

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

**First Session of the Fifty-First Parliament
(2006)**

The Fiftieth Parliament of South Australia having been prorogued until 4 May 2006, and the House of Assembly having been dissolved on 20 February, general elections were held on 18 March. By proclamation dated 6 April, the new Parliament was summoned to meet on 27 April, and the First Session began on that date.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Thursday 27 April 2006

The council assembled at 11 a.m. pursuant to proclamation issued by Her Excellency the Governor (Marjorie Jackson-Nelson). The Clerk (Mrs J.M. Davis) read the proclamation summoning parliament.

GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION

The commissioners appointed by the Governor to do all things necessary to prepare for the opening of the session, the Hon. J.J. Doyle (Chief Justice) and the Hon. M.J. Nyland (a judge of the Supreme Court), were announced by Black Rod (Mr T.R. Blowes) and conducted to the chairs on the dais.

A message was sent to the House of Assembly requesting members of that house to attend to hear the commission read. The members of the House of Assembly having arrived, the Clerk read the commission.

The Senior Commissioner (the Hon. Mr Justice Doyle) announced that Her Excellency the Governor would, in person in this place, declare the reasons for her calling the parliament together as soon as the new members of the Legislative Council and the new members of the House of Assembly had been sworn and the two houses had respectively notified her that they had elected their President and Speaker.

The members of the House of Assembly and His Honour Mr Justice Doyle withdrew.

MEMBERS, SWEARING IN

Her Honour Justice Nyland produced a commission from Her Excellency the Governor authorising her to be a commissioner to administer to newly elected members the oath of allegiance or receive an affirmation in lieu thereof, also a writ and returns for the election of 11 members.

The oath of allegiance or affirmation was then administered to and subscribed by the new members, who signed the members' roll.

The commissioner retired.

PRESIDENT, ELECTION

The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY (Minister for Police): I remind the council that the time has arrived for the election of its President. I move:

That the Hon. R.K. Sneath be President of the Legislative Council.

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Leader of the Opposition): I second the motion.

The Hon. R.K. SNEATH: I submit myself to the will of the council.

The CLERK: Are there any other nominations?

An honourable member: No.

The CLERK: There being no other nomination, I declare the Hon. R.K. Sneath duly elected as President of the council.

The Hon. R.K. Sneath was escorted to the President's Chair by the mover and seconder of the motion.

The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY (Minister for Police): Mr President, I congratulate you on your election to this very important office as President of the Legislative Council. I know, sir, that you were born and raised in the South-East of South Australia and that you were educated down there in Tantanoola and Millicent High School. That follows a very long tradition. The past three presidents, of course, have come from regional parts of South Australia, and I am pleased that that situation continues with your election.

I know, Mr President, that you spent many years working as a shearer, where you became involved with the union movement as an organiser for the Australian Workers Union. I am also aware that you have held very high positions, including that of President of the Australian Labor Party in 1999. So, I believe, sir, that you are very eminently qualified for the job of President of the Legislative Council. I know that you will very fairly uphold the standing orders of this chamber. Again, on behalf of government members, I congratulate you on your election to this high office, and we look forward to working with you over the next four years of the 51st parliament.

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Leader of the Opposition): Mr President, on behalf of Liberal members, we congratulate you on your elevation to this high office. As you will be aware, Liberal members have the utmost respect and regard for the

important position of the office of the President, and I can assure you, Mr President, that that will continue during your term as President of the Legislative Council. We look forward to working with you. The coming four years will be a challenging time for us all not just in terms of the usual legislative program for government and parliament but it is, of course, a most important time for the future of the Legislative Council as an institution. So, you have the rare honour of being its President during perhaps one of the more critical times in the history of this chamber. However, more of that on another occasion as today is a day not for discussing those issues but for congratulating you on your elevation to this high office. We look forward to working with you over the coming period.

The Hon. NICK XENOPHON: I endorse the remarks of the Leader of the Government and the Leader of the Opposition in congratulating you on your elevation to this office. The Leader of the Opposition is correct—these are historic times for the Legislative Council, and that perhaps places greater onus on you as President, but I am very confident that you will bear that onus in an admirable way.

The Hon. A.L. EVANS: On behalf of Family First, we congratulate you, Mr President, on your appointment. Having worked with you for four years on the Statutory Authorities Review Committee when you were chairman, I noticed the fairness in your approach to all decisions, and I look forward to that continuing.

The PRESIDENT (Hon. R.K. Sneath): I thank you all for those kind words, and I thank the council for electing me as its President. I hope that over the next four years we can have a good working relationship, when the council can make many decisions that benefit South Australians. I encourage you all to continue to use your sense of humour in the chamber; it should be a pleasure to come to work no matter where that is. I encourage you all to enter debate strongly and to work together because, as has been said, the next four years might be a trying time for the Legislative Council. I hope that, at the end of those four years, the public recognise the good role the Legislative Council plays and that it continues to play that role. I wish you all the best for the next four years and, in particular, I congratulate all the new members.

I also congratulate the past president and the president before him. I recognise the sad passing of Jamie Irwin, who was president of this council. Unfortunately, he did not have the long retirement he deserved, and I think that is very sad. I wish you all good health for the next four years.

At 11:30 a.m., attended by a deputation of members, the President proceeded to Government House.

On resuming at 11.48 a.m.:

The PRESIDENT: I have to report that, accompanied by honourable members, I proceeded to Government House and there presented myself as President to Her Excellency the Governor, and claimed for the Council the right of free access to and communication with Her Excellency, and that the most favourable construction might be placed on all its proceedings. Her Excellency was pleased to reply:

I congratulate the honourable members of the Legislative Council on their choice of President. I readily assure you, Mr President, of my confirmation of all the constitutional rights and privileges of the Legislative Council, the proceedings of which will always receive most favourable consideration.

[Sitting suspended from 11.49 a.m. to 2.15 p.m.]

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

Her Excellency the Governor, having been announced by Black Rod, was received by the President at the Bar of the council chamber and by him conducted to the chair. The Speaker and members of the House of Assembly having entered the chamber in obedience to her summons, Her Excellency read her opening speech as follows:

Honourable members of the Legislative Council and Members of the House of Assembly.

I have called you together for the dispatch of business.

I would like to thank Lewis O'Brien, an elder of the Kurna people, for his gracious "welcome to country" today.

It is with sadness that we acknowledge the passing of one sitting Member, and four former Members, since the opening of the final session of the 50th Parliament.

In November last year, a former President of the Legislative Council, the Honourable Jamie Irwin, passed away.

A former Member of the Assembly and Minister, the Honourable Ted Chapman, died in July 2005.

In May 2005, the Honourable David McKee—a former Minister, and Member of the House from 1959 to 1975—passed away.

In November 2004, we noted the passing of a former Minister, the Honourable Gabe Bywaters, who was the Member for Murray for 12 years until 1968.

And, just two months ago, my Government lost a much admired and valued member of the Ministry and Executive Council, the Honourable Terry Roberts.

Honourable Members.

My Government proposes to embark on a bold, four-year program of reform.

Its overarching aim will be to foster confidence, jobs and opportunity—especially among our young people.

It will strive for continuing economic growth, while at the same time drawing a "social dividend" from that wealth.

Its policy framework—its vision statement—will continue to be *South Australia's Strategic Plan*.

I am advised that the *Plan* has engendered growing community support over the past two years, and that the State is achieving good progress against many of its targets.

The *Plan* is designed to be an evolving, dynamic document, and it is one for which business and the community—as well as government and all Members of Parliament—share responsibility.

My Government has recently started a series of meetings across the State as part of a thorough reassessment of the *Plan*.

At the heart of the *Strategic Plan* is the goal of increasing economic prosperity, and this will be an important part of my Government's second-term agenda.

My Government intends to exercise diligence and prudent management in carrying out one of its major tasks, which is to maintain a sound State Budget.

More broadly, it will aim to foster continuing growth.

Many large and complex projects beckon for South Australia, such as the Air Warfare Destroyers contract and the expansion of the Olympic Dam uranium, gold and copper mine.

But I am advised that, in order to carry out these long-term projects, the State will need flexible and competitive industries, and many thousands of highly skilled people.

A new Mineral Resources and Heavy Engineering Centre—with branches in the Upper Spencer Gulf and Ceduna—will be established to help train hundreds of new apprentices and trainees for the State's coming mining boom.

Ten new Trade Schools will be established as part of a revamped and more job-focused South Australian Certificate of Education.

Another 2000 apprenticeships and traineeships will be created—especially to cater for high-growth industries, current skill shortages and the needs of regional South Australia.

And my Government will work with BHP Billiton to establish Australia's biggest desalination plant in the Upper Spencer Gulf—a project critical to the expansion of the Olympic Dam mine, while relieving pressure on the River Murray and the Great Artesian Basin.

The defence industry is rapidly growing in South Australia, and the State is on the way towards the target of almost doubling the size of its defence workforce—from 16 000 to 28 000.

My Government is working with industry to develop the massive Techport shipbuilding site at Osborne, designed to build the Air Warfare Destroyers and other projects.

Techport will also include a new Maritime Skills Centre.

My Government will aggressively pursue a series of new defence projects, and it will work closely with the Australian Army to relocate a battalion from Sydney to Adelaide.

As part of the State's commitment to upgrading transport infrastructure, a new underpass will take South Road underneath Sturt Road—the next stage in a plan to build a north-south export “corridor” spanning the city.

Regarding primary industries, work on the deep-sea grain terminal will be completed.

And my Government will work closely with producers to help them further contribute to the State's export performance and to deal with the structural challenges the sector will face in the years ahead.

My Government believes that the private sector remains the engine room for economic growth in South Australia.

So my Government will do all it can to free-up business by eliminating 25 per cent of “red tape” by July 2008.

In an effort to make this State the most competitive place to do business in Australia and New Zealand, the Economic Development Board has been asked to focus, during the next four years, on the task of improving the State's competitive edge.

The Board will aim to improve the timeliness of Government decision-making, to abolish or streamline regulations, and to improve licensing and approval processes.

Responding to complaints by business over many years that Australia is over-governed, my Government will confront the challenge of the biggest constitutional reform in our State since Federation—and in Australia since 1922, when Queensland abolished its Upper House.

The Government will introduce legislation to hold a referendum at the 2010 State election giving South Australians the chance to vote for or against the abolition of the Legislative Council, or to substantially reform it by reducing the number of Members and their terms of office from eight to four years.

Consistent with the goal of removing bottlenecks, my Government will propose changes to the *Development Act*.

These will be designed, among other things, to improve strategic planning by councils and to depoliticise development assessment decisions.

My Government will embark on a fresh reform agenda for the public sector, including through changes to the *Public Sector Management Act*.

My Government believes that we are currently enjoying good economic times, which must be harnessed to improve the daily lives of South Australians.

In line with this goal, my Government will introduce a range of new social measures during this Parliament.

In education—and in response to a recent inquiry into early childhood services—another ten new Children's Centres will be established across the State.

These will provide childcare, preschool, school and health services all at the one site—offering convenience for parents and continuity for children in the critical early years.

My Government will recruit an extra 100 teachers in order to deliver smaller class sizes across all Year 3 classes in State schools.

Because of concerns about increasing levels of childhood obesity, junk food will be banned at schools and a Premier's Be Active Challenge will be introduced—similar to the Premier's Reading Challenge.

In health more broadly, extra nurses, doctors and specialists will be employed in GP clinics and public hospitals.

Following major refurbishments of the Queen Elizabeth, Lyell McEwin and Royal Adelaide hospitals, my Government is embarking on a ten-year redevelopment of Flinders Medical Centre, as well as the “deprivatisation” of Modbury Hospital.

A network of GP Plus Centres will be established in order to ease the pressure on emergency departments—with the first four to be built at Aldinga, Elizabeth, Marion and Woodville.

Legislation will be introduced to ensure the Government has the powers it needs to effectively respond to a flu pandemic.

It is proposed that mental health will have added support through the hiring of 56 new mental health workers, and by making Glenside Hospital a hub of mental and related health services in South Australia.

Mental health services in South Australia will be augmented with the opening of new and redeveloped facilities, including at the Margaret Tobin Centre, and the Noarlunga and Repatriation hospitals.

In disabilities, extra places and assistance will be provided in supported accommodation, and additional funding will go towards transport and support for children with autism.

Senior South Australians will have access to improved dental services over the coming four years, and more will be eligible for electricity concessions.

In the field of Social Inclusion, my Government intends that its work will continue to lead Australia with the creation of the position of Commissioner for Social Inclusion.

The inaugural Commissioner, Monsignor David Cappelletti, will report directly to the Premier, as Minister for Social Inclusion.

And the Commissioner will continue the Social Inclusion Board's work, especially in the critical areas of mental health, disabilities, school retention, Aboriginal health and homelessness.

My Government will continue to work with Aboriginal communities to tackle disadvantage and to improve wellbeing.

This goal has received added impetus with the recent signing of a five-year agreement between the South Aus-

tralian and Federal governments that commits them to improving the health and welfare of indigenous South Australians.

In this Parliament, amendments to the *Pitjantjatjara Land Rights Act* will be reintroduced to create offences related to the sale or supply of regulated substances.

My Government will intend to be aggressive in continuing its reform of the criminal law, and to improve crime-fighting and better support the rights of victims.

An extra 400 police officers will be recruited over the next four years.

My Government will propose that the possession of hydroponic equipment without a lawful excuse be made an offence.

A Bill will be introduced to extend police powers to allow for the inspection of known drug-dealing premises without a warrant.

It is proposed that high-speed police chases, graffiti vandalism, unlicensed and unregistered driving, drink-spiking, and rock-throwing will also be addressed.

Proposed changes to the law will help homeowners better deal with “gatecrashers”.

And legislation will be introduced to create the new offence of Stealing a Motor Vehicle.

Victims of crime are expected to benefit from the establishment of Australia’s first independent office for the Commissioner of Victims’ Rights.

Victim-of-Crime Advocates will be given the legal right to make victim-impact submissions at sentencing hearings in cases that result in the death or permanent incapacity of the victim.

Legislation will be introduced to give victims of crime the right to be properly consulted about plea- or charge-bargaining.

A Bill to amend the *Sentencing Act* will be introduced with the aim of requiring sentencing courts to give primary consideration to the need to protect the public from a defendant’s criminal act.

