



ADDRESS IN REPLY

3rd May 2006

Mrs PENFOLD (Flinders): I congratulate our gracious Governor on the wonderful job that she does for the people of our state. She is an inspiration to us all with her hard work and dedication to her job. I particularly appreciate her visits out to the country regions of the state where her visits are a highlight. I thank the people in my electorate for the ongoing support for the Liberal team, and I note that the Labor Party reduced its vote in my electorate by 3.3 per cent. I also thank those people who helped out during the election in any way, and I welcome our new members to this parliament.

The lease of ETSA by the former Liberal government helped to pay off about \$6 billion of the previous Labor government's \$9 billion debt, and has enabled the state to regain a AAA credit rating by Standard and Poor's in 2004. Together with the GST funding from the federal Liberal government, and high and increased state taxes, the present Labor government has a unique opportunity to begin building, upgrading and replacing the infrastructure that our state so desperately needs if we are ever to take our place, where I believe we should be, as a natural hub between east and west.

The lifeblood of South Australia is the 96 per cent of businesses that are classified as small. These businesses will never alone be able to pay for the upgrade of infrastructure that is needed if they are to remain viable and to expand, particularly in the regions where infrastructure is so often either old or non-existent. The user-pays policy and the excuse that it is the job of private enterprise are not excuses the government can hide behind. Already Adelaide is bursting at the seams with urban sprawl while the remainder of the state is under-utilised because of lack of infrastructure.

The government is the biggest business in the state and must take responsibility for ensuring that the whole of its asset—our state—is utilised properly. The income from regions has helped to pay for the city infrastructure and now the city must invest in country infrastructure to fulfil the exciting development potential of the whole of the state. Partnerships with private enterprise must be formed and, as suggested by Business SA, could be coordinated by an independent planning body to jointly tackle this massive infrastructure problem. The first two principles under Business SA's *A Blueprint for South Australia's Future*, under the heading of infrastructure, state:

The relationship between physical infrastructure and economic development is critical to community prosperity.

and:

Physical infrastructure is a key element contributing to economic development, not a consequence of it.

Both these principles seem to have been lost on current and past Labor governments, as is the fact that people are happiest and healthiest when they have worthwhile employment and that most employment is provided by people who have taken the risks and responsibilities of being self-employed and employers.

The state needs road, rail, air, sea, power and water infrastructure if it is to provide the economic boost and the jobs that would see our own children returning and others coming from across Australia and around the world. The previous government invested, if you could call it that, in projects such as 333 Collins Street in Melbourne, which

did not even leave the benefit within our state. These investments brought our state to its knees, with the State Bank collapse.

So far, the current Labor government has shown no better business sense, providing nothing but gimmicks, creating no long-term jobs and very little benefit for the general population. Clear examples include expensive imported trams at \$55 million and proposed extended tramlines; retrofitting solar panels to government buildings that already have less expensive power; tanks for government buildings that already have less expensive water; a proposed opening bridge for an extra \$100 million; and in my electorate providing a miserable 1.4 gigalitres of water piped from an already over-exploited River Murray at a cost of \$48.5 million to Eyre Peninsula when private desalination is available at a lower cost per kilolitre. Also to be considered are a series of tenders for infrastructure that are cutting out local tenderers and favouring interstate and overseas tenderers.

From small businesses large businesses grow. They employ more local people, take up larger buildings and pay more state taxes, but they have to be given a chance. Eventually, once again, a Liberal government will be brought in to clean up the Labor mess. If the funds that have already been wasted on gimmicks had been put into supplying real infrastructure where businesses are without adequate power, water, transport to expand and employ, we would have seen significant growth in employment and exports, when the opposite is the case. For example, the 40-year old single 132 kilovolt powerline that services the whole of Eyre Peninsula, a region as big as Tasmania, could have been duplicated along the west coast, providing security of power to this huge region and enabling 1 000 megawatts, about a billion dollars worth, of wind turbines to be built there, putting their power into the grid, reducing tonnes of greenhouse gases and creating hundreds of jobs in industries. This power could be used for desalination, mining and exports, particularly if combined with the graphite block energy storage technology. Instead, this state continues to import power.

The development of South Australia's minerals, particularly those in the Gawler Craton, which was recently recognised at the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada, the largest trade fair in the world, as being of world-class significance, will be an important part of South Australia's economic future. However, infrastructure—power, water, roads and trained people—will be the key to their successful development. Of the minerals found in the Gawler Craton and the Curnamona Craton in South Australia, uranium can be expected to form a significant part. Australia holds about 30 per cent of the world's known uranium resources, and South Australia in particular has the potential to be the largest supplier of uranium in the world. One of the major mines in the world is at Olympic Dam (previously called a mirage in the desert by our Premier). Beverley is already a world class in situ leach mine, and Honeymoon is soon to begin mining with, hopefully, the support of the governments—state and federal. With the increase in commodities prices, companies are clamouring to get into South Australia. All the prospective land in the Gawler and Curnamona cratons has been taken up and the price for overseas companies wanting to participate has increased greatly.

South Australia will always find it difficult to compete with low cost, overseas countries in manufacturing. However, there are a number of exciting opportunities currently available that could really make a difference. The one that would have the most impact on our state, creating significant opportunities for business and jobs growth, is mining. Mining will create the wealth to pay for much needed infrastructure, while making South Australia a significant player in Australia and on the world scene.

As well as iron ore and other minerals, the government should facilitate the mining and safe use of our uranium. Many countries are expanding their economies rapidly and, without non-polluting alternatives, will contribute to the expansion of greenhouse gases and global warming on a massive scale with the expansion of coal and oil-fired power.

According to the Editor of *COSMOS*, Wilson da Silva, just mining coal kills 10 000 people per year worldwide and accounts for about 14 000 deaths from air pollution in the USA alone. There are better ways of using hydrocarbons, including safer, more efficient methods of combustion and safer work practices that would, of course, reduce these figures. However, uranium would still compare very favourably on health risks and produces few of the greenhouse gases.

Bruno Comby, the founder and president of Environmentalists for Nuclear Energy, in an article entitled 'The Nuclear Greenies', which appeared in *The Adelaide Review* on 15 April 2006, stated that burning of oil throws out into the atmosphere 23 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide every year (725 tonnes per second), which is seriously affecting the climate.

We have the uranium in the ground and the state Labor government is happy to dig it out and send it overseas. What continues to amaze me is that they take no responsibility for what happens to it, so long as it is not disposed of in South Australia. The Woomera nuclear dump that was put there without discussion by a former Labor federal government, would seem to me to be a good place to store waste until a safer and better method of disposal is found. At the very least, Woomera could be used to store waste, particularly the low-level waste from South Australia, if only because it is the responsible thing to do.

Government and independent assessment have shown that South Australia has some of the best geological terrain in the world suitable for the storage of nuclear waste. If we want the benefits of mining and utilising uranium, then we must take the responsibility. That is particularly the case when some of the countries where we may send it, or where it may end up, may not have stable governments, nor the funding or the will to store it responsibly.

Hannum, Marsh and Stanford in an article entitled 'Smarter Use of Nuclear Waste', published in the *Scientific American* of December 2005, state:

Several nations, including Brazil, China, Egypt, Finland, India, Japan, Pakistan, Russia, South Korea and Vietnam are building or planning nuclear plants.

