by this senseless act, including the innocent people of Bali. The Premier has directed that flags will fly at half mast in South Australia for the rest of this week in honour of those killed or injured.

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Leader of the Opposition): On behalf of Liberal members, I second the motion and join with the Leader of the Government in the council in sadness in having to speak to the motion before the council. I am sure that all of us, at varying stages perhaps, through Sunday became aware of what had occurred in Bali, and many of us were able to follow in graphic detail the events and descriptive summary on our television sets, particularly on those channels many of us watched with some intensity after 11 September. Again, those news channels brought closer to us the tragedy that had occurred in Bali.

Sadly all too frequently these days we address ourselves as a community to the tragedies that occur around the world. The simple fact is that modern communications means that, wherever it occurs around the world, whether it happens to be the United States or, as in this case, where it has happened closer to Australia, we see it almost instantaneously in terms of the coverage, and the whole world shares in the tragedy that many South Australians and Australians are feeling at the moment.

Obviously, all members join and agree with the expressions of concern and sympathy by the Leader of the Government in the council and by the Premier in another place on behalf of all South Australians. Whilst there is unlikely to be, at least in the immediate term, much that the opposition can do in terms of offering bipartisan support, I know that the Leader of the Opposition, Rob Kerin, has indicated and will continue to indicate a willingness to work together with the government should anything be required in terms of parliamentary or bipartisan support for actions to assist in the aftermath of this tragedy.

Obviously, I do not want to repeat all the detail outlined by the Leader of the Government, but I will offer comment on two further areas. In general terms, the events in Bali have brought home to South Australians and Australians, as indicated by the leader, that not only is it closer to home for many of us but also, I suspect, that virtually all of us have been to Bali or know someone who was recently in Bali or about to go to Bali at some stage. As indicated by the Hon. Mr Holloway, it has certainly been a favourite tourist and holiday destination for younger Australians, but not just younger Australians. Australians of all ages and vintages have holidayed in Bali. As I said, I think all of us would know someone who has been to Bali as a tourist.

This event, coming so soon after 11 September, and coupled with the unconfirmed reports today that the tragedy involving the activities of the sniper or snipers shooting and killing Americans in and around Washington in recent days may also have a terrorist link, hammers home the message to us that, sadly, terrorism is not something that is going to impact just on people on the other side of the world. Although some have sought simplistically in recent days to reduce the focus of terrorists and terrorist movements around the world as being solely either for or against America or American presidents, that is not the case.

The tragedy of Bali brings it home that terrorism potentially impacts on all of us—not just Americans, American politicians and leaders—wherever we are. As to the view that some people hold that this has nothing to do with South Australians or Australians, that this is something that happens on the other side of the world, and that it is not a battle for anyone other than the United States of America, increasingly, as we see these events occur around the world and sadly closer and closer to home, that view will steadily diminish. This has the potential to impact on all of us and, as the motion has indicated, the response from leaders of all nations shows that it is a responsibility for all of us. It is not something that we can ignore. It is not something regarding which we can say somebody else needs to take the responsibility for addressing. It is not something that we can leave for others to sort out. It is something that all of us, each in our own way, need to acknowledge as a potential impact on us and our communities, and we too will have to think through what is the appropriate role for our community, our state and our nation in terms of that response.

Finally, I conclude by placing on the record, on behalf of Liberal members, our praise of and thanks to the specialist staff who are already working with victims as identified by the leader of the government. Dr Griggs has been mentioned, as have a number of other doctors whose specialties and expertise are known around Australia and, in many cases, around the world. We congratulate those who are working and will work, and we praise them for the commitment that they are giving and will have to give over the coming days, and possibly weeks. We also extend our praise to a number of other organisations, particularly Qantas, which has had to organise a swift response to try to move people out of Bali.

Those of us who watched television yesterday would have seen the trauma being experienced by many families through just not knowing when their loved ones might be able to get out of Bali and what might still be coming as they were being interviewed yesterday morning and afternoon. We place on the record our praise to Qantas as a business organisation, and to others. They do not always get the praise that they deserve, but on this occasion, certainly in the early days, anyway, their response has deserved commendation.

On behalf of Liberal members in the chamber, with sadness, we join with government members in supporting this motion. Certainly our prayers and best wishes go to family members and acquaintances on whom the tragedy in Bali has impacted in some way.

The Hon. M.J. ELLIOTT: I rise on behalf of the Democrats to echo the sentiments of the government and the opposition and to express our condolences and best wishes to the families of those we know to be injured and others whose fate we do not know at this stage; and not knowing must be a terrible thing. I congratulate the South Australian government and the medical people of South Australia for their very quick response, and the ordinary South Australians who, as indicated by the minister earlier, have already started to rise to the challenge by donating blood and offering whatever other help they can.

In conclusion, we have seen how Australia has galvanised in the face of this event on our doorstep. Unsaid at this stage is the possibility that it may spill over the doorstep and come into South Australia. Both military and civilian institutions could be targeted and, unfortunately, we have to be prepared for that possibility because that is the world we are now living within. We hope that such concerns do not come to pass, but certainly we will need to be prepared for it. The Democrats support the motion.