And laws governing the use of suppression orders in South Australia will be updated.

My Government has been concerned about what it regards as unacceptably low conviction rates in relation to rape and sexual assault, and it has conducted a major review of the relevant laws.

Proposed reforms arising from that review are currently open to public consultation, with a view to my Government introducing comprehensive new legislation to this Parliament as soon as possible.

Also in relation to women, further action will be undertaken to improve the “work-life balance”, to address discrimination in the workplace, and to increase the number of women serving on Government boards and committees.

Incidentally, I have been advised that this 51st Parliament includes a record 23 women Members.

Over the coming four years, my Government will seek to improve the strong international reputation South Australia enjoys in higher education, the arts and sport.

A local branch of Carnegie Mellon University has opened in Adelaide, and negotiations are continuing with a view to establishing a defence-related software engineering hub as part of that link.

Similar relationships with other American and British universities—and with London’s Royal Institution—are being

pursued as part of my Government’s vision to promote Adelaide internationally as a “university city”.

In the arts, the Adelaide Fringe will become an annual event, and a major upgrade of the Festival Centre will begin.

I am advised that a world-standard aquatics centre is proposed at Marion following the Federal Government’s recent announcement that it would match the State Government’s contribution to such a project.

With respect to the environment, my Government advises me that South Australia has made strong progress in the use of renewable energy in recent times.

South Australia has more wind power than all the other States and Territories combined, and it has close to 50 per cent of the nation’s grid-connected solar power.

From July 1 this year, all new homes built in South Australia will be required to have a five-star energy rating and plumbed rainwater tanks.

Complementing this, my Government will offer \$400 rebates to people who choose to plumb rainwater tanks into existing homes.

South Australia has set the pace nationally by announcing the abolition of single-use plastic shopping bags from the start of 2009.

My Government also proposes to create more cycling paths across Adelaide, establish a Chair in Climate Change Research at Adelaide University, and convert 50 per cent of State Government vehicles to more environmentally friendly fuels by 2010.

In order to help save the River Murray, my Government will continue to work with other Murray-Darling Basin governments to return 500 gegalitres of water to the river.

These sorts of practical environmental measures will be implemented over the next four years in the context of wider action to address the effects of global warming.

Indeed, the centrepiece of my Government’s work will be the introduction of an Australian-first Bill that will require our State to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 60 per cent by 2050.

That proposed legislation will set up a voluntary carbon-offset program for business and government.

And it will institute annual reporting to Parliament by the Minister for Environment on our State’s efforts to combat climate change.

Honourable Members.

My Government believes:

- that in its 170th year, the State of South Australia is in an optimistic and positive frame of mind;
- that we remain a richly diverse and fundamentally just society;
- that we are open and outward-looking in our dealings with the world;
- and that we enjoy both economic and social prosperity.

With an ambitious and comprehensive set of new policies—and working within the framework of *South Australia’s Strategic Plan*—my Government will seek to build on the State’s momentum during the course of this 51st Parliament.

My Government’s aim is to improve the lives of South Australians today and to position us to take advantage of the undoubted opportunities of tomorrow.

I now declare this session open and trust that your deliberations will be guided by Divine Providence to the advancement of the welfare of the people of this State.

The Governor retired from the chamber, and the Speaker and members of the House of Assembly withdrew.

The President again took the chair and read prayers.

SENATE VACANCY

Her Excellency the Governor, by message, informed the Legislative Council that the President of the Senate of the Commonwealth of Australia, in accordance with section 21 of the Commonwealth Constitution, had notified her that, in consequence of the resignation on 15 March 2006 of Senator Robert Murray Hill, a vacancy had happened in the representation of this state in the Senate. The Governor was advised that, by such vacancy having happened, the place of a senator had become vacant before the expiration of his term within the meaning of section 15 of the Constitution and that such place must be filled by the houses of parliament, sitting and voting together, choosing a person to hold it in accordance with the provisions of the said section.

The PRESIDENT: I inform the council that I have conferred with the Speaker of the House of Assembly and arranged to call a joint meeting of the two houses on Thursday 4 May 2006 at 10 a.m. for the purpose of complying with section 15 of the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act.

ROBERTS, Hon. T.G., DEATH

The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY (Minister for Police): I move:

That the Legislative Council expresses its deep regret at the death of the Hon. Terry Roberts, former minister of the Crown and member of the Legislative Council, and places on record its appreciation of his distinguished public service, and that as a mark of respect to his memory the sitting of the council be suspended until the ringing of the bells.

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the passing of our friend and colleague Terry Roberts on Saturday 18 February. All honourable members would be aware of Terry's battle with ill health following the diagnosis of a pancreatic tumour last year. The fact that Terry returned to this chamber late last year after a long enforced absence was a testament to his determination to beat his health problems and continue to be an active and effective member of the council and of the Rann cabinet.

He faced some difficult times during his absence. I understand his treatment included around 30 consecutive days of radiotherapy and chemotherapy, but during this ordeal he continued to be upbeat and positive and maintained his lifelong interest in horseracing, continuing to provide both his friends and colleagues with the occasional winner. Constantly by his side during these difficult days was his much loved partner, Julie, his elder sons, Nick and Tim, and his young sons, Tom and Harry, from whom he drew a great deal of strength, love and inspiration. Terry, Julie and the boys were also touched by and very much appreciative of the regular flow of best wishes and goodwill from his ministerial and parliamentary colleagues, especially from many members of this chamber.

Terry's immediate staff, too, were towers of strength. His chief of staff, Kyam Maher, his personal assistant, Josie Kalionis, and his advisers John Sutherland and Richard Mills, along with the other staff members, ensured the office continued to operate as professionally as possible. While they got on with the job, their thoughts were never far from Terry. His passing left them all deeply saddened. In an article published in *The Advertiser* of 30 August last year, Terry told Laura Anderson that, while he was shocked by the diagnosis, it had given him an opportunity to take some time out to

'smell the roses' and change his priorities in life. Terry explained that he had taken life for granted but was appreciating life a lot more and also spoke of looking forward to completing some 'unfinished business' in his ministerial role.

Sadly, his health deteriorated rapidly after Christmas, ultimately leading to his untimely passing. It was an honour and a privilege to know Terry Roberts and work with him for the best part of 20 years. Terry was more than just a parliamentary colleague. For many of us, Terry became a good friend who was respected by everyone in this building and beyond. The fact that around 800 people attended his state funeral is an indicator of the high level of respect with which Terry was held by people from all political persuasions and all walks of life.

Terry was born in Millicent on 28 January 1946, and to his final days he remained very proud of his South-East roots. He was educated at Millicent High School, Mount Gambier Tech. and Sydney Tech. Terry's working life included time as a metal worker, time in the forestry industry and experience in the British correction system during a long stay in the United Kingdom—experience that served him well when he later became shadow correctional services minister and, of course, minister for correctional services. However, it was his time at sea as a marine engineer that perhaps had the greatest influence on his eventual decision to enter politics.

Terry was always a great reader and, during those days at sea, he read widely about the plight of his fellow human beings, reading that came to life when the ship visited some of the poorest places on earth. *Advertiser* journalist, John Ferguson, in an article about Terry on 17 February 1992 wrote:

Terry Roberts' ideological awakening occurred as a young man while reading Tolstoy and the like. The great Russian author and his literary contemporaries, who told of the plight of the common people, sent the young Roberts' mind in new directions.

Terry joined the Labor Party in 1968 and spent much of the 1970s working with the former amalgamated metal workers and shipwrights union, setting in train a political life that ultimately would lead to a seat at the cabinet table.

He contested his first election at just 33 years of age: an unsuccessful attempt to win the seat of Victoria. In 1982, Terry turned his attention to the Legislative Council, narrowly missing out on a seat at the 6 November election. During his eulogy at Terry's state funeral, Premier Mike Rann recalled Terry actually attending the first Labor caucus meeting after that election because everyone thought he had been successful. He was even allocated an office at Parliament House and had a nameplate nailed to the door before a recount of the Legislative Council votes revealed Terry had fallen short by just a handful of votes.

He was back for the election in December 1985 and on 12 February 1986 the newly sworn-in Terance Gerald Roberts delivered his maiden speech to the Legislative Council. That speech focused on Terry's great passions of the common people and social change and the need for governments to play a leading role in protecting disadvantaged people and providing them with opportunity. He spoke of the changing attitudes during the 1960s and 1970s to a range of social and political issues, including licensing laws, education, sexuality, the workplace, child care, disability and migration—issues that remain relevant to this day.

Terry's first front bench appointment came in 1994, when he became the shadow minister for the environment and natural resources and the shadow minister for correctional services—a portfolio he continually served in as a shadow

minister and minister until his passing. He became shadow minister for Aboriginal affairs and shadow minister assisting in industrial relations and regional development and primary industries in 1997. On the election of the Rann government in March 2002 Terry was sworn in as the minister for Aboriginal affairs and reconciliation, correctional services and regional affairs.

It is perhaps his work in the Aboriginal affairs and reconciliation portfolio that will be Terry's legacy to this parliament and the state, especially South Australia's Aboriginal communities. Improving living standards and providing greater opportunities for Aboriginal South Australians was at the heart of Terry's political life. He won the respect of the state's Aboriginal elders and communities by being prepared to listen. His regular visits to the APY lands and other Aboriginal communities throughout the state were always warmly welcomed, even when difficult issues needed to be discussed. Again, Terry was prepared to sit down and listen to traditional owners and community members so he could understand their views and bring that understanding back to the caucus room, the cabinet and the parliament. Often Terry would walk the land with traditional owners when matters of Aboriginal heritage needed to be addressed.

Many of South Australia's Aboriginal leaders attended Terry's funeral, with a wonderful eulogy delivered by Harry Miller—a mark of respect for a man who dedicated much of his political life working to improve the lives of the state's Aboriginal people. While Terry was dedicated to his causes, he was also a man who loved to have fun. Whether that involved spending time playing with his young sons, catching up with his older sons for a beer, swapping sledges with his staff or assisting with the playing of practical jokes on his media adviser, Terry was always up for some fun, and I am sure that not too many days passed without a laugh in Terry's office. We will all remember Terry's smile, his laugh, his infectious sense of humour and his ability to turn a five-minute response to a parliamentary question into a 20-minute lecture.

It was almost exactly four years ago that Terry and I stood here at the opening of parliament and it was with a sense of great trepidation to us in those days as to how with just two ministers we would go and how long the government would last. We decided to take each day as it came, and that is what happened. We have many fond memories of those times. To Julie, Terry's older sons, Nick and Tim, and to Tom and Harry, I offer my sincere condolences on the passing of a good friend and colleague.

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Leader of the Opposition): On behalf of Liberal members I rise to express our genuine and heartfelt sadness at the untimely passing of a friend and a colleague in Terry Roberts. I can only agree with many of the comments made by the Leader of the Government. I know a number of government members and a number of my colleagues will wish to join in and speak to this condolence motion as well. One of my fondest memories—and there are many fond memories—of time spent with Terry relates to his great love of sport. The leader of the government has talked about racing. If he was passing on winning tips it must have been to members of the caucus and not to members of the opposition because, on the brief occasions I got any tips, those horses are still running. His great love of football, cricket and most sporting matters is known to all members of parliament who shared time with Terry.

Some of my fondest memories of those of us who participated in the annual press versus parliament cricket games is my recollection of Terry's time as a freewheeling, left-handed, dashing opening bat for the parliamentary team, mainly because no-one else was prepared to open the batting. He certainly demonstrated his skills and capacity, obviously developed over many years of playing cricket. Even towards the end of his parliamentary career, he was a willing participant in opening the batting, particularly considering the way in which members of the media seemed to find some passing ex-district cricket player who at one time had walked past the Gawler *Bunyip* newspaper or something to qualify as a member of the press team and who would come in as an express bowler. Nevertheless, Terry was more than happy to front up and invariably did very well. On occasions, he captained the parliamentary cricket team for that annual event. But it was not just his expertise. Again, because of his friendliness and good human nature, he continued to build on friendships and also make new friendships through those annual events.

I first met Terry around that period of the early 1980s to which the Leader of the Government referred. I was first elected in 1982, when Terry first thought he was elected to the Legislative Council. As I understand it, he might have attended two caucus meetings before the manual count, as it was in those days, of members newly elected. As members would know, two weeks after the election, the computer churns out, after what seems an intolerable time, the final numbers for the members to be elected. But, back in those days, it was all done as a manual count. I am not sure but I suspect that it took over a month for those particular counts to be completed back in 1982. In those days, Adelaide still had a second newspaper, *The News*, which was published in the afternoon. I remember the banner headline which indicated that the Hon. Mr Gilfillan of the Australian Democrats had snuck through at the end, unsuspected by many, obviously including members of the Labor Party, because, as the Leader of the Government indicated, Terry Roberts was welcomed into the Labor caucus for the first couple of meetings. But, in the complicated system of the Legislative Council process, Ian Gilfillan came from nowhere to be elected as the eleventh member in 1982.

It was at about that time that I met Terry. I had known his brother John some time prior to that from my connections with football in the South-East. Terry had played a good amount of football in the South-East, with some experiences with a former Liberal member of parliament, Dale Baker. They used to sledge each other about who was the dirtiest footballer at the time. I suspect that Terry was right when he talked about Dale, rather than vice versa, but I am sure that Dale would have a different version of those stories.

All through the period of the 1980s, I had the good fortune of serving with Terry on a number of select committees of the Legislative Council. I, as well as many others, I am sure, experienced over the years good times with Terry on those select committees, where some of the committees travelled around South Australia. In those days, we had a select committee that looked at local government boundary redistributions, amalgamations and mergers, and Terry served on some of those committees with me, as well as on other committees.

As the Leader of the Government has indicated, everyone in the parliament—his own colleagues and those from the other side of the political fence—whilst vigorously disagreeing with many of Terry's political views, nevertheless

respected and liked him as a person in terms of his contribution to the community, to the parliament and to public life. Like the Leader of the Government, I read again Terry's 1986 maiden speech. I suspect that Terry's views did not change much over the past 20 years. He railed against the right. I suspect his own party and the political environment changed around him over those 20 years, but his views did not change too much at all.