We can now add Iran to that list. Perhaps returning waste to South Australia would overcome one of the strongest objections to the use of uranium, that the waste might be reprocessed to make nuclear weapons. Even Bob Hawke, the Premier's mentor, could see the benefits—including economic—of taking back uranium waste for reprocessing and storage. The environmental hazard is a lot less than it could be if we do not take responsibility for it.

Technology to improve the use and disposal of uranium is exciting. For instance, Wilson da Silva spoke recently on the ABC *Science Show* of an accelerator-driven thorium system, generating nuclear power that could never blow up, adding:

. . . with a reactor that would never suffer a meltdown, produce no weapons-grade by-products, and even burn up old radioactive waste as part of the process. The *UIC Nuclear Issues Briefing Paper No. 67* of November 2004 states that thorium is a naturally occurring, slightly radioactive metal discovered in 1828 and found in small amounts in most rocks and soils 'that has found applications in light bulb elements, lantern mantles, arc-light lamps, welding electrodes and heat-resistant ceramics', with thorium oxide used in glass for 'high quality lenses for cameras and scientific instruments'.

Obviously, a relatively benign metal that can be used to provide power and, in so doing, dispose of radioactive waste without creating plutonium that could be used in weapons would be welcomed. However, Da Silva laments that there is no full-scale prototype yet in operation and that:

Despite the promise of thorium—and the fact that Australia has the world's largest reserves of thorium—there is only one scientist in the whole country involved in researching the technology—and he is funded by the Germans!

To work on a product that could supersede uranium and dispose of the wastes currently produced by nuclear power stations, while at the same time providing a high quality green power supply, would be a project worthy of a state that has the potential to supply the world with uranium. I feel quite sure that partnerships could be developed with the federal Liberal government and also with state and possibly overseas governments to build a trial plant and then, if proven, to build a full scale plant in South Australia—preferably accessible from north, south, east and west by rail. I feel sure that other states and countries would pay to safely dispose of their waste and we could benefit by using it in a thorium system. A feasibility study would soon indicate whether this proposal was possible.

Let us do something significant and, as our Premier so often tells us, be innovative. Let us start leading the world in this new, accelerator-driven thorium system and perhaps help the people of the world to significantly reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and help turn around global warming and environmental degradation before it is too late. We have nothing to lose and we, and the world, have much to gain.

South Australia already has large resources of uranium in the ground in various forms that have not hurt anyone. We could develop a properly managed, deep storage system with dedicated road/rail for waste and charge for storage. We could then put conditions on the user on how they generate waste and manage their power generation facilities.

Current known supplies of uranium will only last several decades. It will take many years for new technology to develop and for the subsequent power stations to be constructed. During this period very large quantities of waste will be generated. This waste should be seen as an immensely valuable resource, as only 1/100th of its potential energy is actually used. The balance could potentially be extracted—possibly using the accelerator-driven thorium system or the high temperature reprocessing and fast neutron reactors. Storage for decades and subsequent re-use would create great wealth for South Australia. Again, this is well into the future. It needs foresight, imagination and the squashing of some Labor members' anachronistic aversion to anything nuclear.

In the meantime I support renewables. South Australia, and in particular Eyre Peninsula, is ideally suited for this purpose. I understand that, on the day Australia signed up to supply China with possibly \$400 million worth of uranium, Hydro Tasmania signed up to supply about \$300 million in a wind power deal with China. Hydro Tasmania, Pacific Hydro, Babcock and Brown and Ausker Energy, among others, would spend more than \$1 billion on wind farms on Eyre Peninsula and much more in South Australia if the power could be put into the grid. Again, it is a matter of priorities, and this Labor government prefers wasting money on media attention and trivia rather than infrastructure that would really make a difference. All options for the generation of power need to be examined, including the renewables, fast neutron reactors and thorium. However, whatever we do, it remains that nuclear power generation is a significant means of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and will be used around the world, much of it using Australia's uranium. The last word on infrastructure goes to Business SA, which states in its blueprint:

Currently, each of these infrastructures is planned separately according to their different ownership structures and according to their individual business plans. While this situation is likely to continue, there is a clear financial case for coordinating planning to enable the sharing of installation costs. Government should form an Infrastructure Planning Council that incorporates existing bodies, such as the Electricity Supply Industry Planning Council, into one group to coordinate the infrastructure planning needs of South Australia. The benefit of this approach is that it removes political considerations from infrastructure spending and allows the decision making process to occur in a bipartisan way.

Then we may see the 'community prosperity' alluded to by Business SA in its 'Blueprint for South Australia's Future' first principle that states the need for 'critical' infrastructure for this to be achieved. I support the motion.

**ADDRESS IN REPLY (ZIMBABWE CONNECTION)
21 September 2004**

Mrs PENFOLD (Flinders): I thank the Governor for her speech, which was delivered by her deputy, Mr Bruno Krumin. The speech once again drew our attention to the State Strategic Plan. This document and the issues it outlines also feature in the documentation for Viva SA, the rebadged Business Vision 2010, and also in information from the Economic Development Board, the Science and Research Council, the Social Inclusion Board, the Sustainability Round Table and the Business SA Manifesto, which are all looking at finding solutions (as the Chairman of Viva SA put it) to the state's economic plight. In great understatement, he also stated:

Over the past two years our state has become rather introspective.

It is about time that the government started to do a few things or, at the very least, support those who do. I recently attended four of Viva SA's flagship initiative project groups—innovation, population, infrastructure and regional—and was concerned that, instead of building on what is already being done successfully, the government was once again going to try to reinvent the wheel, at great cost in terms of time and money.

Let us look at increasing the state's population; getting more immigrants into the regions, as opposed to the Adelaide metropolitan area; fitting potential migrants with jobs so that they go to work as soon as they step onto South Australian soil; filling vacancies in the regions for skilled and semi-skilled people; and lifting the quality of life for those who have lived in those areas all their lives, while also lifting the quality of life for families whose homelands have become noted for fear, oppression and deprivation.

That is a description of what is already being done by a volunteer organisation that has been quietly working in South Australia to fulfil all the above criteria. It is called the Zimbabwe Connection. Unfortunately, the organisation's success will also be the reason for its demise, because this volunteer group and registered charity cannot continue in its present structure.

The manager of the Zimbabwe Connection database, Jill Lambert, must also work for a living and, therefore, does not have enough time to put into the cause. Setting up a virtual private network to reduce her increasing load would cost in the vicinity of \$30 000 plus recurrent funding—money that the group does not have.

The group is doing what Premier Mike Rann has announced a number of times needs to be done, that is, to increase the population of South Australia. On Eyre Peninsula I have set my own goal to increase our population by 1 per cent in the next 12 months. That means about 220 voters, plus children. If we do not replace the population we have lost on Eyre Peninsula we are at risk of losing our health and education infrastructure.

The Zimbabwe Connection was founded in 2002. One of the chief instigators was Jill Lambert, who came to Australia more than 20 years ago. Mrs Lambert was a high profile media personality in Zimbabwe. She became well known as a television news reader and current affairs anchor as well as a presenter of classical music and other radio programs. In 1982 she came to Australia to commentate on the Commonwealth Games in Brisbane and, on behalf of Qantas, to conduct travel seminars around the country about the new destination of Zimbabwe. Back home she was reading the news one night with a man who had been one of Mugabe's propagandists during the guerilla war. When asked their vision for the future, the man replied, 'We want absolute power.' Later, Jill asked him to define what he meant by 'absolute power'. He said, 'When the people are on their knees begging for a handful of mealie meal', which is the staple diet, 'and you are the only one who can give it to them.'