The Hon. A.L. EVANS: The Family First Party supports the motion and expresses our love and care for the bereaved and injured. I understand from the *Advertiser* that the churches of South Australia are opening their facilities for prayer at this time. I understand that the Catholic and Anglican cathedrals will be open later tonight and tomorrow. My own church, the Paradise Community Church, will be open for prayer at 11 am tomorrow. Members are invited to any of those services if they can make it. I encourage members to pray for comfort, healing and strength for the people affected by this tragedy, but also for the wider front. Let us encourage prayer for world peace and let us pray that the leaders of this world will have wisdom at this time of violence and terrorism so that it shall not continue but shall be replaced by dialogue, justice and peace. We support at this time all those in need.

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW: I rise to support the motion and to register my horror and deep sadness at what occurred in Bali on Saturday—a place that has been seen as paradise for so many Australians and South Australians over many years; clearly a paradise lost. Australia also has lost its innocence with this blast, attack and terror. Yesterday was the worst day experienced by Australians in any period of peace. I especially send my deep concern to the Sturt Football Club. For some four years in the mid 1990s I held the No.1 membership of the Sturt Football Club. It has been an important part of my life and my family's life for many years. It is such a tragedy to think of the events that have happened to that club in the past week.

On Sunday 6 October there was the absolute joy shared by all, from old timers like me to the young ones on the football field and their families, as Sturt won its first SANFL grand final for some 26 years. Throughout the past week there have been celebrations every day as people were overjoyed to see Sturt—even the Hon. Robert Lucas shared some of the joy—come back to be victors in the premiership in South Australia. Generally, people celebrated the fact that, notwithstanding the AFL, the media saturation and the money involved, there remains such a strong league in South Australia.

So many nice, young, wonderful guys—with the support of their families—were farewelled, some 20 of them, just last Friday night, less than a week after the Grand Final win, to continue those celebrations in Bali. They returned today full of sadness, distraught and disillusioned.

I send to all those who survive today and their families my best wishes, particularly to those who are missing. Josh Deegan was a fantastic footballer and I pray that we will see him play again. I saw Bob Marshall play in the 1950s and he has continued his extraordinary loyalty to the Sturt Football Club as a trainer; and that loyalty continued as he went as an official to supervise—whether these young 20 year old guys could be supervised in Bali is questionable—to support the team as a trainer, and I pray that he returns.

The Hon. A.J. REDFORD: I support the motion and join with all Australians, in particular the Prime Minister and the Premier, in expressing my sincere condolences to the families and friends of lost ones. I join with the Premier in expressing our hopes on behalf of those families and friends waiting on news of those who are missing. I urge everyone to show restraint in their judgment and allow the Indonesian authorities, and those Australians assisting, to care for the injured and to investigate the criminals who perpetrated this vicious crime.

Indonesians have suffered greatly as well, and I know they are as distressed as we are at the events of Sunday morning's tragedy. President Megawati moved to condemn the attacks the minute she heard of them. Former President Wahid, a major Islamic leader in the Indonesian nation, was extremely strong in his condemnation of the attacks. The country's two largest Muslim organisations, the Nahdlatul Ulama (NU) and Muhammadiyah, strongly condemned the uncivilised attack and expressed condolences to all victims, most of whom are foreigners. We share with the Indonesian nation our grief and extend our condolences.

It is interesting to note that the police chief of Bali, Budi Setyawan, has vowed to resign if the perpetrators are not found within the month. Today's editorial in the *Jakarta Post* also expresses its condolences. Indeed, there will be, I suspect, based upon that editorial, some deep soul searching

within the Indonesian nation about how they have reacted to terrorism to date. Indeed, the editorial was extremely strong in its statements about what has happened in the past and what should happen in the future in relation to this issue. The editorial states:

What is most deplorable is our whole attitude towards the threat of terrorism since it became an international issue in the wake of the September 11 attacks. Until Saturday night's blast, very few people in Indonesia had taken the threat of terrorism seriously. This goes not just for the government, the politicians in the major political parties, but also the public including the media. Just about every single warning that has come from foreign governments was treated with disdain, as most people here continued to believe and to insist that there were no international terrorists operating in this country.

I know that those sentiments and those views will be shared by Christians, Muslims and by other groups, in particular Hindus, over the next few weeks. I join with the Premier in urging restraint in relation to dealing with the many Muslims who live within our community in Australia, indeed, within South Australia.

I thank all of those people involved in the very difficult humanitarian task they have undertaken and the very difficult challenges that will confront them not only in the next few days but over the next few weeks and months.

The Hon. R.D. LAWSON: I wish to associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the mover of this motion and by other speakers in support of it. I personally place on the record my sorrow for the victims and their families and

friends, and for all of those who have been affected and all of those in our community who are presently in great uncertainty. I express also my admiration and gratitude for the work of those people directly involved in the rescue and treatment of people. Like the Hon. Diana Laidlaw, and many old Sturt supporters, I fondly remember Bob Marshall as a great stalwart and player from the Sturt Football Club.

I pray for his safe return and that of Josh Deegan and others, especially our countrymen and women who are presently unaccounted for. This tragedy has brought home to us in Australia the fact that we, in this part of the world, are not immune from terrorism, and it should, in my view, steel our collective resolve to ensure that the evil of terrorism is appropriately addressed. For the present, we should console those who are bereaved, pray for the recovery of those who are injured and support the rescue effort.

Motion carried by members standing in their places in silence.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That in recognition of this tragedy the sitting of the council be adjourned.

Motion carried.

At 2.48 p.m. the council adjourned until Tuesday 15 October at 2.15 p.m.