Many of the issues to which the Leader of the Government referred were Terry's passion in 1986, when he first spoke, and remained his passion during his 20 years of parliamentary involvement. As the Leader of the Government indicated, he sought out and excelled in, particularly in terms of his passion and commitment, the Aboriginal Affairs portfolio—something he spoke about in his first speech in this place in 1986. As I said, I think that the world changed around Terry in a number of those areas, but he remained true to many of his views during that time.

On behalf of Liberal members (and a number will speak today), we express our condolences to Terry's family, friends and acquaintances. Those of us who attended the state service were certainly impressed not only by the number of people who turned up but also by the contributions made by Terry's family members, friends and acquaintances. I must say that I struggle to see Terry in that sort of environment. I understand the necessity for such state ceremonies, but I suspect that Terry would have been just as comfortable with a barbecue, a few beers and people swapping a few yarns and anecdotes about his contribution to public, parliamentary and community life. Nevertheless, those of us who attended the service certainly learnt a lot about Terry's background and history through the stories that were shared at that occasion and could not fail to be impressed by the genuine love and commitment staff members, family members, acquaintances and political colleagues had for Terry as an individual. I conclude by passing on the condolences of Liberal members to Terry's family, friends and acquaintances.

The Hon. CARMEL ZOLLO (Minister for Emergency Services): Terry Roberts was a colleague and friend. In speaking to his condolence motion today, I feel an added responsibility. It is an honour to succeed Terry in the Correctional Services portfolio, and it has also been my extreme good fortune to inherit some of his loyal staff and what was formerly his ministerial office. In my view, the way to discharge my duty today is to speak on their behalf and to give voice to their appreciation of Terry's gentle, committed and, above all, respectful approach to serving as a minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Correctional Services.

For four years, Terry administered two challenging portfolios; without the assistance of Michael Atkinson, Jay Weatherill, their staff and, of course, Terry's tight-knit crew, it would not have been possible during his illness. Peter Severin, Chief Executive of Correctional Services, said of his former minister:

He understood what corrections tries to do with those people who come into contact with the justice system, and he strongly supported our endeavours to achieve the outcomes we have set. He was passionate about rehabilitation and had some vision that would have had far-reaching effects in this industry. He always made people feel comfortable across the department and rarely did he stand for formality—

as has already been noted—

This endeared him to many people. The department will certainly miss Terry Roberts, and I extend our deepest sympathy to his partner and children at this very sad time.

Mr Peter Buckskin, the Chief Executive of Aboriginal Affairs, wrote a beautiful minute to his staff, and I will read as much of it as I can onto the parliamentary record today. It states:

By now you have become aware that Minister Roberts lost his battle with cancer on Saturday 18 February 2006. I know that many of you have had the opportunity to meet the Minister on occasions, as he was a regular visitor to DAARE and attendee of our functions. You will recall that he visited us just before Christmas to see our new accommodation here at the State Administration Centre.

When I was appointed the Chief Executive in 2002 I knew I was working with a man that was passionate and committed to achieving results for Aboriginal people and accelerating the progression of the Reconciliation agenda. I learnt that he was a decent, caring, sensitive man with a high degree of integrity. Our Minister had an absolute commitment to our work at DAARE and our place in the Public Sector. The launch of our Policy 'Doing it right' was a highlight of the Minister's term. It set an agenda and outlined the principles that guided the way the Minister wanted us to do business with Aboriginal people and the wider South Australian community.

We were truly privileged to have such a staunch supporter and advocate as our Minister. In accepting the Ministry, the Minister knew the work ahead of him was going to be complex, difficult, sensitive and highly political. He realised our gains would not come easy.

The complex issues came fast and furious. Work on heritage protection, the challenges of major developments like wind farms, legislative reforms—particularly APY legislation, responding to coroner's reports on deaths related to petrol sniffing, infrastructure—including Power Stations, along with the demise of ATSIC and negotiating new agreements with the Australian Government certainly kept us busy.

The re-establishment of the SA Aboriginal Lands Parliamentary Standing Committee brought him respect from all political parties as he strove for bipartisan support for Aboriginal Affairs. He always talked of having all the players around the table if we were ever going to achieve change. He spoke of the need for more 'dusty bums' than 'shiny bums', expressing his wish for more people sitting down with Aboriginal people in their communities when talking about change.

Our Minister led this approach by walking country at Iga Warta, the land of the Adnyamathanha people, sitting down with the Anangu elders and lore men from the Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara lands, visiting the lands of the Narungga people, attending meetings with the Ngarrindjeri of the River Murray Lands, accompanying community leaders visiting aquaculture sites off the coast of Port Lincoln (and of course getting a bit of fishing in as well). . . the Minister did it all and more. The Minister's ability to listen ensured that he was always easily accessible to the people he represented. I've never worked with a Minister who was so accessible.

The Minister oversaw some key milestones, including an increase in the budget for DAARE's administration of the Aboriginal Heritage and Land Rights Acts, hosting of an Economic Summit, the development of a Consultation Draft for an Economic Development Strategy and a significant increase in Aboriginal Heritage site registrations, establishment of the Premier's Aboriginal Advisory Council, along with positioning DAARE to be the lead agency for Aboriginal Affairs.

The Minister administered his portfolio responsibilities with dignity, honour and respect. He never let the sometimes overwhelming political and administrative issues get him down. He never took his eye off the main game. This year the minister was to take up the Chairmanship of the COAG's Ministerial Council for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Affairs for 2 years with DAARE chairing the Standing Committee of Senior Officials—just imagine what we could have achieved with his leadership.

The minister is survived by his partner Julie and four sons Tim, Nick, Harry and Tom.

The letter concludes:

Rest in Peace Minister you will be sadly missed by our communities and your staff.

One of Terry Roberts' personal staff spoke of a man who always had a smile on his face, even when he was at his most unwell. He worried more about the people around him than about himself, and his love for his family was something to admire. He was a man who would walk around the office and

individually ask how everyone was with genuine interest. Above all, they said he was a man who was so caring, warm and kind that none of his staff ever left him.

Mr President, the Zollo family had the pleasure of knowing Terry Roberts for many years. At one time we were both members of the same sub-branch. The late Terry Roberts was always considered to be a gentleman who was respected by all.

Many times poems are chosen at funeral services, but this poem chosen by the family of Terry Roberts, I think, so much describes the man he was:

That man is a success
 who has lived well,
 laughed often and loved much;
 who has gained the respect
 of intelligent men
 and the love of children;
 who has filled his niche
 and accomplished his task;
 who leaves the world better
 than he found it,
 who has never lacked appreciation
 of earth's beauty
 or failed to express it;
 who looked for the best in others
 and gave the best he had.

My condolences to his partner, Julie, and to his sons Nick, Tim, Tom and Harry. Vale, Terry Roberts.

The Hon. R.P. WORTLEY: First, I would like to acknowledge the Kaurna people as the traditional owners of the land on which we stand today. A first speech in parliament is often one that reflects on a political journey, highlights beliefs and values and that which we hope to achieve and acknowledges and thanks those who have played a significant role in our life. This is not an inaugural speech as such but one that pays tribute to a true friend and political colleague of more than 25 years—the Hon. Terance Gerald Roberts, the former minister for aboriginal affairs and correctional services, who passed away on 18 February this year. It is a great sadness that he is not joining us here today for the opening of the 51st South Australian parliament, but it is for me an honour to have the opportunity to speak about Terry's political journey as a champion of the people, a true believer and one who never let the light on the hill diminish.

Terry was born to an Irish Catholic working-class family in 1946 to parents Tob and Tet Roberts and, with his brother John, he grew up in Millicent in the state's South-East. It was here that Terry joined the Australian Labor Party, gained his trade qualifications before beginning work as a merchant mariner and was elected shop steward to the Australian Manufacturing Workers Union. His association with the AMWU and the union movement would last throughout his life. Millicent was also where he met and married Liz Brayam, and together they raised two sons, Nick and Tim, both of whom I have had the pleasure of knowing from their childhood days through to adulthood.

Terry's loyalty and ability to project a feeling of calm where turmoil existed and his wonderful sense of humour are just a few of the characteristics for which he will be remembered. Terry often joked about being one of the few people to have a trial run at being elected to parliament, for in 1982 it was believed that, when the final vote was counted, he would get up on the Labor ticket and be elected to the Legislative Council. So sure was he and his Labor colleagues about winning the position that he even attended the first Labor caucus for the new parliament. But, as Terry would

often say when discussing the results of a Saturday horse race meeting, he thought that he had it in the bag but was pipped at the post. So, it was not until 1985 that Terry was finally elected as a member of the Legislative Council, a position that he was to hold for just over two decades, and I was honoured to share a drink with him to mark this occasion only five months ago.

A man of principle, Terry was always prepared to give to all—even those with opposing views—a fair go and a fair hearing, but his over-riding principle was to ensure that decisions made were in the best interests of those he represented as a union delegate and for two decades as a member of the South Australian parliament. Terry's commitment to indigenous Australians was whole-hearted, and the work that he did with reconciliation in South Australia was invaluable. When he recognised a need he quietly set about having that need addressed, and so it was that he established the bipartisan Aboriginal Lands Parliamentary Standing Committee, which had a positive impact on addressing housing, local government and infrastructure for indigenous communities.

He cared deeply about and was committed to advancing the cause of our indigenous people. He walked side by side with them in their communities; he walked the land with them. From education and health to native title and Aboriginal heritage, no issue was out of bounds or beyond his understanding. A man of gentle nature and truly remarkable patience, Terry would listen, take in all that was said and work through ways of adequately addressing the issues raised. His commitment to the trade union movement, to the struggle to achieve social justice for the working class and to effect change for the disadvantaged (and, in particular, indigenous Australians) was unwavering.

His state funeral in Adelaide in February this year was attended by more than 800 people from all walks of life and political persuasions. However, particularly notable were the many people from Aboriginal communities who came to pay their respects to a man who they claimed had been their minister and their friend. It has been said that outside an indigenous football carnival it was probably one of the largest gatherings of Aboriginal people across South Australia. Such was the high esteem in which Terry was held that the Ernabella choir, made up of community members from Ernabella, Mimili and Pipalyatjara, travelled a 3 600 kilometre round trip to acknowledge his commitment to their cause. On that day, flags flew at half mast around the state, including in Terry's home town of Millicent. Premier Mike Rann announced that a special scholarship was to be established in honour of the memory and contribution of the former cabinet minister and 20-year member of the Legislative Council—a fitting tribute to a fine man.

Those who knew Terry knew that he was a man of many words and that he was also a man of his word. Terry placed great value on family and will be sadly missed by his sons Nick, Tim, Harry and Tom and partner Julie. Throughout his illness he would still manage the occasional coffee and meal out, and the conversation would still be about union issues, indigenous issues, Labor values and, often, our families. His commitment and intensity never floundered, and his conversation was still riddled with the humour for which Terry was well known. On leaving his office for what was to be his last time he scribbled a note, which he left behind, which quoted the words of former Labor premier Don Dunstan. It read: 'There remains much to be done.' So, like the true believer he was, Terry was committed to the end. It is now up to others to continue the work that he initiated in his own quiet

way, with such significant impact. Terry Roberts was a Labor man through and through.

The Hon. SANDRA KANCK: Given the Hon. Mr Roberts' passion for Aboriginal affairs, I believe that he would very much want us to acknowledge the fact that we are on Kaurna land. Terry Roberts was a man who deserved the term 'honourable'. We all get it by virtue of this office, but he was one who deserved it. One of Terry Roberts' outstanding characteristics was his loyalty to his own party. Even when it did him in, he remained loyal. I know that, in the late 1980s/early 1990s, my former colleague, the Hon. Mike Elliott, spoke with him about leaving the ALP and joining the Democrats but, despite whatever had been done to him, he was not prepared to make that move. However, he certainly did appreciate it when others were sticking up for him.

Members might recall that, I think in either November or December last year, we were dealing with a mining royalty bill. My then colleague, the Hon. Kate Reynolds, dug in her heels on this one. Although I was the portfolio holder for the Democrats on this matter, Kate had an interest in it from the perspective of what this bill would do for Aboriginal people and the royalties for mining on their land. She persisted in raising the question (and she asked it in I do not know how many different forms) as to whether or not the Aboriginal people had been consulted. The Hon. Mr Holloway answered her in umpteen dozen different ways but still did not answer her question. As this questioning and answering across the chamber continued, the Hon. Mr Roberts quietly moved into the chamber, sat down in his seat, looked across at Kate and me and he just smirked and he smirked and he smirked. He did not say a word, but he was absolutely enjoying the discomfort of his colleague, the Hon. Paul Holloway.

I guess that was the nature of Terry: even when his party in government was doing something that he did not like, he maintained his loyalty to his party. However, there were many occasions when, if we were talking about something where he did not agree with his government's position, he would make these quiet comments across the chamber egging us on to keep up with our line of questioning.

Terry did have a wicked sense of humour, and a member of Hansard has drawn my attention to an example of that when he was on the Environment, Resources and Development Committee. An inquiry was being conducted into artificial reefs, and Terry asked the witnesses who were present in an apparently serious way what different species would be caught on a reef made of tyres compared to a normal reef. The witnesses attempted to answer the question. Meanwhile, the two Hansard reporters were almost on the floor paralytic with laughter after they realised that Terry had set up the witnesses, and Terry was laughing along with the Hansard reporters. It was only when the witnesses noticed the faces of the Hansard reporters and Terry that they realised that they had been set up. That was the nature of Terry, and you had to be alert all the time to ensure that he had not set you up in his very quiet way.

Terry could speak. I remember once when he was in opposition that one of his colleagues told him that he needed to buy some time. He put his hand over the microphone and said, 'How long?' He was told, 'Oh, 20 minutes or so', and so he stood up and talked and talked. About what, I have no idea and I am not sure that anyone else had any idea but, if he was told he had to fill the space, he did. My sense was that Terry could talk under water and he could do so for any length of time on any subject whatsoever. I know that, at

times, Hansard reporters despaired because occasionally he had a tendency to mumble and to string sentences together in a way which left Hansard staff bewildered in that, when he started a sentence, they were never sure when it would stop; and I think that, behind the scenes, a number of his speeches in *Hansard* have been slightly improved with the odd comma, full stop or capital letter which was not in Terry's delivery.