Jill went home to her husband and proposed that they leave Zimbabwe, which they did in 1983. She was offered a job with ABC TV on *Nationwide* in Sydney but, as they were allowed to take the equivalent of only \$US800 out of Zimbabwe, Sydney was out of the question. They decided on Perth, because they felt very shell-shocked on arrival and had the offer of a house to sit for 17 weeks. Both had job offers and their daughter was in school. Then they came to Adelaide for Christmas with cousins and fell in love with the city. Jill said she walked on the North Adelaide golf course for three hours, plucking up the courage to redirect the container once again and unwind what had already been set up. 'We have never regretted it for an instant,' she said. In Adelaide, Jill took over as Director of the University of Adelaide's Radio 5UV. After five years at the station she formed her own company advising tourism operators on the importance of environmental sustainability in what they were doing, particularly in new tourism developments. The company has since expanded into incentive programs and events management. She started the Zimbabwe Connection to assist Zimbabweans wanting to enter Australia but facing difficulties with qualification requirements. The catalyst was a friend who had everything taken from him in Zimbabwe and who was over 45 years old, which is the cut-off point for acceptance by Australian immigration. He was highly qualified in the desired field of agronomy and had two daughters 12 and 10 years of age. Jill found him a job at Clare and then she realised there were 6 000 Zimbabwean farmers and business people in the same boat. These were people whose skills were not recognised by the Department of Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs database, but wonderful people with huge experience who would prefer to live in the country than in the city. Most of these increasingly desperate people thought the only way they could get into Australia was by buying a business, often quite unsuitable and beyond their experience anyway, let alone combined with coping with competitive Australian environments. These were good people who had lost almost everything once and were going under a second time as a result.

Additionally, these people tended to go for Queensland or Western Australia, and Jill felt we could get our share of them, especially as regional South Australia was in desperate need of their skills. She got a group of former Zimbabweans together and the Zimbabwe Connection was born. The organisation placed 68 families in Australia from 2002 to early this year and has placed considerably more since then. Forty-one families have come to South Australia. Those wanting to migrate are connected with people seeking skilled and semi-skilled workers. If they want to go ahead they are passed on to a migration agent or DIMIA.

Zimbabwe Connection makes the connection and assists families when they arrive, but does not do the work of migration agents or the Department of Immigration. The organisation's success comes from matching needs that are compatible. Black Zimbabwean families have been most disadvantaged by the Mugabe government and constitute 50 per cent of families coming to Australia. A report from the Zimbabwe Connection's first annual general meeting on 14 June 2003 reads:

For those with any connection to Zimbabwe the last few years have brought disbelief, despair and anger at the atrocities being perpetrated against our fellow men and women, black and white. Sadly, within the planning of despots, a calculated strategy is that the human psyche can only take so much before it starts to numb, to accept and blank it out. As desperation in Zimbabwe grew we become more concerned at how often emigrating families made rash and hasty business or other decisions that impacted adversely on successful settlement in Australia.

The Zimbabwe Connection was born and now operates nationally. We did not wish to become

immigration or personnel placement agents. Yet our conviction was that to find good, compatible employment as soon as possible was a vital key to understanding the complexities of a new society—and that from this base better informed business or employment decisions could be taken in future. Together with carefully placed publicity we chose to work closely with a few key immigration and personnel placement agents, as well as with state skilled migration departments. Our role was to become that of a concerned relative or friend and this has assumed two components: connecting potential employers, largely in rural Australia, and Zimbabweans looking to immigrate; providing 'adopting' families for ex-Zimbabweans in Australia, to make useful suggestions before arrival about everything from weather to schooling, then assuming a mentoring role for a period once they arrive.

The result has been astonishing. In the first 10 months of operation the Zimbabwe Connection can claim to have been involved directly or indirectly in the following:

- over 60 jobs, share farming or joint venture offers from Australians in rural areas nationally, from dairies to broad acre cropping, animal management to agronomists, diesel mechanics or nurses to pharmacists and vets
- 86 Zimbabwe families on our register
- 23 matched job offers and acceptances, with visa applications in progress or completed and families settling, we believe more easily, into Australia
- heart-warming reactions from Australians—from cash donations, to offers to pay airfares for a needy family, to city units or farm houses on a temporary or longer term basis, and extraordinary distributions of food and clothing
- a regularly updated web site full of useful information and contacts.

The load is considerable—all done voluntarily within a non-profit making organisation. We need help to keep it going, or we will simply 'burn out'. We need new blood on the executive and in sub-committees—helpers to collect and distribute food and clothing—and help with databasing and phone calls. Please think about it and if you can play a part anywhere in Australia, contact me by e-mail on jill@zimbabweconnection.com.

I have a passionate desire to build my electorate and serve my constituents. When I heard of the Zimbabwean Connection I contacted Jill, and our coming together has been mutually beneficial. I have battled with the problem of job vacancies—professional, skilled and unskilled—in my electorate. Most Australians who are looking for work do not want to go to the country and most migrants who come to Australia want to stick to the capital cities, especially Sydney. So, finding an organisation matching people who are willing to go to country South Australia where there are job vacancies was better than finding gold in my backyard.

Warren and Kim and their children Jonathon, then 15, and Kirsten, then 13, were the first family to come to Eyre Peninsula. Warren, a qualified diesel mechanic, was employed by Pringles Ag-Plus at Wudinna. Two more diesel mechanics, Kumar and Dave, and their families soon followed with one going to Wudinna and one to Cleve, both employed by Pringles Ag-Plus. The desperate need for mechanics was mentioned in an article in the *Eyre Peninsula Tribune* of 11 December 2003 when Ramsay Brothers general manager, Eddie Ward, said that his company needed four qualified farm machinery mechanics to overcome the shortage and was advertising in every major rural newspaper throughout Australia in an attempt to find them.

Some of you may well be aware of the joint federal and state government Regional Skilled Migration Scheme (RSMS). This initiative assists regional businesses fill skilled vacancies that they have been unable to fill from within Australia. RSMS has access to a worldwide database of people who have indicated a desire to migrate to Australia. This list, of course, includes Zimbabweans. So, what are the differences that make the Zimbabwean Connection so successful compared to other immigration services? Why not simply amalgamate the connection with, for instance, the Department of Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA), which is one of the suggestions that has recently been made?

First, some background about how the Zimbabwe Connection goes about its work, and I quote from the notes made by Jill in response to this suggestion:

1. Advising our applicants to use the DIMIA database:

- a). We are already advising anyone likely to get in on a skilled migration visa in a 'wanted' category to apply for this—and how to do so.
- b). The database is open to all states and territories to access information and a state can offer sponsorship (STNI) to people on the database. It does not mean they have a job to come to, but that they are likely to find a job once they get here.
- c). We then liaise with Immigration SA to inform them of these people in advance and they get back to me, if appropriate, with an offer of STNI from South Australia. This information is passed on to the Zimbabwean family. The state looks after them very well, meeting them, accommodating them for a short while an endeavouring to help them find work. It is our experience that it takes people 3-4 months at the very least to find work and that during this time they are extremely anxious, stressed and frequently short of money—not easy when you have just come from an anxious and stressed situation. It is also our experience that almost all of those matched through the database will settle in Adelaide or in other capital cities.
- d). I have looked at our recent records and it would indicate that approximately 40 per cent of the people we deal with would be eligible for the DIMIA database. STNI does not apply to anyone over 45 whereas we have skilled and experienced people in the 45-50 age group, all of whom have children, or they do not fit the identified skills need. Farming is not recognised as a skill and this has been a major focus of our work.

2. Why this [DIMIA database] is not working as effectively as it might for South Australian regions.

a). I have recently returned from a visit to Eyre Peninsula, where I was asked by the member for Flinders Ms Penfold, why we were having so much greater success than they were [that is DIMIA]. I was puzzled as well until I spoke to Peter Mitchell of the Eyre Regional Development Board. It appears:

I. Peter writes to everyone he can on the skills matching database for whom there might be a position on Eyre Peninsula, extolling the virtues of living on the Eyre and the work opportunities.

II. He gets few, if any, replies.

III. I cannot confirm, but I believe that he has not been able to place anyone on the Eyre as a result. Peter believes that this is because it is difficult for the Eyre Peninsula to compete with the capital cities or the better known regions of Australia, who are also writing to them.

IV. We placed four families onto the Eyre Peninsula within a period of nine months, and I expect to place another four or five families within the next few months if the Zimbabwe connection continues.

b). At a meeting held recently with the regional project officers (RPOs), Robyn Hansen and John Haren of Immigration SA, it became apparent that they have had no similar access to such a wide range of skilled people, any one of whom would be interested in coming to South Australia.

3. What is it that we are doing differently?

- a). We are, in conjunction with the RPOs, identifying actual jobs which need filling in regional areas (we do not actively work to identify positions in Adelaide).
- b). We send to each potential employer six or seven CVs—extending an invitation to them to 'interview' them by phone or email.
- c). Once they are keen to go ahead and offer employment under DIMIA guidelines, we put them both in touch with a migration agent, or their local RPO, to process the visa.
- d). Once the visa has been granted, we meet them at the airport, provide two nights accommodation with an ex-Zimbabwean family in Adelaide who will show them how to undergo all procedures and formalities required of them before arranging to send them out to their region.
- e). The new migrants arrive to a job immediately which is more satisfactory and the Australian employers have been prepared to wait the few months it takes to get them here.
- f). We work with our entire database to suggest they consider South Australia. Most migrants will opt to go instinctively to a State or Territory where they have friends, relatives or some support. Almost every application we get opt for Queensland or Western Australia because they know others

there.

Of the list supplied in your original letter to Chris Geisler, only one family of five came to South Australia of their own volition—in other words, we have actively encouraged 138 people to become South Australians—and all, except one teacher, are based in one of the regions or have a regional focus to their work.

4. The hope for a future with a virtual private network installed.

a. Ex-Zimbabweans are highly motivated to help their fellow countrymen in the present situation, therefore those already in the regions are determined to identify positions which cannot be filled by Australians, but which might suit a Zimbabwean family.

b. We now have 3-4 ex Zimbabweans in each region (Eyre, Mid North, Southeast, Riverland) prepared to look after a handful of Zimbabweans CVs and to liaise with the RPOs in that region to fill positions which might be available.

c. Immigration SA will have access to our database of CVs and print off any they require.

In summary: I cannot see how we could achieve the same measure of effectiveness using the DIMIA database,

—DIMIA already takes every Zimbabwean who has the necessary skills or age requirements.

—Those on the skills matching database tend to go to the capital cities and we are in open competition with interstate.

—The larger number of our applicants are people who only just do not qualify, who are already (and would be) of enormous benefit to our country areas and who, because they are so desperate to get out of Zimbabwe, are only too delighted to go to a job in our country areas.

—The Zimbabwe Connection is unashamedly pro-South Australia and therefore all the people on our database are out of competition from other States (unless there is a specific request from them otherwise).

I believe what we are doing could serve as a model to fast track immigration to South Australia and meet Premier Rann's targets for the future. But it cannot be done without this network.

It is pertinent here to mention that the Premier's concern to increase the state's population is a concern that is shared by others. He was reported in January this year as saying that he aimed to increase the state's migration to 600 a year by 2013, and to double the skilled migration intake to 2 500 a year. The move coincides with an announcement by the Acting Prime Minister John Anderson and the federal Immigration Minister Amanda Vanstone of a new scheme to attract more migrants to regional areas across Australia. An editorial in *The Australian* on 4 February 2004 stated:

Boosting the population has been recognised for years as one of the prime requisites for ensuring continued economic growth for South Australia. The report of the Economic Development Board recommended last year that the government do everything it could to facilitate new arrivals. Only last week, Premier Mike Rann was talking about more business migration to reverse the population drain.

I suggest that the Premier need look no further than the Zimbabwe Connection. Here is an organisation that is doing everything that is required to lift the state's population. I understand that the chairman of Zimbabwe Connection, Fraser Bell, and Jill, have approached the Premier to see if the organisation could be used as a trial for practical applications to his policy of population increase. Last month Jill thanked John Haren, Director of Immigration SA in the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, for the pivotal role that he had played in advising how the Zimbabwe Connection could operate and for his unflinching and generous support; however, we are advised that the demise of the organisation was imminent if funding to develop the virtual private network could not be secured. The Zimbabwe Connection is a registered charity and Jill's speaking circuit results in donations. Incoming Zimbabweans are asked for \$50 per family and a letter has been sent to all Australians who have employed

Zimbabweans asking for donations. Jill herself bears all other costs, and the organisation has grown beyond expectations. Jill and her husband also started in a new country in mid life, therefore their resources are limited. The load needs to be shared, but this is impossible at the moment, because all of the information is on Jill's computer.

The Zimbabwe Connection and its success have not gone unnoticed across Australia. Jill has been invited to speak to the Geelong Business Club and the Rotary District of Melbourne, while invitations have come from Swan Hill, Ballarat and Horsham on the subject of how to encourage southern Africans to take jobs in their areas. It would be a disgrace if this innovative enterprise moved interstate to benefit those states at the expense of South Australia.

The stories of the Zimbabweans who have successfully integrated into our society are heart warming. Keith and Bridget, who now live in Port Lincoln, left their home surrounded by a two-metre high barbed wire fence in Harare 20 years ago, when they decided that they were tired of the stress of living in a country beset with violence and corruption. Schooling, health and safety were issues that convinced them to make the hard decision to move. Speaking last year of their experiences, they said:

We sympathise so very much with friends who are still in Zimbabwe—many would choose to come to Australia but it is not easy to get sufficient 'points' to fulfil the immigration requirements. So many of those wishing to come to Australia have skills and talents which would be put to good use if only they could be given a chance. Zimbabweans are great people who are easily adaptable and who fit in easily with the Australian lifestyle, language, sport and even humour.

This once prosperous bread basket of Africa has a strong agricultural and horticultural history which enables people to fit in well in regional South Australia. As Jill Lambert said:

Primarily due to the destruction of the agricultural sector in Zimbabwe, with its domino effect into all aspects of an economy now verging on bankruptcy, many Zimbabweans want to come to Australia, and are leaving behind their property and their homes with no compensation so they can get out while it is still possible. It is difficult for us to imagine how anyone is conducting a normal life over there—there is no fuel so you cannot, for instance, get your crop to point of sale; garages are closed because nobody can drive their vehicles in for service, aircraft cannot fly unless they have been able to fill up elsewhere. There are no banknotes and you cannot get your passport renewed because there is no paper. This is in addition to the fact that there is no bread, milk, butter, maize meal—the staple diet—or meat. It is a living nightmare.