Terry had a passion for Aboriginal affairs, as has already been observed. The fact that we have a permanent standing committee on Aboriginal lands is a tribute to Terry. I believe the amendments made to the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Land Rights Act to acknowledge the Yunkantjatjara people is also a very great tribute to the Hon. Terry Roberts. He strongly opposed the construction of the Hindmarsh Island bridge and became very involved with the Ngarrindjeri women and was strong in his support of their beliefs. I believe he is a huge loss to the whole issue of Aboriginal equality in this state and, of course, his passing must be an enormous loss to his family. I, as well as others in this chamber, pass on my condolences to them.

The Hon. R.D. LAWSON: I wish to associate myself with the sentiments which have been expressed in relation to the late Terry Roberts. I first met Terry when I came into this parliament in February 1994, and I found him to be a very sociable, amiable but rather relaxed frontbencher for the Labor Party. It was not until he was appointed minister for Aboriginal affairs and reconciliation and minister for correctional services (both offices in which I shadowed him) that I came to appreciate more fully the very great qualities that Terry Roberts had. I mention just three aspects of them.

The first is that Terry Roberts was a person who was interested in political philosophy. He was an ideologue—not in any offensive way or in a browbeating or tub-thumping way, but he was an ideologue in the sense of a person who had real convictions to which he adhered. He had a set of political beliefs by which he was guided. He would jokingly say in more recent years that he was the last democratic socialist in the South Australian Labor Party.

Just yesterday I heard a member of the federal parliament arguing that the Labor Party should not change its policy on uranium mining—a sentiment with which I would imagine Terry Roberts would certainly have agreed. The reason the federal member gave for not changing was that people in marginal seats were not calling for change and that a change might cost his party votes in marginal seats. That is where Terry Roberts would have differed. Terry would always be prepared to argue a position on a rational or philosophical basis but not purely on the grounds of electoral popularity. That was not the sort of politician he was. He was a conviction politician, and that is one of the reasons I admired him so much and why I had such a high regard for him, even though I may have not agreed with his particular philosophy—and on many occasions I did not. He certainly stuck to his guns in a way which is all too rare these days.

Secondly, as others have mentioned, he had a great sense of humour. He was a truly witty man; he had a very clever wit, often rather subtle, although not always, and quite often a cutting wit but never a cruel wit. That is certainly one aspect of him that I will remember. Others have mentioned his empathy with Aboriginal causes and the fact that not only his political philosophy but also his experience in the correctional system in the United Kingdom (albeit brief) meant that he had a passionate commitment to rehabilitation in the corrections system—something that he did not often

air and something which might not have been popular in the law and order rhetoric climate of the current government. Notwithstanding that, Terry Roberts was quietly committed to improvements in the correctional system. I regret to say that I do not think he would have claimed that he had actually achieved much in that direction during his ministry.

In the Aboriginal field Terry was a staunch supporter of the Pitjantjatjara Council, the Alice Springs based organisation which had led the political movement for land rights in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara lands. He had many friends in that organisation and within the Aboriginal communities. He stuck with those friends and was a strong supporter of their positions in many of the difficult debates that were had about Aboriginal affairs. One of his great legacies will be the fact that he saw the establishment of the Aboriginal Lands Parliamentary Standing Committee and also as minister took the chair of that committee and took a deep interest in its affairs. There are many ministers who, when chairing parliamentary committees with members of all sides present, might adopt a rather defensive and government supporting position. Terry, however, was quite open minded, open to the debate and prepared to have other points of view presented to the committee, and he was very cooperative in facilitating visits to Aboriginal lands across the state. He was a truly committed chairman and a cooperative one, and around the various campfires on expeditions of the committee Terry was always great company.

Terry was widely respected in the Aboriginal community, but in fairness to his memory it ought to be said that he was bitterly disappointed by the decision of the government of which he was a member to intervene in the Aboriginal lands in March 2004 when Deputy Premier Foley announced that self rule on the lands was dead and that the executive, of which Terry Roberts had been a great supporter, was sacked and administrators appointed.

A number of other decisions of this government disappointed him in relation to Aboriginal affairs, such as the transfer of the Department for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation into the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and a number of other issues, which indicated that Terry was not completely in control of the Aboriginal agenda, which was deeply disappointing and distressing to him. But, as others have mentioned, he was a loyal team player and a steadfast Labor man, and he bore these blows with dignity. He was an unpretentious man and a warm-hearted individual, and anyone who knew him would have liked him.

As others have mentioned, the state memorial service held in his honour was very well attended. At that service his partner Julie gave a terrific address, and we heard tremendous messages from his sons, who are a great testament to his memory. My condolences go to his family.

The Hon. G.E. GAGO (Minister for Environment and Conservation): I, too, extend my sympathies to the family of Terry Roberts. For those of us who knew him and worked with him in the labour movement his passing was met with a great deal of sadness. My own experience of Terry was that he was always a person of great integrity and warmth who was highly regarded by members of all political persuasions in this chamber.

In the former government I had the pleasure of sitting diagonally behind Terry Roberts when he was a minister. It was to my great amusement that he would often get to his feet and, as other members have indicated, wax lyrical and at great length on just about any matter at all. It amused me that

he would often hold his pad in front of him and make many references to it. Of course, I could see what was written on that pad, and it was often nothing more than a few doodles, and his diligent reference to these points amused and intrigued me.

He was also the presiding member of the Mount Gambier select committee inquiry of which I was a member. I have to say that, certainly in the beginning, his personal style with a fairly laid back, hands-off-the-wheel sort of approach caused me a great deal of frustration. My personal style is that I want to wrap things up and get on with things. It did not take me long to realise that Terry was a man of great skill and subtlety, and often it was that subtle and easy-going way which enabled the committee to move on and achieve a great deal, and I certainly did end up admiring him for that.

As many have said, Terry was a man with a deep commitment to social justice, and he carried this fight through more than 20 years of service in the parliament and beyond. We all know of Terry's affection for the Aboriginal people of this state and of his unwavering commitment and connection to Aboriginal people and their culture. Serving as minister for Aboriginal affairs, he understood perhaps better than any of us the enduring challenge for this parliament to ensure that Aboriginal people have access to the same opportunities and services that other South Australians enjoy and that they continue to take pride in their heritage and culture whilst protecting, managing and enjoying connections to their traditional lands.

Under his leadership, more sacred sites were added to the Aboriginal Heritage Register than under any former government, and that is a great achievement. Terry also achieved legislative change to the governance arrangements of the APY lands, which has already been referred to by others. Those of us who participated late last year in the lengthy debate and committee sessions know that he was firmly committed to providing stable self-government on the lands that would provide the best outcome for the communities there.

He also chaired the Aboriginal Lands Parliamentary Standing Committee, which shared an ongoing goal to make the parliament a more welcoming and familiar environment for Aboriginal people regardless of their age, life experience or tongue. Terry understood that building relationships with our indigenous communities is certainly not a short-term proposition but something that must be nurtured over a number of years and sustained within and across the cycles of successive parliaments and governments.

Another of Terry's great interests was environmental policy. He participated in the Environment, Resources and Development Committee of the previous parliament and also served as minister assisting the minister for environment and conservation. In over a decade in this place, Terry raised environmental issues on a regular basis, and his concern about preserving the Heysen Trail, promoting recycling, strategies to combat beach pollution, and managing waste were some of the interests he brought here. I know that this was an area he cared deeply about and, as the new Minister for Environment and Conservation in this chamber, I am honoured to have the opportunity to carry on the commitment to conserve and protect the environment.

On top of this, I know that we all remember Terry's commitment to rural services and rural people and his love of the South-East. He was born and grew up in Millicent and never lost that connection. My heart goes out to Terry's

family, and I send them my sincere condolences. He will be greatly missed in this place.

The Hon. CAROLINE SCHAEFER: I, too, wish to extend my condolences to Terry's family. Terry grew up in the South-East of South Australia, and I grew up in the North-West of South Australia, but we shared many common interests. The first standing committee of the parliament I served on was with Terry in 1994 on the Environment, Resources and Development Committee. Since that time, I have served on a number of other parliamentary committees with Terry, including the select committee on the Aboriginal lands, which led to the standing committee which has now been established, and the natural resources select committee, which was chaired from 1994 to about 1998 by the Hon. David Wotton.

Terry was a great person to serve with on a committee for all the reasons people have already expressed. He was passionate in his views and he had the great ability to make one feel at ease and at home, even when one vigorously disagreed with many of his principles. Terry has the honour of being the person who was the witness for my passport application. Being a farm girl, I had never had the need for a passport until I got here, and it was Terry who signed the piece of paper to allow me to leave the country. I do not know whether or not there was a message in that!

Terry was the most frustrating of frontbenchers in that one raised the ire of one's backbench colleagues if one asked a question of Terry. It was guaranteed that we would get at least a 20-minute or probably a half-hour reply, which meant that many of one's backbench colleagues did not get to ask a question that day. You could abuse him, interject, admonish him, or shake your fist, but it was water off a duck's back. It was always met with his implacable and ever constant smile. Terry was a decent and nice man in a profession that does not encourage decency or niceness. He knew who he was and what he stood for, and he never backed away from any of those principles.

One of the things I think we were all pleased to see when Terry met Julie was the demise of his ever-present grey Fairisle jumper, which he wore into this place every coolish day for roughly six years. When he met Julie, he was picked up, dusted off and got a new suit, but I am sure that somewhere or other that jumper still exists to this day.

I do not believe Terry would have had an enemy in this place. He certainly would not have had an enemy within the opposition ranks. He was, as has been expressed, a true Labor man, who did indeed stand for what he believed in, but always in the nicest, most sincere manner. He will be remembered by all of us with great respect and admiration. I extend my condolences to his family and his extended family and friends.

The Hon. A.L. EVANS: On behalf of the Family First Party I express my deepest regret at the passing of the Hon. Terry Roberts. I met Terry four years ago and, over the first weeks of parliament, I quickly gained a very positive impression of his outstanding qualities. He demonstrated great grace under pressure during question time. When coming under fire from the opposition his response was to smile, or have a joke, and continue with his answer.

He was also a very knowledgeable person in many areas and could recount in great detail everything that was remotely concerned with the question. The only time I ever got annoyed with him was when one of these long, detailed

answers took up to 10 minutes and robbed me of an opportunity to ask my question. That was slightly annoying for me.

He had the confidence to engage you on almost any matter. On one occasion he decided to challenge my knowledge of the most difficult book in the Bible, the Book of Leviticus. During his final weeks, he requested my prayers on a number of occasions during difficult days, which I happily agreed to. He will be missed. He was a true gentleman and a wonderful human being.

The Hon. J. GAZZOLA: I also offer my condolences to the Hon. Terry Roberts' partner, Julie, and his family. I also share in acknowledging all the wonderful words said about the Hon. Terry Roberts, but I do note as from today that no-one has mentioned that he was a Collingwood supporter, so I think we should reflect on that.

I worked with the Hon. Terry Roberts on the Legislative Council select committee established to inquire into the governance and administration of the APY lands and then later as a committee member on the Aboriginal Lands Parliamentary Standing Committee. His commitment to indigenous Australians was truly inspiring. The minister freely shared with all committee members, regardless of party political affiliation or position, his experience, knowledge and understanding of the issues facing indigenous Australians. His affable, sincere and patient presence will be missed.

The Hon. NICK XENOPHON: I share the sorrow of my colleagues at the passing of our friend and colleague, the Hon. Terry Roberts. I extend my condolences to his family. The Hon. Rob Kerin, at the state funeral for Terry, mentioned the fact that Terry was one person who no-one ever said a bad word about in the corridors of parliament. That is a very rare honour indeed. In fact, when the Hon. Rob Kerin said that at the service, I saw a number of heads nodding in agreement with him. I think that is a testament to the man. It is a very rare testament to his goodness as an individual. He was a person who had malice towards none and a generosity of spirit towards all.

Terry's verbosity has been the subject of some comment, but I disagree with the Hon. Sandra Kanck who said that Terry could talk underwater. I think that is a bit unfair; I think he could talk under wet concrete. As annoying as it may have been sometimes, he did it out of a generosity of spirit. It was done without malice; it was done by Terry simply being Terry.

Terry has left us a legacy of genuine concern for correctional services and Aboriginal affairs and reconciliation. As members in this place, the very least we can do is to give priority to these issues—which many would see as unpopular and not headline-grabbing—and give them the attention they deserve.

I believe that they are issues that go to the core of our humanity and how we deal with the most vulnerable in our community. Also, I want to reflect briefly on the obvious love that Terry had for his family—for his sons, Nick, Tim, Tom and Harry. I hope that his family will not mind my mentioning a conversation that I had with Terry after he met Julie. He told me how much Julie had transformed his life and how lucky he was to have found her. That is an endearing and enduring memory that I have of Terry Roberts, and it says so much about him as an individual. In supporting this motion, I join with my colleagues in expressing my condolences.

The Hon. J.S.L. DAWKINS: I rise to support the motion. I first met Terry Roberts at a public meeting about a proposed waste dump at Highbury in 1995. He was there as the shadow minister for environment and natural resources, and I was there representing the member for Mayo, the Hon. Alexander Downer. Then, of course, I was privileged to serve with Terry for four years on the Environment, Resources and Development Committee. We have heard a little about his service on that committee, and we have heard a little about his ability to ask questions during the hearings of that committee. To those of us who served with him in that period, his long questions were legendary, even if the explanation often did not end in a clear question. There were always some bemused witnesses who really did not know what they were supposed to respond to. I enjoyed playing in the parliamentary cricket team with Terry, except when, as our captain, he decided that I should open the bowling. He was a great advocate of the South-East. In fact, he did not favour the recent use of the term Limestone Coast for that region. He was most determined that it should always be referred to as the South-East.

I will always remember Terry as being very welcoming when I came here in 1997, and we developed a very good friendship. However, he was always keen to keep me on my toes with sharp and witty interjections, and I think that probably many other members would echo that. Terry was dedicated to many causes in his various portfolio responsibilities. We have heard a lot about his commitment to Aboriginal affairs today. I have a wonderful little story. I remember a few years ago when I went to the dedication of a park in Gawler (near the confluence of the North and South Para rivers), which was a traditional area for Aboriginal communities in those days as a result of the water in that area.