There is a proverb that says, 'It's an ill wind that blows nobody good.' South Australia can turn these horrific circumstances currently existing in Zimbabwe to our favour. The state government can take a pro-active role and ideally this should receive bipartisan support for the future benefit of South Australia. As a new session of parliament begins, we have an opportunity to work for the future of our state; a future that will be more productive, more compassionate, more vigorous and more tolerant, and a future that will lift this state economically.

The Zimbabwe Connection brought 144 new residents, many of whom were children, to the state in 18 months. It is seldom that a once sophisticated country simply gives away its skilled and experienced people. Australia and other countries have understood the opportunities this presents and have welcomed these shattered people with warmth and open arms. The worth of the Zimbabwe Connection in human and practical terms is immeasurable. I urge the Premier and all parliamentarians to find a way in which the Zimbabwe Connection can continue the great benefit it brings to South Australia, in particular, rural and regional South Australia. I support the motion.

ADDRESS IN REPLY 18 September 2003

Mrs PENFOLD (Flinders): I congratulate the Governor's Deputy, Mr Bruno Krumin, on his first appearance in parliament as the Governor's representative to deliver the speech opening the Third Session of the Fiftieth Parliament of the state South Australia. The speech stated:

During the past 12 months, my government has continued its work to rebuild the state economy, while at the same time seeking to ensure every South Australian will share in the benefits. It is working to ensure those benefits reach

people, no matter where they live and work—in the city, or in regional South Australia—

In particular, it mentions: My government wants to see a state in which children are given every available opportunity to learn and make the most of their potential.

These are fine-sounding words but, if our state is to afford a high quality of life for all and enable the people of the state to fulfil their potential, the government must encourage profitable businesses that can make the profits and pay the taxes that will enable this to be done. Towards this end, the government stated that it has accepted the Economic Development Board's recommendation that the state should aim to near triple our exports to reach \$25 billion by 2013.

My electorate of Flinders currently produces a billion dollars of export income for this state and could easily triple this in 10 years if it had the power, water, housing and transport infrastructure that other electorates take for granted, and if the brakes are removed that are being put on by this government on almost a daily basis, with its new laws and accompanying regulations that discriminate against rural and remote regions that have not experienced the opportunities of other regions. Perhaps the most far-reaching of these laws relates to the environment and particularly include the native vegetation legislation that will halt proposed development of even freehold land, including that found within the boundaries of the City of Port Lincoln.

The very exciting \$40 million Dean Lukin project for an aquaculture park, fishing industry service wharf and residential development, and an educational campus proposed on council land nearby, are both under threat. When the Labor government took office I invited members to come and look at the huge potential of my 42 000 square kilometre electorate of Eyre Peninsula, and I was pleased when country cabinets were held in Port Lincoln and Ceduna. My staff and I facilitated meetings with constituents wherever possible. When Robert Champion de Crespigny was made chairman of the new Economic Development Board I was one of the first to visit him with a comprehensive, written submission in my hand, and I subsequently lobbied most of his board members along with anyone else I could think of in positions of influence with the new government.

Last year in my Address in Reply speech I asked the new Labor government to designate Eyre Peninsula as a special development region, pointing out that the region could not fulfil its considerable potential without the necessary infrastructure, and I outlined the issues once again. Like Monday's speech covering the government's plan for our state, the government has been high on rhetoric and low on constructive action, despite the efforts of myself, my 10 councils, our regional development board, the Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association and many other people and organisations to address the obvious needs within this electorate.

People will not stay and work in this wonderful region and produce this export wealth if they do not have basic services such as doctors and health professionals that are provided by the presence of 10 acute care hospitals. However, when it comes to health, one can only hope that there is still a public health system beyond Gepps Cross when Labor loses office. The so-called funding reforms and improvements so far instituted by Labor are a decrease in real funding for country hospitals, thus putting more stress on their hard-working staff, their patients, families and supporting organisations. This is particularly the case with the 10 hospitals located in the electorate of Flinders, where a significant proportion of funding is supplied by volunteer organisations and considerable work is undertaken by volunteers supporting home and community care networks and the ambulances.

Even the retrievals from these country hospitals to Adelaide are paid for from the local hospital budgets as they are too far away to use the helicopter that is paid for by the emergency services levy. Labor's claim that education is one of its highest priorities is a farce. The education minister stopped works that had been approved and were in a planning phase under the Liberal government, and the only reason I can see is so that she could pour money into Labor-held electorates—perhaps her own electorate, where I understand that a school building program including a library is currently being undertaken.

One of the schools that had its plans shot to pieces was Ceduna Area School. Funding was cut from \$5 million to \$3.9 million, \$1 million of which is federal money. Then the minister caused further distress to this isolated community by proposing that the district council fund the community library. This is a council with a very small rate base that is already trying to provide services for people who live outside its council area, many of whom are disadvantaged. The school community library is the only library in Ceduna servicing the needs of people to the Western Australian border and north to the east-west railway. Indigenous people undertaking further study to

improve their qualifications and job prospects use the Ceduna school community library as much as they can, even from places like the Oak Valley and Yalata Aboriginal communities.

We are supposed to believe that Labor has a great interest in improving the lot of our indigenous people, but where is the proof? The current library is difficult to access and would be hard to find even for people used to rambling schools. It badly needs to be included in the current redevelopment, but not at the cost of the local community. Students at the Ceduna TAFE campus source materials from the Port Lincoln Library, which is a similar distance away as Adelaide is from Melbourne. It was planned that an upgraded and extended Ceduna School Community Library would also pick up some of this need, thus assisting in training and study for the students using this remote campus.

What sense is there in Labor raising the school age for our students when inadequate provision is made for them when they are at school, even for something as basic as a good library? Lack of a good education and the frustration of not being able to obtain meaningful work are the basic causes for young people turning to crime. Labor's much vaunted claim to be concerned about crime is refuted by its slashing of crime prevention funds and programs. Surely, it makes more sense to prevent anyone—but especially young people—from forming criminal behaviour patterns, rather than with repressively dealing with the behaviour at a later time in their lives.

The cost to our communities of allowing criminal behaviour to start is inestimable. The cost to the criminals themselves when intervention may have prevented these often sad and angry lives is something I would like to see improved. A funding commitment to crime prevention, rather than tough on crime rhetoric, would be a positive start. *The Economist* of 23 August 2003 (page 26) commented on what has happened in America with its tough on crime policy. From 1974, when 1.3 per cent of the adult male population was a con or ex-con, the percentage has gone to 2.7 this year. It is expected that 11.3 per cent of boys born in 2001 will go to gaol in their lifetime and that this will be one in three if they are black. The article comments: Unless something changes in the rotten rehabilitation record (two-thirds of prisoners are rearrested within three years), conservative politicians will have created a criminal class of unimaginable proportions.

One could suggest that they should do something about crime prevention as a matter of urgency, and so should we unless we want to go down the same path as the United States.

A main plank of Labor's proposed law and order is tough penalties and longer sentences on those who attack public officials, including teachers. Will we see new gaols open for children who, in anger and frustration at being kept at school longer and provided with inadequate opportunities for a better future, attack their teachers? The Port Lincoln crime prevention program, run under the auspices of local government, was highly effective, with practical programs producing positive results that have now been scrapped by the Labor government. A program at Ceduna targeting children and youth at risk of offending also affected changes in participants that will be lifelong.