Terry was given the chance to open this park. It was an overcast day, and he had Harry with him. We reached the stage when Terry was to open the park, and it started to drizzle. Everyone was looking for umbrellas and shelter. Terry was steadfast that he was going to stay and open this park. Harry was standing next to him. Terry kept talking, the rain got heavier and Harry decided to go—he was not staying out there getting wet; dad could stay there on his own. Terry also had a sincere commitment to the regional affairs portfolio that he was given four years ago. I know that he was quietly disappointed when this portfolio was transferred to another minister after about 10 months. I have many great memories of the Hon. Terry Roberts, and I pass on my sincere condolences to Julie and his family.

The Hon. T.J. STEPHENS: I also extend my condolences to Terry's partner, Julie, family and friends. As we heard at the state funeral, he had many of them and rightly so. I found him to be a genuine, sincere and warm fellow with a great sense of humour that I really enjoyed. Whilst our political views were generally poles apart, nonetheless, I had enormous respect for the man and, like many others, I was deeply saddened by his passing. Rest in peace, Terry Roberts.

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY: I wish to offer my condolences to Julie and the family. I support all the comments made by my parliamentary colleagues this afternoon. I knew Terry for only four years. As everyone knows, we found him to be a very kind and gentle man, who always loved a joke. Certainly, my fondest memories of Terry are of him laughing at us from across the chamber. I recall one particular time when the members of the select committee into the Mount Gambier Health Service travelled to Mount Gambier. At the

end of the day, after taking evidence from witnesses, my colleagues the Hon. Angus Redford, the Hon. Terry Roberts and I were having a beer—and maybe something else—in the bar. Angus thought that Terry, as minister, was paying for it, but Terry was booking it up on the Hon. Angus Redford's account! My condolences go to Julie and the family.

The PRESIDENT: I support the motion. I have probably known Terry Roberts for longer than most members of the council. We went to the same school—Millicent High School—and we played cricket against each other: when I was playing for Tantanoola, Terry was playing for Beachport at one time and for Mount Burr at another time. We played football against Terry and his brother John. The South-East has produced some very fine individuals over the years, but I think the Hon. Terry Roberts is right up there with the finest of them. One only has to listen to the contributions being made by members of the council today and the contributions that were made at Terry's service to realise that he was a wonderful human being. The only fault I think we could ever find with him was the fact that he barracked for Collingwood, as the Hon. John Gazzola said!

I think the Hon. Sandra Kanck hit the nail on the head when she said that the word 'honourable' is placed in front of our name when we are elected to this place because of the positions we hold, but some of us do not live up to that at times. I believe that the Hon. Terry Roberts certainly lived up to it all the time. We have heard how the Hon. Terry Roberts was a lovely sport—he was a sporting man—how he had a great sense of humour and also how he used to write his speeches with invisible ink, I think, on that pad that he threw around the place when he used to talk for 30 minutes at a time. When we look at Terry Roberts towards the end of his life, we have to say what a brave man he was in coming to work when he was sometimes very sick, and how he conducted himself in such a dignified way right up until the end. I think that was a credit to Terry.

Terry Roberts always played with a straight bat, and I know that we in this place will all miss him. I extend my sympathies to Julie. I know that Julie and the family will have many fond memories of Terry to reflect on over the years, and I am sure that they will do so.

Motion carried by members standing in their places in silence.

[Sitting suspended from 4.09 to 4.25 p.m.]

MEMBERS, FORMER AND NEW

The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY (Minister for Police): I move:

That this council expresses thanks to former members, the Hons T.G. Cameron, I. Gilfillan, A.J. Redford, K.J. Reynolds, R.R. Roberts and J.F. Stefani, and welcomes new members, the Hons A.M. Bressington, D.G.E. Hood, I.K. Hunter, M.C. Parnell and R.P. Wortley.

I will be fairly brief with this motion. It is a traditional motion which is moved at the start of a session. Fortunately, at the end of last session, we did have the opportunity to express our thanks to a number of the former members, that is, those we knew who were retiring—and members who were present will remember that that debate went into the very early hours of the morning. I again reiterate comments I made in relation to the Hons Ian Gilfillan, Angus Redford, Julian Stefani and

Ron Roberts. Each of them made an enormous contribution to this state, and I will not go over that debate again.

We did not have the opportunity to express thanks to the Hon. Kate Reynolds. Kate Reynolds served for a relatively short time in the council. She came in to fill the vacancy left when Mike Elliott retired, but she certainly made her mark in this council, particularly in raising issues related to indigenous affairs, people with disabilities and victims of child abuse. While members of the government did not always agree with her solutions to the problems faced by the disadvantaged, certainly no-one could question the commitment of the Hon. Kate Reynolds to helping the disadvantaged. As someone who lost a seat in an election many years ago, I know what personal impact that can have, but I am sure that the Hon. Kate Reynolds will emerge stronger and wiser from her experiences in this chamber. I sincerely wish her well in her future endeavours, and I trust that she never loses her commitment to the underprivileged and disadvantaged because, sadly, in this world there are too few champions of those people. I pay tribute to the significant contribution that she made in a relatively short time in this chamber.

Also, I briefly welcome all the new members. I am pleased that there has been an influx of new members into this chamber. I mentioned five members when moving this motion. Of course, we will be getting two new members next Tuesday, which means that there will be seven new members out of the 22 members in the council, which means that almost a third of the Legislative Council was turned over at the election. It will be a new council and it will have a new look, given that complement of new members. Of course, we have a range of views represented amongst those new members and I look forward to hearing their contributions over the coming four years.

I will not delay the council any further but again offer the thanks of the government to all former members who served in the past parliament in this chamber and warmly welcome the new members and look forward to their contributions.

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Leader of the Opposition): On behalf of Liberal members I too welcome all new members to the Legislative Council. I hope that they not only enjoy their time here but that at the end of their term in the Legislative Council, however long that may be, they have been a net benefit in terms of the public interest and in terms of the operations of the Legislative Council. Like the Leader of the Government, I recorded my comments, thanks and acknowledgment of the contribution of some members of the parliament before the end of the last parliamentary term.

I refer to the comments I made about my friends and colleagues, the Hons Julian Stefani, Angus Redford and Ian Gilfillan prior to the last election. I did not on that occasion acknowledge the public contribution of the former president, the Hon. Ron Roberts. At that stage it was not entirely clear what might occur in relation to the Hon. Ron Roberts' future, although it had been widely speculated. On behalf of Liberal members I acknowledge the contribution the Hon. Ron Roberts made to the Labor Party and to public life. He certainly was an outspoken advocate within the forums of the Labor Party in the parliament for rural and regional issues, in particular his much loved Port Pirie and near districts. He certainly had a passionate interest, as his Labor colleagues will remember, in areas such as industrial relations and related issues and certainly in the parliament when he was either a backbencher or frontbencher and spoke loudly and often on those issues. Whilst members would acknowledge

that he much enjoyed his time as president of the Legislative Council, the one frustration he endured was that he was unable to continue to contribute from the floor, and on most occasions, although not all, he had to resist the opportunity to interject during debate in the Legislative Council.

I also acknowledge the contribution of the Hon. Kate Reynolds, who was here for an all too brief period. I had the opportunity to share some brief words with Kate in the courtyard of Parliament House after the election and certainly, as she said publicly, as a community advocate she will retain an interest in the issues she spoke of often in the Legislative Council, and she will also continue to be a proud advocate for the issues within the Australian Democrats. It is my view that we are likely to see the Hon. Kate Reynolds in one form or another representing the Australian Democrats in future. While that is a decision for the Australian Democrats to take, Liberal members believe that the Hon. Kate Reynolds has already demonstrated that she has much to contribute to the debate on the issues in which she involved herself—in fact, even issues in which she did not involve herself publicly. In those areas, we will miss her contributions and, hopefully, we look forward to maintaining the friendships we established during that brief period.

Finally, I want to make some comment about someone who, for obvious reasons, like a political leper has not been referred to by anyone in relation to his involvement in the Legislative Council, namely, the Hon. Terry Cameron. I will not in any open way dig open the political sores that exist on the Labor side of the fence in relation to the Hon. Mr Cameron. It is sad that a member who rose to the upper echelons of his then political party can leave this parliament without anyone acknowledging his contribution over a number of years to his then party, in the first instance, although he did come to a parting of the ways, of which I am sure members would be aware. Prior to that, of course, as a state secretary and as a member of the federal executive—and I do not have his honour roll within the Labor Party prior to his disengagement, if I can refer to it that way—he certainly served at the upper levels of the Labor Party, both state and federal. He made his contribution in the parliament, first, as a member of the Labor Party, then as a member of SA First—the party he established—and, ultimately, as an Independent member of the Legislative Council.

On behalf of Liberal members, I acknowledge the Hon. Terry Cameron's contribution. Certainly, in terms of my own relationship prior to his coming into parliament, I spent a reasonable amount of time at one point in the Legislative Council's history, on behalf of my party, digging over Mr Cameron's spotty history in terms of business development interests, various building companies and other interests about which enemies of Mr Cameron within the Labor Party at the time were freely supplying information to me and to the opposition. Believe it or not, Mr President, even at that time, Mr Cameron had enemies within the Labor Party. So, from that spotty history I had personally with Mr Cameron I then worked with him and the Hon. Mr Crothers in relation to the big issues concerning the electricity privatisation and some of the other issues at that time under the former government.

Given his untimely death, the Hon. Mr Crothers is obviously not in a position to say anything now in relation to this matter, but the Hon. Mr Cameron certainly is. Both members were at that time in a position to indicate that a significant number of members of the Labor Party at the time were privately urging them to do as they ultimately did. One Labor member at the time, who is still a Labor member, said

to the Hon. Mr Crothers that, if he had not crossed the floor, he would have come out onto the floor of the chamber and carried him across the chamber to support the privatisation of ETSA. That member is still a member of the Labor caucus, and a fairly prominent member, too. I do not think that the Hon. Mr Cameron is a person who will write his biography, but maybe at some stage that sort of information will become part of the public domain. On behalf of Liberal members, I acknowledge publicly the contribution the Hon. Terry Cameron made, first, to his party prior to his disengagement from the party, and, ultimately, to parliamentary life, through his years of service in the Legislative Council.

The Hon. SANDRA KANCK: I made comments at the end of last year about my former colleague the Hon. Ian Gilfillan. Certainly, the comments made by others at that time showed the high regard in which he was held. I also made comments at that time about the Hon. Angus Redford. We knew that he would leave this chamber one way or another. I think it is unfortunate that he was not elected to the lower house, because he would have been a very good attack dog for the opposition and the sort of MP it really needed to take things up to the government; however, it was not to be.

I did not pass any comments about my then colleague the Hon. Kate Reynolds because, as I said then, I hoped to have her back in the chamber with me. That was not to be, however, and I now want to put on record the worthy person she was. She came in to fill the casual vacancy left by the Hon. Mike Elliott. That was at the beginning of 2003, and she said at the time that people had said to her that she had very big shoes to fill in taking Mike's place. I think it is very important to record that she was very able to fill those big shoes. As the Hon. Paul Holloway said, she built up an enviable reputation in the area of social justice. She began first of all on the issue of asylum seekers in detention centres in our state and championed their cause. There certainly was no-one in this parliament who took on this issue in the way Kate did.

She got her teeth into many other social justice issues, such as child abuse, same-sex relationships, disability, housing, poverty, foster care and indigenous affairs. Again, in all these areas her reputation was above and beyond that of anyone else in this parliament. She was a bit like a terrier sinking its teeth into your ankles: once she did, she did not let go. I mentioned earlier today the debate on the mining royalties bill, when she effectively sank her teeth into the ankles of the Hon. Paul Holloway about consultation with Aboriginal people and did not let go for one, two, or three days. It was not until the Hon. Paul Holloway was forced to admit that the Aboriginal people had not been consulted that she was prepared to let go of the grip she had on his ankles.

The fact that she is not here causes me to ponder the question of why she was not re-elected. I think it is important to put on the record that the ALP refused to negotiate with the Democrats on preferences at the last election. Perhaps she might have sunk her teeth too deeply into the Hon. Paul Holloway's ankles, because the reasoning given by the Secretary of the ALP for not negotiating with the Democrats was that the Hon. Paul Holloway had said that the Democrats were uncooperative, that we did not work with the government and that most of the time we voted against the ALP. The consequence was that those comments were used against us to stop any preference negotiation, which meant that Kate Reynolds was not in a position to get any ALP preferences.

The consequence is that she is no longer in this chamber, and I think that is very much a loss to social justice in this state.

The Hon. NICK XENOPHON: I join with my colleagues in welcoming new members—in particular, the Hon. Ann Bressington, with whom I worked for a number of years on the issue of drug rehabilitation. I know that I promised her that she would not be elected, and I apologise to her for breaking that promise. It was a broken promise, but it was one the electorate broke for me. I would like to reflect on the work done by the Hon. Kate Reynolds and her contribution to this parliament. I made a deliberate decision to place the Democrats high up on my list of preferences, because I thought it was important for the Hon. Kate Reynolds to get back in. In the contribution she made to this parliament, the passion with which she did her work and the respect she gained from her colleagues, even though some may have disagreed with her vehemently, you could not fault her integrity and sincerity concerning the issues she fought for.

In relation to the Hon. Angus Redford, I would like to say that, although he was combative in style and did rub people up the wrong way occasionally, when he was in fine form he really was an exemplary member of parliament in the way he dissected legislation, the way he argued his case, and the way he put forward arguments passionately about his views on reform, including correctional services. I believe it is a great loss to this place that the Hon. Mr Redford is not back and that he has not been able to make a contribution in the lower house. I say that in a heartfelt way, given the contribution he made and the potential he had to continue to make a contribution.

In relation to the Hon. Julian Stefani and the Hon. Ian Gilfillan, I have already spoken about their contributions. They both left a considerable footprint in this parliament and in the broader community for the work they did in their various spheres. Of course, I wish them well in their retirement. This place has changed significantly since the last parliament and I hope we can honour the hard work and commitment of our former colleagues in this current parliament.

The Hon. A.L. EVANS: I would like to acknowledge the new members in this place and welcome them. I am sure they are going to make a very fine contribution. Of course, in particular, it is good to have another party member sitting alongside me in this place.

I also want to acknowledge the friendship and help given to me by some of those who are no longer here. As a newcomer—at an old age—to parliament, and without any experience, I was very grateful to my four unofficial advisers. I had my official advisers and I had four unofficial advisers. The Hon. Ian Gilfillan kept me in touch with the history and gave me a lot of good ideas, particularly in the areas of rehabilitation, social justice and so on. Julian Stefani was forever whispering in my ear about which way I should go with my vote. I found those members to be very helpful.

Before I came into this place I heard all kinds of stories about the Hon. Terry Cameron, but I decided that, because I had to sit next to him for four years, I was going to make a friend of him. In those four years Terry and I became very good friends, and when he left I rang him up and thanked him for his friendship, even though we did not agree on everything. Ron Roberts also was a good friend. To come in at my age to a place like this, with a whole lot of different rules and

a different approach, it was a totally new ball game, a total learning experience and I found Ron always to be gracious and always willing to help. Angus Redford I admired for his incredible skill. I agree with the others that it is a real pity that Angus is not down in the lower house. He was one of the most skilful debaters we have had in this place. I really enjoyed listening. I did not participate so much in the heated debates that went on, but I enjoyed them.

Terry Cameron would come over to me every now and again and apologise for calling the Democrats hypocrites. I said, 'Don't worry about it, Terry; Jesus called people hypocrites, too, so that is all right.' I enjoyed the debate, the discussions and the vitality of it all. I am going to miss those people, and I want to place on the record my thanks for the help they gave me.

The Hon. R.D. LAWSON: I also welcome the new members and look forward to cooperatively working with them over this term of parliament. At the end of the last session I did pay tribute to some of the retiring members, but I did not mention the Hon. Kate Reynolds, with whom I had a good relationship.

I had a good relationship with the Hon. Kate Reynolds. We were fellow members of the Aboriginal Lands Parliamentary Standing Committee which I mentioned earlier today and which was chaired by the Hon. Terry Roberts. She was a terrific member of that committee; and, as the minister said, although she was a member for only a short time, she made a significant contribution to this council not only on Aboriginal issues but also other issues. I had occasion recently to say farewell to her and to wish her all the best for the future. She is in a very optimistic frame of mind, and I am sure that she will contribute to our community in one way or another. Certainly, she has my best wishes.

The Hon. Terry Cameron has also retired. I thought that, a moment ago, the Hon. Andrew Evans was equating the Hon. Terry Cameron with Jesus. I am sure that he did not really mean that. I was a colleague of the Hon. Terry Cameron for a number of years and, until the last term of parliament, I did not really appreciate some of his strengths. He was a highly intelligent member of parliament; and, when he devoted his attention to any particular legislative measure before the parliament and participated in a debate, he had a very acute mind and a very commonsense way of approaching matters, as well as a keen political nose. I think that he made a significant contribution.

As my leader (Hon. Rob Lucas) mentioned, he made a very difficult political decision some years ago (together with the Hon. Trevor Crothers), which took him outside the Labor Party. It was a decision not made by either of them for their personal comfort or for their electoral popularity; it was a decision which they took conscientiously and for which they paid a very high price. That sort of courage and commitment is not often seen and too often is not commented upon. I think the Hon. Terry Cameron will be remembered as a member who made a significant contribution, and I, too, wish him well in his future endeavours.

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK: I wish to add a few brief comments to those that have already been made. Naturally, I welcome the new members to this place. No doubt you have had a tough contest to find your way to the Legislative Council, and I trust that you will find it as fruitful as have the rest of us. I would like to pay tribute to a few of the departed members, in particular, the Hon. Angus Redford who was a

very tenacious debater. He was very keen on drilling down to issues, looking at them in some detail, and finding the political angle.

Also, I think he was most adept in translating a number of those issues into language that could be understood in the community; and, as a consequence, he had quite a high media profile. I think it is a loss to the parliament that he has not continued to be a colleague of ours in the House of Assembly. The Hon. Julian Stefani, my other Liberal Party colleague, had a long interest in multicultural affairs. I represented our shadow ministers and leaders at several functions. Julian was always invited in his own right as an icon of multicultural communities and he worked tirelessly for those communities.

I shall miss the Hon. Ian Gilfillan's wit. As one who would quietly sit and observe from the back stalls and throw in a curly comment, I thought he was a very kind and very clever fellow who had a great understanding of the history of a number of issues in this parliament. Finally, I pay tribute to the Hon. Kate Reynolds. I would like to add to the comments that have been made today. I think that the Hon. Kate Reynolds was very passionate and determined, and she was undeterred by many of the criticisms that were thrown at her, particularly by members of the government. She was unstinting in her beliefs on social justice and, while there would have been occasions when I did not agree with her, I think it is a sad loss that she is no longer with us.

I trust that this chamber—and, in particular, the minor parties—will bear in mind that we do not need to polarise the political spectrum any further. It has been a strength of this parliament that members have voted together in various combinations during debates. In my view, the role of this place is to consider matters in the best interests of South Australia and vote accordingly.

Motion carried.

COMMISSION OF OATHS

The PRESIDENT: I inform the council that I have received from Her Excellency the Governor a commission authorising me to administer the oath or affirmation to members of the Legislative Council.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON MOUNT GAMBIER DISTRICT HEALTH SERVICE

The PRESIDENT laid on the table and authorised to be printed the final report of the Select Committee on Mount Gambier District Health Service, which was authorised to be published and distributed by the President of the Legislative Council on 14 February 2006 pursuant to a resolution of the Legislative Council on 1 December 2005. The President also laid on the table further minutes of proceedings and evidence of the Select Committee on the Mount Gambier District Health Service.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON REFINING, STORAGE AND SUPPLY OF FUEL IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The PRESIDENT laid on the table and authorised to be printed interim reports of the Select Committee on Refining, Storage and Supply of Fuel in South Australia, which was authorised to be published and distributed by the President of the Legislative Council on 14 February 2006 pursuant to a resolution of the Legislative Council on 1 December 2005.

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSESSMENT AND
TREATMENT SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH
MENTAL HEALTH DISORDERS**

The **PRESIDENT** laid on the table and authorised to be printed the interim report of the Select Committee on Assessment and Treatment Services for People with Mental Health Disorders, which was authorised to be published and distributed by the President of the Legislative Council on 16 February 2006 pursuant to a resolution of the Legislative Council on 1 December 2005.

**STATUTORY AUTHORITIES REVIEW
COMMITTEE: NURSES BOARD OF SOUTH
AUSTRALIA**

The **PRESIDENT** laid on the table and authorised to be printed the report of the Statutory Authorities Review Committee on its inquiry into the Nurses Board of South Australia, which was authorised to be published pursuant to section 17(7)(b) of the Parliamentary Committees Act 1991.

**STATUTORY AUTHORITIES REVIEW
COMMITTEE: MEDICAL BOARD OF SOUTH
AUSTRALIA**

The **PRESIDENT** laid on the table and authorised to be printed the report of the Statutory Authorities Review Committee on its inquiry into the Medical Board of South Australia, which was authorised to be published pursuant to section 17(7)(b) of the Parliamentary Committees Act 1991.

INDEPENDENT GAMBLING AUTHORITY

The **PRESIDENT** laid on the table the report of the Independent Gambling Authority Inquiry into Gaming Machine Entitlements distributed by the President to the members of the Legislative Council on 19 January 2006 pursuant to section 89(3) of the Gaming Machines Act 1992.

POLICE COMPLAINTS AUTHORITY

The **PRESIDENT** laid on the table the report of the Police Complaints Authority 2005.

PAPERS TABLED

The following papers were laid on the table:

The **PRESIDENT**: I lay upon the table reports, 2004-05 of—

The Corporations of the Cities of—
Adelaide;
Burnside;
Campbelltown;
Charles Sturt;
Holdfast Bay;
Mount Gambier;
Norwood, Payneham and St Peters;
Playford;
Port Adelaide Enfield;
Port Augusta;
Port Lincoln;
Salisbury;
Tea Tree Gully;
Unley;
Walkerville; and
West Torrens;
and the District Councils of—
Adelaide Hills;

Alexandrina;
Berri Barmera;
Clare and Gilbert Valleys;
Flinders Ranges;
Gawler;
Kimba;
Loxton Waikerie;
Mallala;
Mid Murray;
Mount Barker;
Mount Remarkable;
Murray Bridge;
Naracoorte Lucindale;
Northern Areas;
Peterborough;
Port Pirie;
Robe;
Southern Mallee;
Tatiara;
Tumby Bay;
Wakefield;
Wattle Range; and
Yorke Peninsula;

Pursuant to Section 131(6) the Local Government Act 1999.

STANDING ORDERS SUSPENSION

The **Hon. P. HOLLOWAY (Minister for Police)**: I seek leave to move a motion without notice concerning the suspension of standing orders for the remainder of this session to enable members to make statements on matters of interest.

Leave granted.

The **Hon. P. HOLLOWAY**: I move:

That for the remainder of the session standing orders be so far suspended as to provide that, at the conclusion of the period for questions without notice on Wednesdays, members may make statements on matters of interest. Up to seven members may speak for a maximum of five minutes each. The President may order the member to resume his or her seat if, in the opinion of the President, the member infringes standing orders governing the rules of debate.

Motion carried.

The **Hon. P. HOLLOWAY (Minister for Police)**: I move:

That standing order 14 be suspended.

This procedure has been adopted in recent times to allow consideration of other business before the Address in Reply has been adopted.

Motion carried.

GOVERNMENT, MINISTERIAL CHANGES

The **Hon. P. HOLLOWAY (Minister for Police)**: I table a ministerial statement made today by the Premier in relation to government changes.

STATE BUDGET

The **Hon. P. HOLLOWAY (Minister for Police)**: I table a ministerial statement made today by the Treasurer in relation to the 2006-07 budget.

QUESTION TIME

HINDLEY STREET

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Leader of the Opposition): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Leader of the Government a question about Hindley Street. Leave granted.

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS: Just two weeks ago a spokesperson on behalf of a number of Hindley Street traders wrote to the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition, the Police Commissioner and a number of other parties expressing concerns about the violence in Hindley Street. The letter states, in part:

In the past there has been various letters sent to your office expressing concerns about public safety in the Hindley Street area, and in particular between midnight and 6 a.m. on Friday and Saturday nights. Last weekend on Friday and Saturday nights Hindley Street resembled a Bagdad Street, with the only element missing being armed persons in military uniforms. Members of the public walking through the area were assaulted, robbed and sexually molested. Some complained to our clients and some simply left the area disgusted. It is hoped that these persons will attend again and not promote the area as being unsafe as this will certainly bring loss to traders.

Last Saturday night, 8 April 2006, after midnight there were approximately 100 Aboriginal youths in the area, with some as young as 10 years old. They congregate between Art SA in Hindley Street to Bank Street and Rosina Street car park. There were clashes between various youth groups, being Aboriginal, Middle Eastern, Caucasian and 'skin heads'. It has now reached the point where it is no longer safe to walk down Hindley Street, unless you are in a group, without being molested, assaulted or robbed.

That is a statement on behalf of about a dozen or so Hindley Street traders. I also note that this is not just a recent complaint or concern because in June last year the Hindley Street traders expressed concern to the then government and other interested parties about unacceptably high levels of violence of a similar nature. Finally, in this most recent letter the summary from the traders outlining their view is as follows:

Anti-social behaviour is increasing at an alarming rate in that particular precinct.

My question to the minister is two fold:

1. Does the minister agree with the traders that violence in Hindley Street is getting worse and has now reached an unacceptably high level?

2. Can the minister assure the council that some of the extra 400 police to be appointed over the coming four years will be used to establish a permanent increase (not a temporary task force increase) in police patrols and presence in the Hindley Street precinct at the particular times of Friday and Saturday evenings?

The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY (Minister for Police): Regarding whether I agree with the traders that violence is increasing, there has been significant violence in the Hindley Street area sporadically over the past 100 years or more. Because of its nature, and the nature of its venues and nightclubs, Hindley Street has been a scene of violence from time to time—and that violence does vary. There is no doubt that in recent times there has been an increase in problems on that street, and it is for that reason that on 21 April last year the Commissioner for Police announced Operation Hindley Safe 3.

This operation will utilise resources from the Adelaide police local service area, adjoining local service areas, the Star Group, mounted operations and transit police, and we have been assured by the Commissioner that the operation

will continue until the crime reduction objective in that vicinity is achieved. There has been some publicity in the newspaper about this, and I have made some comments in the newspaper, as has Superintendent Schramm, who is the head of the Adelaide local service area.

Clearly there is a problem, as was mentioned in the letter read out by the Leader of the Opposition. It has also been alleged that there were children as young as 10 on the street. That is a social problem that requires a response from a number of government agencies, not just the police, and one really has to ask what is happening when children that young are on the street. It appears that the issues are worse on Friday and Saturday nights, which is scarcely surprising, and there is also a problem with public intoxication in that area. As was mentioned in *The Advertiser* a couple of days ago, the licensing enforcement branch of the police has conducted a number of operations and, I understand, one venue is currently before the Licensing Court. Public drunkenness, as well as Hindley Street's attraction to young people because of the excitement and so forth, is clearly an important factor in dealing with crime issues in that location.

The Hon. R.I. Lucas interjecting:

The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY: That is the second question and I will come to it in a moment. The Commissioner is well aware of the issues and, as I said, has assured me that additional resources have been directed to this area and that these will remain until police are on top of that particular problem.

In relation to the additional 400 police, it is true that the Rann government, over its first four year term, increased the number of sworn police by 246, and we have also committed to increasing police numbers by 100 a year over the next four years. Those police will address a number of areas, including local service areas such as Adelaide. The Police Commissioner will assign resources to areas as he thinks fit (as is his right under the Police Act), and he has assured me that some of those resources will go into local service areas, including the Adelaide local service area, so that they are available as these problems arise. However, in the past we have seen that these issues of violence do change from venue to venue, and as police tend to clean up problems in one area the problems easily move on to other areas. Therefore, it is important that the Police Commissioner has the flexibility to deploy his officers as he thinks fit to reduce violence in those areas.

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS: I have a supplementary question arising out of the answer. Is the minister indicating that the Police Commissioner has not given him an assurance that there will be a permanent and ongoing increase in foot patrols and police patrols in the Hindley Street area on Friday and Saturday evenings, that is, that it will be sporadic and a decision for the Commissioner from time to time?