Crime prevention would seem a better option, but Labor is weak on crime prevention. It is not a priority, and it will cost everyone dearly in the future. It seems easier and certainly more popular for the government to speak of harsher penalties than of crime prevention. However, when people fall into crime, the previous Liberal government put in place an extensive range of educational options for its prisoners. Many of those in the prison located in Port Lincoln make use of the well-equipped education centre to gain qualifications that will enable them to secure employment upon their release. It is estimated that 60 to 80 per cent of prisoners lack literacy and numeracy skills. Therefore, these programs are especially beneficial in rehabilitation and in cutting recidivism.

Prisoners also have access to psychological services. So, it will be interesting to see what the government claims are 'for the first time a comprehensive range of prison-based rehabilitation programs'. In addition to education, the Prison Rehabilitative Industries and Manufacturing Enterprise (PRIME) seeks out contracts with private enterprise to supply them with goods for sale. Port Lincoln and Cadell prisons grow food products to sell to private industry or to use within the prison; milk, vegetables, fruit, cereals and meat are produced. These and the PRIME programs give prisoners skills they can use when they are released. Programs currently run in prisons cover victim awareness, anger management, alcohol and other drugs, domestic violence, literacy and numeracy, and cognitive skills.

So, one wonders where the 'first time' rehabilitation programs will fit. The \$1.5 million a year allocated to this fantastic supposed new venture works out at about \$300 per prisoner. This amount will be less if prisoners are kept

in gaol longer and if gaol terms are the preferred option to deal with those coming before the courts.

Other major items mentioned in the speech under infrastructure are continuations of projects and programs started under the Liberal government: the deep sea port (whether it is at Outer Harbour or Port Adelaide), rail and road connections to the port, the Adelaide-Darwin railway, and building on the export performance of the past few years. There is no mention of the rest of the state's rail system, power, water and roads. Labor has reneged on upgrading our railways so that they can carry a higher tonnage of freight which would cut down on the maintenance required for roads.

The state government has a war chest of at least \$10 million set aside at the time of the sale for the upgrading of the rail system that remains under state control. Is that still there, or has it been squandered on some scheme that Labor considers will bring it praise and votes? Perhaps it is included in the \$50 million required for the new trams to Glenelg.

The Labor government has cut funding for rural, regional and outback roads. It has been suggested that some events that were so successful in the Year of the Outback should be repeated. Whilst the deterioration in the roads that serve these areas is not rectified, repeats would be inadvisable for safety reasons alone. Those who have always travelled on sealed roads (wherever they come from) have no experience in dealing with corrugations and are unaware of the dangers that can arise when driving over them.

The government claims that it has 'made an historic breakthrough on rescuing the Murray'. It was the Liberal government in South Australia and the Liberal federal government that got the River Murray onto the national agenda. The introduction of the River Murray levy (\$30 for householders and \$135 for businesses based on SA Water meters) is another example of botched thinking. We on Eyre Peninsula use no River Murray water, yet we are forced to pay the levy while at the same time we are paying a levy towards our own water catchment management. We had water restrictions well before the rest of the state and were denied the rebate for water-saving devices which was made available only after those on Murray water were put on restrictions.

To add insult to injury, SA Water is charging an augmentation fee of \$5 500 for each new block in Coffin Bay and 23 other regional towns for which I can see no legal basis. They are doing this while making a profit of \$223 million and providing free water to the Corporation of the City of Adelaide and the former City of Port Adelaide, according to their charter, while the people living west of Ceduna have to pay a premium for their water over and above that charged to those living in the rest of the state. The government then has the gall to say that it cares about country people! This is the way that it is working to ensure that 'benefits reach people no matter where they live and work, in the city or in rural and regional South Australia'.

Then there is the astonishing claim that the government views science, research and innovation as critical in developing a higher performance state with economic growth in industry and the research and development sectors. The proposed Marine Innovation South Australia (MISA) project to be based in Port Lincoln to provide a world-class centre of excellence in innovation, education, research and development for temperate zone marine species which was ready for announcement on the change of government has not been heard of since.

However, I was delighted to hear the Premier's support for the SKA radio telescope yesterday, and I thank him for acknowledging my involvement in this project. I am still somewhat concerned, though, about our state's progress to host the site. Western Australia was two years ahead of South Australia, but we had caught up. I was concerned, therefore, that, in a radio interview in August, CSIRO Professor Ron Ekers, Federation Fellow hosted at the Australian Telescope National Facility and President of the International Astronomical Union, said that Western Australia is leading the pack because we have dropped the baton.

He said: You can quote me as saying that the reason why Western Australia is certainly on top of the list at the moment is that the Western Australian government has been not only pro-active but they've actually put money into it—a substantial amount of money into it.

He added that the decision on where to go in Australia would be affected by how much support the project is given, and I can only infer that this government is not throwing its full weight behind the project. We have many companies such as BAE Systems that can supply the technology required for the radio telescope, and if South Australia gets this project, more companies will come. If not, it is quite possible that we will lose companies. Yet I understand that

the \$3.4 million in research and scientific services was not spent in the 2002-03 budget.

The government has slashed funding for the vital Primary Industries and Resources portfolio by about \$18 million last year, and dropped capital funding from \$13 million to \$8 million this financial year. That hardly equates to treating research as important, let alone critical, when primary industries are a major source of the export income the government wants to triple in 10 years. Research done by the primary industries department in South Australia leads the world, especially research into dryland farming techniques, much of which is based at the Minnipa Research Centre on Eyre Peninsula. After the Liberal government helped the people of our state struggle back from Labor's massive State Bank debt, the state's economy is already suffering again under Labor. Its claim to be rebuilding the state's economy looks somewhat foolish, particularly when the multi-million dollar blow-out in the unfunded liabilities of the workers compensation fund is brought to mind.

In line with the government's inability to make decisions, the position of the WorkCover CEO was vacant for more than six months. I am sure that this lack of direction for WorkCover, this lack of the government's ensuring that someone was in charge to make decisions, has contributed to WorkCover's dismal record. WorkCover's unfunded liability has gone from \$22 million in June 2000 to \$384 million at March 2003, and is still rocketing upwards. Yet Labor claims that it is seeking to ensure that every South Australian shares in the benefits of its 'economic management'. They are only managing by increasing taxes and charges and inventing new ways of raising revenue, and they are certainly sharing these costs with every South Australian.

Just one example connected with WorkCover involves a constituent who has the highest possible bonus for safe work practices and who has recently been slugged an increase of 7.403 per cent in his WorkCover levy. It is also interesting to note that the \$25 collected from every boat registration which has helped to put facilities into coastal towns around the state is not being allocated. The South Australian Boating Facilities Advisory Council has not met for more than 12 months due to this government's preoccupation with reviewing everything ad nauseam. Boaties' money is not being released to the many worthwhile projects awaiting funding for which the boaties have already paid. This is just another example of Labor's so-called rebuilding of the state's economy and ensuring that all South Australians share the outcome. With friends like this, who needs enemies? Labor rhetoric is plentiful, while its constructive action is scarce. A Liberal government is needed back in this state as soon as possible.

Address in Reply – Red Tape and Infrastructure 15 Wednesday May 2002

Mrs PENFOLD (Flinders): I rise to support the motion, and I thank the Governor for her speech. I welcome the new members and wish them well during their time here. I am taking this opportunity to ask the new Labor government to designate Eyre Peninsula as a special development region. A special effort is needed to fast-track approvals through government red tape and to assist with funding, particularly for infrastructure. The region needs infrastructure which other regions have had for years or do not require and without which Eyre Peninsula will not be able to fulfil its considerable potential. Because the region is conservative and remote, I am concerned that it is at risk of being ignored by the new Labor government in favour of city-based and union promoted issues and projects.

Eyre Peninsula already contributes more than \$1 billion into the state's economy, with less than 3 per cent of the population. I believe that, with the continuation of the support it has received over the last eight years from the state Liberal government (despite the massive debt inherited from the former Labor government), with continuing federal government support, together with private capital expenditure for various billion dollar projects, including water and electricity, it could double that contribution in less than five years.

However, alarmingly, at present, future development has stopped because of a lack of water and inadequate power supplies. Due to increasing water usage, the prospect of a dry year and low recharge of our underground basins, SA Water has indicated that there will be no more new commercial, industrial or housing water allocations on Eyre Peninsula. This puts in jeopardy, in Port Lincoln alone, major proposals including the Peninsula Hotel, the Lukin development, the ETSA site housing development and the Marine Innovation Centre project. Towns across Eyre Peninsula have approximately 1 000 subdivisions and marina developments being planned that

have been halted. These include Ceduna Keys and coastal development, over 500 blocks; Smoky Bay 70 blocks; Venus Bay 200 blocks; Elliston 55 blocks, Lincoln Lakes 200 blocks; and Coffin Bay 50 blocks.

Eyre Peninsula is not connected to the Murray River but has its own independent underground water systems. A water master plan for Eyre Peninsula currently being undertaken by SA Water and United Utilities is almost completed in readiness for public consultation. The solution to our water problems, I believe, will include the installation of reverse osmosis facilities to either desalinate the brackish water in the Tod Reservoir at Port Lincoln, or located closer to the coast but still connected to the Todd system to provide options for various water sources. Brackish water is cheaper to desalinate than sea water: however, water availability may not always be secure. Sea water desalination at Ceduna may also be required.

At least 10 megalitres per day capacity is needed. The estimated cost per kilolitre varies between 63¢ and \$1.33. In the long term, there is underground water at Lock that could be desalinated while dewatering the proposed coal mine. Private enterprise investors are interested in providing the desalination plants needed and for a speedy resolution to this problem, the government must facilitate their involvement as quickly as possible or provide the desalination plants through SA Water.

Eyre Peninsula is one of the best wind power generation sites in the world. Potential output of over 1 000 megawatts, or nearly 20 per cent of the state's consumption, is planned. Developments in progress and those being planned on Eyre Peninsula, including desalination, need more power and greater reliability than the existing power line provides. Port Lincoln is currently serviced by a single, ageing 132 kilovolt line from Port Augusta, together with two 10 megawatt diesel turbines for backup which are also used as peak power facilities.

The development of wind farms along the West Coast of Eyre Peninsula depends upon the construction of a 275 kilovolt line providing access to the main grid at a reasonable cost. Unfortunately, the cost of this line is proving to be a major stumbling block. Ausker Energies has approval for a two stage 115 megawatt \$170 million wind farm project funded by the ANZ Bank. Hydro Tasmania's project is expected to be approved soon and will be followed by Wind Prospect, Pacific Hydro and Babcock and Brown over the next few years. To solve Eyre Peninsula's power problems, we need support for ElectraNet or a private provider to construct a 275 kV line, possibly from Cultana to Elliston via Wudinna, then from Elliston to the Port Lincoln substation. We need government support for the ACCC approval of this line as a regulated line, and we need support for ElectraNet to upgrade the existing 132 kV lines to 275 kV lines to provide reliability and double the power export routes again as regulated lines.

The guidelines for the federal government's remote areas power supply grant funding, provided through the state government, do not allow funding if the power supply is connected to the grid. If these guidelines are changed, this funding could be accessed to provide the line from Elliston to Port Lincoln and thereby replace the two back-up diesel generators with wind power. This would appear to be a reasonable request as the purpose for the grant, I have been led to believe, was to remove dirty diesel powered generators in remote locations. With this support, the surplus 'green power' can be exported into the grid.

The tyranny of distance has adverse effects on commerce and tourism on Eyre Peninsula. Port Lincoln is 50 kilometres from Adelaide, and Ceduna is 800 kilometres from Adelaide and 400 kilometres from Port Lincoln. However, Boston Bay is the largest natural deep water harbour in the Southern Hemisphere and is five times larger than Sydney Harbour. It is capable of taking panamax vessels and, with dredging, Cape Bulklers may be possible.

Flinders Ports are the new owners of ports across the state, and the South Australian Independent Industry Regulator predicts that Port Lincoln will be one of the cheapest ports to operate in the state due to its natural features. Heavy road transport access to the harbour from the north is a problem for road train access (70 tonne capacity) as all the 50-plus tonne trucks are forced to use the main street in Port Lincoln's central business district as the heavy transport route, conflicting with the retail sector. In excess of 1 million tonnes of grain is transported through the main shopping precinct. Transport SA's Port Lincoln freight access study report April 2002 states that that equates to approximately 125 heavy vehicles per day. The solution would be to build a heavy vehicle by-pass around Port Lincoln to allow access from the western approach road. The lowest cost estimate by Transport SA is \$13 million.

There is also a need to increase rail patronage by encouraging AusBulk to possibly place a strategic grain site at Ungarra rail siding to reduce the one at Tumbay Bay serviced by road into Port Lincoln. This would have the additional benefit of reducing the maintenance on our road system. While the main arterial roads on Eyre Peninsula are either fully or partly sealed, only 5 per cent of all roads are sealed. The Lincoln Highway to Whyalla has very poor surfaces near Cowell. Continuation of the program for the construction of sealed roads, especially arterial roads and those of economic importance, is essential, together with the upgrade of the Lincoln Highway over its full length.

Port Lincoln used to have a ferry service to Adelaide. A service has been proposed between Cowell and Wallaroo, and the proponents claim it is viable with only a small amount of government assistance towards on land infrastructure. There should be an assessment of the economics of alternative ferry operations and future viability to determine if either Cowell/Wallaroo or Adelaide/Port Lincoln ferries should be supported, taking into account the prospective growth and also the social justice that would be served by better access for Eyre Peninsula. Support for the necessary approvals and infrastructure would be required.

Port Lincoln is the busiest airport terminal outside Adelaide, with 100 000 regular passenger transports (RPTs) annually. It is also probably one of the most expensive nationally per nautical mile, with full fares now over \$350 return. Ceduna is well serviced by Kendell. However, at present no passenger services are available from Adelaide to Cleve and Wudinna. Air freight is essential for moving locally produced fresh seafood overseas. It is mainly used for crayfish. Tuna is usually road freighted to Sydney for freighting overseas. With the Ansett demise, air freight capacity has been severely restricted. A solution must be found to ensure that there is adequate competition by a lowcost carrier buying Kendell. The reintroduction of air services to central Eyre Peninsula, with a subsidy if necessary similar to Adelaide's public transport system, must be a priority. Proactive assistance for the Lower Eyre Peninsula council to help with acquiring the land for runway extensions to take larger aircraft if needed should be undertaken now. Greater freight capacity and linkages to an overseas air operator with freight connections, as is apparently being developed by Virgin, would be beneficial.