The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY: The deployment of police officers is the prerogative of the Police Commissioner. That is enacted under the Police Act, which was brought in under the previous government and supported by this government. The Police Commissioner is the best person to judge where his officers should be deployed. Clearly, with the addition of 400 officers over the next years, the government will continue to make more resources available to those local services. How they are deployed within the local Adelaide service area is a matter for the Police Commissioner. However, the Police Commissioner assures me—and I think the evidence is clearly there—that he is well aware of the issues in Hindley

Street, and he has responded entirely appropriately to those issues.

PARKS

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY: I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Environment and Conservation a question about South Australian parks.

Leave granted.

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY: In January the Department for Environment and Heritage announced a public consultation process on the proposed new reserve classification system. This system introduces the new categories of heritage park and nature park and abolishes the current classification of recreation park. Currently there are 13 recreation parks across our state. The reclassification of recreation parks proposed by the environment department during the consultation process classes them as natural monuments, which are described in the consultation document as 'an area containing one or more specific natural or natural/cultural feature which is of outstanding or unique value because of its inherent rarity, representative or aesthetic qualities or cultural significance and managed mainly for the conservation of specific natural features.' However, under the existing recreation park category, these same parks are identified as 'areas managed for public recreation and enjoyment in a natural setting.' My questions are:

1. Will the minister guarantee that all 13 current recreation parks will continue to allow all current recreational pursuits enjoyed by the South Australian public?

2. Will the conservation park classification force the removal of 'incompatible species', as defined in the Department for Environment and Heritage review, such as exotic plants or the Coffin Bay ponies?

The Hon. G.E. GAGO (Minister for Environment and Conservation): I am very pleased to have an opportunity to answer this most important question. The Department for Environment and Heritage has reviewed the reserve classification system, as defined by the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972. The review proposes a new category system for parks and reserves that will align with national and international standards on park classification categories and management objectives. Under this new category system, mining will not be allowed in national parks, conservation parks and game reserves but would be permissible in regional reserves and new reserve categories and such like. The category of recreation park would be abolished, recognising that recreation occurs in many parks and that the current recreation parks have conservation value.

I cannot emphasise strongly enough that the abolition of the category of recreation parks will not affect recreational uses in these parks. The recreational activities within a park will continue to be dealt with through park management plans. These plans determine for what specific activities their parks are most suitable, and they will continue to do that in line with future needs. A new category of heritage park will be created to provide for heritage sites, such as Fort Glanville and Martindale Hall. A discussion paper was released for public consultation on 10 January, with comments being sought by 31 March, and I am presently going through the feedback received. In relation to the removal of incompatible species, I will need to return with details about that matter.

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY: As a supplementary question, if there is no change to the use of the parks, why

should the government have an expensive consultation process during the election period?

The Hon. G.E. GAGO: The election period is immaterial. The opposition may have gone to sleep during the election period but we kept working. This classification system is only about aligning with national and international standards. It is a change, and it is important that people are involved in understanding and inputting into those changes.

MENTAL HEALTH

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK: I seek leave to make an explanation before asking the Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse a question on the issue of mental health.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK: Last year the Legislative Council established the Select Committee on Assessment and Treatment Services for People with Mental Health Disorders, which continued to meet following the prorogation of parliament without the attendance of either the former minister for mental health or the current Minister for Mental Health. Indeed, in her speech opposing the establishment of this select committee, then minister Zollo confidently stated, 'We do not need another report into mental health services in this state. What we need is to keep moving forward with our mental health reform agenda.' However, as well as reversing Labor's policy to close Glenside during the election, Premier Rann has now given the task of overhauling South Australia's mental health services to the Social Inclusion Board. My questions are:

1. Who is responsible for South Australia's mental health agenda? Is it the Minister for Mental Health, the Social Inclusion Board, the Social Inclusion Commissioner, or, indeed, the Minister for Health?

2. Was minister Zollo wrong when she said that the government knew what it was doing in mental health and just needed to be allowed to get on with it?

3. Does the minister have primary responsibility for what will happen to the Glenside campus, or is that the responsibility of the Social Inclusion Board?

4. When will the South Australian community be given a clear direction on what the government intends to do with the Glenside site?

The Hon. G.E. GAGO (Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse): There are a number of questions, so perhaps I will start with the issue of the Social Inclusion Board. As people are well aware, as Minister for Mental Health I am responsible for the transformation of mental health services in South Australia. I am delighted to be able to work with someone as highly respected in the community as Monsignor Cappelletti and the Social Inclusion Board. I am already working closely with that board, and it will provide advice and facilitate cooperation across government.

The Premier has charged Monsignor Cappelletti as Chair of the Social Inclusion Board with coordinating areas across government where portfolios overlap. Homelessness is one example of that and mental health is another. Minister Weatherill, the lead minister for housing, and I will also continue the good work already begun in the first term of government working with the Social Inclusion Board in developing a more joined-up government approach to policy and delivery of services to the most vulnerable in our community. The government recognises the great challenges that we face to bring our mental health system into line with

the rest of the community, particularly after 10 years of neglect by the previous Liberal government.

When the Liberals were last in government, they might like to remember, they created a super department of human services, where they preferred to hide mental health away within a massive bureaucracy, and our government has seen mental health to be important enough to allocate a specific minister responsible for mental health services. I am very pleased to be that minister and, in fact, it is the only designated mental health position in all of Australia, so it is something that we should be very proud of. This government, however, knows just how much needs to be done and, with advice from the Social Inclusion Board, we are getting on with the job, just as the former minister, the Hon. Carmel Zollo has stated.

In relation to the mental health select committee, as honourable members opposite know, once parliament was prorogued we received legal advice that raised questions about the protection of witnesses in terms of privilege. We were concerned that it would make witnesses potentially vulnerable legally and, because of that advice, we withdrew from those committees. We believe that the opposition was quite irresponsible to continue, given that a number of people sometimes brought fairly sensitive material as evidence to those committees.

WOLLEMI PINE

The Hon. I.K. HUNTER: Will the Minister for Environment and Conservation advise the council about the release from captivity in the Botanic Gardens of one of the world's oldest trees, the Wollemi pine?

The Hon. G.E. GAGO (Minister for Environment and Conservation): I thank the honourable member for his important question and his keen interest in these matters, and I look forward to his contributions throughout the next four years. I am delighted to inform the council that, on 30 March, I was involved in the national release of one of the world's rarest and oldest trees—the Wollemi pine. This species is so rare that only three strands still exist in Australia today.

The Wollemi pine is part of a 200-year-old family of trees, and it was thought to be extinct until, quite by accident, a ranger in New South Wales discovered it. This pine belongs to a group of plants that dates back to the days of the dinosaurs—and some might argue that a few are sitting opposite us today. This family of tree is almost 250 million years old. The oldest fossil is 90 million years old, so that gives some idea of the age of this family of tree. For the past eight years, the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Botanic Gardens have successfully grown two Wollemi pines but have kept them caged for protection until they matured. Following the successful propagation program, I was given the privilege of releasing one of these spectacular trees from its cage.

The Adelaide and Mount Lofty Botanic Gardens have played a key role in educating the community about this plant and its unique discovery. I am advised that the species is hardy, quite versatile, easy to grow and low maintenance for those of us who do not have green thumbs. I am also advised that the pine will adapt to quite a diverse range of climatic zones and thrives in full sun to semi-shade in outdoor positions. I understand that 'wollemi' is an Aboriginal word that means 'look around and keep your eyes open and watch out'—a salient warning, Mr President.

GAMBLING RELATED SUICIDE

The Hon. NICK XENOPHON: I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Police, representing the Attorney-General, a question about gambling related suicide.

Leave granted.

The Hon. NICK XENOPHON: A front-page article in *The Herald Sun*, entitled 'Pokies pain' and published on 19 September 2005, quotes statistics recently obtained from the Victorian Coroner's Court that at least 70 gambling addicts or their partners have killed themselves in Victoria since June 2001—a rate of more than one every three weeks. The article refers to a report being compiled by the National Coroners Information System using Victorian coronial findings from June 2001 to June 2005. Of the 70 gambling-related deaths, the article states that 68 were suicides by gambling addicts and two were by addicts' partners. It is of concern that the Coroner's findings list poker machines as the most common form of gambling-related death.

I have previously asked questions in parliament of the former attorney-general (Hon. Trevor Griffin) in 1999 on the link between gambling and suicide and most recently during the debate on the Coroner's bill in July 2003 when I asked a number of questions as to whether the SA Coroner could be directed to inquire into gambling-related suicide and the link between gambling and suicide. Given that the National Coroners Information System has—

The PRESIDENT: Order! The members on my left might set an example to new members and stop walking around the chamber muttering.

The Hon. NICK XENOPHON: Given that the National Coroners Information System has prepared what appears to be a comprehensive report on the link between gambling and suicide in Victoria, my questions are as follows:

1. When will the government provide the resources to undertake a similar study in South Australia on the link between gambling and suicide, based on the recently reported Victorian study?
2. What inquiries are currently undertaken in cases of suicide to determine whether gambling is a factor, including a causative factor, in that person's death?
3. What degree of liaison is there between the Gamblers' Rehabilitation Fund data collection system and the Coroner's Office to establish the link between suicide and attempted suicide and gambling?
4. Given that the government collects over \$400 million a year in gambling taxes, what resources does the government say that it will provide to investigate the link and extent of the link between gambling problems and suicide?

The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY (Minister for Police): I will refer that question on to the Attorney-General and bring back a response.

HINDLEY STREET

The Hon. T.J. STEPHENS: I congratulate you, sir, on your elevation to high office. I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Police a question about video surveillance in Hindley Street.

Leave granted.

The Hon. T.J. STEPHENS: As a result of the current situation regarding the incidence of crime along Hindley Street, yesterday afternoon I conducted an inspection of the street between King William Street and Morphett Street,

given that this seems to be the section of Hindley Street where the majority of nightclubs are based and where most of the problems have been occurring. I took a staff member along with me to inspect the location of a number of cameras. I also took that staff member so that members opposite could not suggest that I popped into any of those establishments! My questions to the minister are:

1. What is the number of surveillance cameras in Hindley Street and is that number adequate?

2. Will the minister confirm that sufficient personnel are rostered to ensure the appropriate level of monitoring of the aforementioned surveillance cameras?

3. If there is adequate monitoring of the surveillance cameras, will the minister confirm that adequate police resources are available to provide an expedient response to incidents?

The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY (Minister for Police): I do not know how many surveillance cameras there are in Hindley Street but I will endeavour to get that information and bring back a response to the honourable member.

The Hon. T.J. STEPHENS: As a supplementary question, will the minister also confirm that there is sufficient monitoring of those cameras and that sufficient police resources are available for expedient responses?

The PRESIDENT: I do not know how that is supplementary to the answer, although it was a very short answer that the minister gave. The minister can answer it if he likes.

The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY: In fact, it was part of the honourable member's question, and I can assure him that I will answer all three parts of his question or obtain a response from the Police Commissioner in relation to that matter.

MINERAL EXPLORATION

The Hon. J. GAZZOLA: I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Mineral Resources and Development a question about South Australia's resources boom.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J. GAZZOLA: Exploration expenditure in South Australia of \$100 million a year by 2007 is one of the key resources targets in South Australia's Strategic Plan. Will the minister detail whether the government is on track to achieve this ambitious target?

The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY (Minister for Mineral Resources and Development): I thank the honourable member for his interest in this important sector of the state's economy. I can happily advise all members of the council that not only is the government on track to achieve this target but we are actually on the verge of achieving it almost two years ahead of schedule. There is no doubt that South Australia is currently experiencing its most significant minerals and resources boom for decades. Australian Bureau of Statistics figures released last month put the value of mineral exploration in South Australia during 2005 at \$99.4 million, which is just \$600 000 short of the Strategic Plan target.

The figure of \$99.4 million is up from \$55.5 million in the previous year, representing an increase of 79 per cent. When we compare the data for the December quarters of 2004 and 2005, the numbers are even more astonishing. The ABS figures put exploration expenditure for the December quarter of 2005 at \$39.5 million. That is a 130 per cent increase on the figure for the December quarter of 2004. That 2005 December quarter figure is the highest quarterly figure ever

recorded in South Australia—a remarkable result. At the same time, the ABS figures show that South Australia's share of the national exploration spend has jumped from 6 per cent in 2004 to 8.8 per cent last year, and that rate continues to accelerate. Our increase in exploration expenditure from the September to December quarters last year was the highest in the nation, and South Australia is now in a very healthy third place behind the traditional mining powerhouse states of Queensland and Western Australia in terms of exploration expenditure.

At the heart of this boom is the Rann government's highly successful and internationally recognised Plan for Accelerating Exploration (PACE) initiative. Since its inception in 2004, the \$22.5 million PACE scheme has played an increasingly crucial role in the government's drive to develop the state's resources. It is, without doubt, the most advanced multifaceted mineral exploration initiative ever undertaken by any Australian government. So far, more than 104 mineral exploration projects, operated by local, interstate and overseas mining companies, have been allocated PACE funding. With the assistance of the South Australian Minerals and Petroleum Expert Group (SAMPEG), more and more national and international explorers are turning to South Australia in an effort to unearth even more of the state's mineral resource wealth.

SAMPEG members are raising awareness throughout the world about South Australia's high mineral prospectivity and the potential for new discoveries. A Teck Cominco \$16 million deal with PACE supported RMG Services at Carrapateena is just one example of this rapidly growing awareness. There is a range of other major and emerging projects which the state is set to benefit from, including BHP Billiton's proposed \$5 billion expansion of the Olympic Dam mine and the Prominent Hill copper gold project, just to name two. The benefits will be shared by all South Australians through the creation of thousands of new jobs in the mining sector and the maintenance of a strong South Australian economy through this year and beyond.

It is also important to note that, amid all of the mineral exploration success and skyrocketing statistics, South Australia has been recognised by the annual Fraser Institute global mining company review—a world recognised, Canadian based review of institutions—as the world's leading jurisdiction for the provision of geoscientific data. This is concrete evidence of the Rann government's commitment to ensuring world's best practice in all aspects of mineral and resources development in this state.

Finally, we also note further good news in this morning's *Advertiser* where Terramin has announced some promising results at its Menninnie Dam, a prospect in the Eyre Peninsula near Kimba. That is more good news for a company that received support under the PACE program. All in all, it augurs very well for this state's economic future.

DRUGS, PENALTIES

The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD: I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Police a question concerning penalties imposed for the sale, manufacture and supply of amphetamines.

Leave granted.

The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD: In an ABC Radio interview on 2 December 2005 the Premier was quoted as saying:

Of those who get killed on our roads, about 36 per cent of them have excess alcohol in their blood, whilst about 32 per cent have amphetamines or marijuana in their blood.

In another media report on the ABC on 10 January this year, it was announced that according to police statistics youngsters of an age as young as 10 are found to be in possession of amphetamines. My questions to the minister are:

1. How many charged offenders have been convicted throughout the last three years for the possession and sale of amphetamines and, of these, what percentage received the maximum penalty?

2. Of those convictions, how many have received gaol terms as a percentage of total convictions?

3. Will the minister look to increase funding for programs that seek to rehabilitate drug offenders inside and outside of prison?

The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY (Minister for Police): I congratulate the honourable member on his election to this council. I will get the statistical information the member seeks in relation to amphetamines. I assume it is available in that form; I am not sure whether data that is collected is broken down into drug by type in relation to those particular categories. I will endeavour to get whatever information is available for the honourable member and bring back a reply. In relation to the issue of resources, this government has outlined clearly in the Governor's speech today that it is targeting drug use. It is one of those areas where the government will be turning its attention in the coming months. There is no doubt that drug abuse is an important and growing issue in our community and it is the basis of much other crime in our community. The government will be increasing its resources in that area.

The Hon. SANDRA KANCK: I have a supplementary question. In seeking that information will the minister also find out, of those people who had drugs recorded in their blood, what percentage was doctor prescribed?

The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY: Again, I am not sure what statistics are available in this area. I will endeavour to get that information, or whatever information is available in this area, and bring back a reply for the honourable member.

BIDMEADE REPORT

The Hon. R.D. LAWSON: I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse a question about the Bidmeade report.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R.D. LAWSON: In April 2005—a year ago—Mr Ian Bidmeade delivered to the government his review of mental health legislation in South Australia. Mr Bidmeade's report was prepared on behalf of the review committee on mental health legislation within the Mental Health Unit of the Department of Health. The report noted the comment of Mr Bidmeade as follows:

It is more than 10 years since the mental health legislation has been comprehensively reviewed.

The report covers many topics and makes many recommendations over a wide-ranging field. For example, it points out that an enduring power of guardianship appointing an enduring guardian to make decisions relating to lifestyle and medical decisions can be made when an individual becomes permanently incapacitated but not when the person is temporarily incapacitated, for example, as a result of mental health issues. The report suggests that an appeal tribunal

should be established to hear appeals from the Guardianship Board. Such appeals presently go to the Administrative and Disciplinary Division of the District Court. The report recommends the establishment of a mental capacity tribunal.

There are extensive recommendations in relation to the mental health provisions of the Criminal Law Consolidation Act. It is reported that the mental health impairment defence introduced in section 269 of that act is having the effect of clogging up the magistrates courts, and that there are flow-on effects within the mental health services. The report notes that the same provisions are giving rise to 'inbuilt delays in moving from one step to another within the system because the provisions are unduly complicated' and there are recommendations for simplification.

Finally, amongst many recommendations, the report draws attention to the fact that there is an uncertainty about the status of patients within the mental health system who are the subject of orders under section 269 of the Criminal Law Consolidation Act. These are all important issues. My question is: does the government propose to provide a comprehensive response to the recommendations of the Bidmeade report, or does it intend to continue blaming the previous government for the problems of the mental health system; and, if so, when will that response be made available?

The Hon. G.E. GAGO (Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse): During the last election campaign, the Rann government gave a commitment to undertake legislative review. Some of the things to which it has agreed relate to some of the matters which the honourable member raised but possibly not all, and I will get to that in a minute. We plan to introduce new mental health legislation that will affirm the rights, dignities and civil liberties of mental health consumers and their carers and balance these rights with the community's legitimate expectations that they should be protected from harm.

The legislation will establish clear principles enabling mental health consumers to receive appropriate services in either hospitals or the community. It will inform the arrangements for the transportation of mentally-ill people involved in an incident or disturbance. Obviously, the police will still attend if protection is needed. Paving the Way, the report of the review of mental health legislation in South Australia, will provide the foundation for some of this legislation. Obviously, we are aspiring to a modern, innovative and ethical legislative framework for people affected by mental illness, including those in the criminal justice system.

We intend to change our law so that specifically-trained mental health workers and psychiatrists have the power to make community treatment orders. These orders, which are comprehensive treatment plans, can require a person to take prescribed medication or to cooperate with visits from mental health workers. Currently, only the Guardianship Board has the authority to do that. On 13 February, the government announced that it will aim to draft a bill for consultation in the middle of this year. We are hoping to have legislation before parliament by the end of the year, which would pick up some of those matters. In relation to the mental capacity proposal, we are still working through some of those specific issues with the Attorney-General, and I will need to bring those back to the council at a later date.

NGARKAT PARK

The Hon. CAROLINE SCHAEFER: I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for

Environment and Conservation a question about the Ngarkat Park.

Leave granted.

The Hon. CAROLINE SCHAEFER: A constituent has land with a boundary adjoining Ngarkat Park. Along with many others, he lost considerable property in the January bushfire which escaped from that park—a fire which many believed could have been prevented if better management practices had been employed. My constituent has stock on agistment which must now be brought back to his property. He was assured by SACORP some six weeks ago that the government will meet the cost of refencing, but there appears to be a reluctance on the part of the Department of Environment to pay up.

Last week an officer from that department expressed the view that he was unsure whether, in fact, it would pay. My colleague Mr Mitch Williams has approached a member of the minister's staff on this matter, but to date neither the property owner nor Mr Williams have had any contact from the minister's department. My questions are:

1. Will the minister confirm that the debt owed by her department will be paid?

2. When will her department contact the landowner involved to confirm this payment; and, more importantly, when will he see the money?

The Hon. G.E. GAGO (Minister for Environment and Conservation): I do not have any detailed information about this specific individual's problem. I would be happy for the honourable member to forward me those details. I will follow up those details and answer her questions.

The Hon. CAROLINE SCHAEFER: As a supplementary question, will the minister commit to speaking with the members of her personal staff who have been contacted?

The Hon. G.E. GAGO: I am happy to receive all relevant information on this matter.

CHLAMYDIA

The Hon. A.L. EVANS: I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Environment and Conservation, representing the Minister for Health and Substance Abuse, a question about the rise of chlamydia cases in South Australia.

Leave granted.

The Hon. A.L. EVANS: A record number of chlamydia infections has been reported by the Royal Adelaide Hospital's sexually transmitted disease clinic. Last year 2 701 people were diagnosed with the disease compared to 1 006 in 2000. A hospital clinic manager stated that the number of cases this year is likely to reach 3 000. My questions to the minister are:

1. Considering that chlamydia is known to make sufferers more prone to ectopic pregnancies and long-term fertility problems, will the minister advise what initiatives the government has taken, and will be taking, to ensure that women are aware of the risks associated with this disease?

2. Will the minister advise the council whether the government will include a specific comment in the secondary schools sex education program on the risks associated with chlamydia, and whether it will promote abstinence as a preventative measure?

The Hon. G.E. GAGO (Minister for Environment and Conservation): I thank the honourable member for his question. I will refer it to the minister in another place and bring back a response.

CYCLING, ROAD SAFETY

The Hon. R.P. WORTLEY: I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Road Safety a question about cycling and safety.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R.P. WORTLEY: With the price of petrol now at an all-time high (I think I paid \$1.42 a litre at my local BP station), it is time for us all to consider the amount of travel we do in our cars. There are alternatives, of course, and these options are walking, cycling or public transport. Cycling has much going for it in that it is cheap, reasonably quick (especially for local trips), and good for our health and the environment. It is also an enjoyable way to travel. I have had a number of people talk to me lately regarding their wanting to cycle more often but, unfortunately, they do not feel it is safe enough for it to be a viable option. My question is: what is the government doing to make cycling safer in South Australia?

The Hon. CARMEL ZOLLO (Minister for Road Safety): I take the opportunity to congratulate the member, and I also acknowledge that it is his first question on the floor of the council. I thank him for the very important question. This government is committed to improving the safety of all road users, and this very much includes more vulnerable road users such as cyclists. The government has established the Cycling and Pedestrian Safety Task Force, which reports to the Road Safety Advisory Council, to advise government on cycling safety issues. The task force consists of specialists in cycling from the government, the police and community groups.

My colleague the Minister for Transport, in February, released Safety in Numbers—A Cycling Strategy for SA 2006-2010. Safety in Numbers is a whole-of-government cycling strategy to both improve cycling safety and also increase the amount of cycling in our state. This is in recognition of all the many benefits that will come with more cycling such as improved environment, increased health and fitness levels and reduced congestion on our roads. Safety in Numbers commits the government to providing safe facilities for all cyclists in all road projects in our urbanised area.

This government has introduced two new programs for providing safe cycling networks in both the metropolitan area and regional centres. The Arterial Road Bicycle Facilities Improvement Program is used to install bicycle lanes along existing arterial roads. The state Black Spot Cycling Projects program allocates \$600 000 specifically for infrastructure projects that directly improve the safety of cyclists. For example, cyclists who utilise the South Road underpass at Darlington will notice a vast difference this winter. The underpass used to flood every time it rained, forcing cyclists and pedestrians to battle eight lanes of traffic on South Road. The Darlington Black Spot Project, at a cost of \$200 000, is very near completion, and it will provide great relief for cyclists as winter sets in. The state government also assists councils to improve safety for cyclists through the State Bicycle Fund. This is a dollar-for-dollar subsidy funding scheme available to all councils in South Australia for projects that improve safety and develop improved cycling networks in the state.

The Share the Road public education campaign is being conducted to increase the safety of cycling by raising community awareness in relation to the rights and responsibilities of both cyclists and motor vehicle drivers in cycling safety. The government provides specialised bicycle riding

training to over 4 000 primary school children each year in both the city and regional areas. Bike Ed provides students with the opportunity to develop responsible behaviours, attitudes and decision making skills for the safe use of bicycles both on and off the road.

In total, the government provided \$1.97 million for various cycling projects in the 2005-06 budget. I am certain that honourable members will agree that this government has a strong strategic commitment and a number of supporting initiatives for improving cycling safety here in South Australia.

ABALONE AQUACULTURE LEASES

The Hon. SANDRA KANCK: I seek leave to make an explanation before asking a question of either the Minister for Emergency Services, representing the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, or the Minister for Urban Development and Planning.

Leave granted.

The Hon. SANDRA KANCK: In June last year, I visited Elliston to meet with the Friends of Elliston to discuss their concerns about abalone aquaculture leases in Anxious Bay, and I did the same thing again just a few days ago. Back in June I went out on a boat and inspected the lease from outside the area. Two days before I arrived there had been a storm and, on that occasion, roughly half the abalone rings were out of shape and, with respect to a number of them, the tubing at the top of the rim was submerged. Within days, dozens of the abalone baskets were found littered along assorted beaches and cliffs along the West Coast and Eyre Peninsula.

On Saturday I again went out in a boat to inspect the lease. About two days before there had been a bit of a breeze, a bit of rain and a bit of a swell—you would hardly call it a storm—but, again, I found that roughly half the rings had become kidney shaped and a number of them were suffering from the same problem of the tubing at the top being partly submerged. When I went there in June last year, the head of Australian Bight Abalone argued that it had been a 100-year storm. People who live in that area who know what a 100-year storm is likely to be just laughed at that. I do not know what explanation they will give for what occurred this time but, certainly, on Monday one basket was found to have washed up on the shore.

The other thing that interested me as we looked at the lease was that there appeared to be a larger ring than the licence had designated. The licence allows a 40 metre diameter, but the estimate of the four of us on the boat with respect to the new ring was that it had probably a 45 metre diameter. My questions to the minister are:

1. What monitoring of the lease by the minister's department is occurring, or is it entirely dependent on what ABA has to provide for it?
2. Has the minister been advised of any damage to rings or the escape of any baskets in the past week?
3. What is the diameter of the new rings? If they are larger than 40 metres, is this outside the terms of the lease agreement? If so, what action does the minister propose to take and, if larger rings have been approved, when was that approval given?

The Hon. CARMEL ZOLLO (Minister for Emergency Services): I will refer the honourable member's questions to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries in the other place and bring back a response.

METROPOLITAN FIRE SERVICE

The Hon. J.S.L. DAWKINS: I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Emergency Services a question about the Metropolitan Fire Service.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.S.L. DAWKINS: The South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service training department has been unable to recruit a sufficient number of training officers in recent years. As a result, a large number of experienced station officers have been seconded against their wishes to serve in the training department. This is despite many of these officers lacking the necessary teaching and computing skills to become an asset to the training department at their own admission. Given the ongoing nature of this situation, will the minister indicate what steps are being taken by SAMFS management to ensure that the training department is staffed by personnel with relevant skills who want to serve in that capacity?

The Hon. CARMEL ZOLLO (Minister for Emergency Services): I thank the honourable member for his question. If my memory serves me correctly, it is a question that he also asked in the last parliament in relation to training in the MFS. Obviously, it is an operational matter, but I take the honourable member's comments on board and I will get some advice from the chief and bring back a response.

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY (Minister for Police): I move:

That a Standing Orders Committee be appointed consisting of the President and the Hons J.M. Gazzola, P. Holloway, R.D. Lawson and R.I. Lucas.

Motion carried.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY (Minister for Police): I move:

That a Library Committee not be appointed for this session.

Motion carried.

PUBLISHING COMMITTEE

The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY (Minister for Police): I move:

That a Publishing Committee be appointed consisting of the Hons J.M. Gazzola, I.K. Hunter, Caroline Schaefer and R.P. Wortley.

Motion carried.

ADDRESS IN REPLY

The President having laid on the table a copy of the Governor's speech, the Hon. P. Holloway moved:

That a committee consisting of the Hons P. Holloway, I.K. Hunter, R.I. Lucas, D.W. Ridgway and R.P. Wortley be appointed to prepare a draft Address in Reply to the speech delivered this day by Her Excellency the Governor and to report on the next day of sitting.

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6.03 p.m. the council adjourned until Tuesday 2 May
at 2.15 p.m.