The 1 100 kilometres narrow gauge railway system on Eyre Peninsula is old with mainly wooden sleepers. Unless this system is maintained, it will have a limited life. It stops about 70 kilometres from the narrow gauge One Steel lines connecting to Whyalla, and even further from the standard gauge interstate system. Rail is used extensively to move grain to Port Lincoln (925 000 tonnes per year) and gypsum to Thevenard (217 204 tonnes per year). Proceeds from the sale of the rail business and property should be used to provide funding assistance to upgrade the current track and, if one of the mines is developed, to connect the rail to enable transport of the products to and from Whyalla or Port Lincoln. A long-term goal needs to be set by the government to standardise the Eyre Peninsula line, thereby directly connecting our wonderful port and products to the Adelaide to Darwin line.

The Gawler Craton mineralisation which covers Eyre Peninsula includes diamonds, coal, gold, copper, uranium, tungsten, major hematite and world-class magnetite iron ore, lead, gypsum, graphite, kaolin, clay, jade, granite, marble and porphyry. In addition, there is potential offshore oil and gas with a drilling program of \$90 million being currently undertaken. I am concerned that the attitude of the parks and wildlife department and the new Labor government to mining in parks and conservation areas of the state makes reasonable exploration and mining development very difficult. The evaluation of the potential mine in the Yumbarra Conservation Park near Ceduna, for instance, is subject to constant delay by the parks and wildlife department through the multiple approval process, with separate permits required for each stage. The latest demand is for \$30 000 to remove rabbits and weeds, presumably resulting from the limited work done. The rabbits would have been there for 100 years. It has taken two years, and I understand that the company still does not have deep drilling approval.

Governments need to recognise that the state is best able to maintain the environment and look after its people if it has adequate funds. Sensible control, not petty restrictions, should apply to potential mining projects. The institution of one or two stage approvals and the remove of the constant permit system required for each stage would help considerably. With the vast area set aside for parks and conservation areas (many of them arbitrarily determined) small areas used to create wealth would be a rational use of our assets while assisting to maintain the environment and the quality of life of the people of our state. Other benefits of mining include jobs in regional areas. It would also assist small local councils and volunteers in maintaining park access, and weed and fire control in these parts.

The waters surrounding Eyre Peninsula have the greatest diversity of temperate marine species in the Southern Hemisphere. I am told that the species diversity is greater than that of the Great Barrier Reef. Eyre Peninsula has a longer coastline than Tasmania. Fishing and aquaculture income in South Australia has just passed that of Tasmania, most of it coming from Eyre Peninsula. Tuna income last year was \$264 million, and it is expected to be \$302 million this year. The last tuna cannery in Australia, based in Port Lincoln, has nearly doubled in size recently and employs 370 people. Crayfish, abalone, yellowtail kingfish, oysters, prawns, pilchards and other fin fish are major industries on the peninsula.

For further development of fishing and aquaculture, support is needed for improved onshore facilities; examples include the Tumbly Bay marina and the Farm Beach boat ramp. Better balance in approvals to acknowledge the benefit to local communities and the state versus the environment is needed, particularly at the Arno Bay marina where I understand a small area of seagrass has been preventing the expansion of an industry and increased jobs in the area.

The Port Lincoln Marine Science Centre was developed in part by over \$1 million in donations from the local community. As there is apparently no comparable facility concentrating on the southern coastline on this latitude, it has the potential to develop into the southern temperate region marine science centre. The Marine Innovation South Australia (MISA) project, to be primarily located in Port Lincoln, I understand has been signed off by the state universities, SARDI and the South Australian Museum for an estimated \$30 million. This involves the development of a major marine research and education facility in Port Lincoln. Support for the marine innovation project, through the construction of a new greenfield research and tertiary education facility on the BHP site, now owned by the Lukin family, is required. The initial expansion could employ up to 50 people from the current 25 and provide ample land for future expansion in the decades ahead. This would provide a world-class temperate marine centre. The current Marine Science Centre facility could be used to house TAFE, the high school and virtual marine secondary education centre for the state.

The Minnipa Research Centre has been a major contributor to world dry land farming research and for extension work throughout South Australia. The centre is developing new farming techniques and fertiliser applications that will make substantial improvements to productivity on some of the poorer high calcium base soils found across Australia and indeed the world. These new developments have already enabled substantial productivity increases on Eyre Peninsula, which produces 40 per cent of the state's grain worth approximately \$350 million. Support for the development and promotion of Minnipa Research Centre as a major dry land farming research and tertiary education centre, with both Australian and overseas students and farmers living on site and backed up by the Sims Farm-Cleve Area School program, is essential.

Good soils, including extensive terra rossa soils, are found over considerable areas of Eyre Peninsula. There are now three vineyards near Port Lincoln and the gold medals are rolling in. Southcorp has a major interest and recognises the potential of Eyre Peninsula through its current contact with one of these vineyards. The Port Lincoln water reuse scheme has the potential to provide adequate water for 2 000 hectares of viticulture on the lower Eyre Peninsula. Substantial olive groves have been planted using drip systems and are already producing. Support for the development of desalination plants on the Peninsula, using existing pipes and pumping infrastructure to allow expansion of horticulture across the region, will enable substantial increases in populating the small towns. Cleve council has lost 700 people from its heyday and has excellent soils within its boundaries. Eyre Peninsula boasts beautiful scenery, coastal and offshore islands, and tourism is booming. Coastal councils have over 1 000 marina and building sites planned.

A new 7 storey, five star hotel is planned for Port Lincoln by Sime Sarin, estimated at \$25 million. More than 10 per cent of South Australia's national parks are based on Eyre Peninsula. Eco-tourism in national parks has proven particularly difficult due to the resistance of parks and wildlife to allow any form of commercial use.

[Sitting suspended from 6 to 7.30 p.m.]

Mrs PENFOLD: One application lodged in 1991 for vehicle and homestead use in a national park was not answered for three years and still only verbal approval has been given. The management plans for the Yumbarra and Yellabina national parks started two years ago and have not reached the public comment stage yet. The Gawler Range National Park agreement for freeholding the two homesteads and allowing four camp sites to be established has yet to be implemented. These parks are a burden on the local councils, volunteers and

taxpayers and they must start helping to pay their way. Introduction of a rational policy for the limited commercial use of the parks for ecotourism is urgently required. It is also my belief that councils should be paid rates for the parks in their areas by the government as these areas are set aside for all South Australians and should not be a burden on one small group of ratepayers and volunteers.

Implementation of a safe harbor concept for siting moorings around the coast of South Australia for yachties to tour the gulfs is needed with locations of where they can seek refuge in unfavourable weather conditions and use them as nightly stopover points, possibly categorised in the same way as motels, according to their facilities, for example, one star, four star, and so on. According to a recent report, some 70 trades and professional positions are unfilled on southern Eyre Peninsula. Doctors and allied health professionals are needed for Eyre Peninsula's hospitals and if these positions are vacant for any period there is a risk of closure and consequent devastating effects on the district. Bringing qualified people from South Africa or similar countries, where the people are happy to live in regions and fit in well, is a sensible solution. We currently have several South African doctors on Eyre Peninsula. Previously there was discrimination against such immigration. Positive encouragement should be provided for the people to go to rural regional areas. I see no reason why these should not be a condition of permanent residence and work visas.

A state issue I strongly pushed with the previous government was support for the establishment of the square kilometre array (SKA) telescope to be sited in South Australia. The SKA is an advanced international radio telescope planned for construction in about eight years. It will be funded internationally at a cost of approximately \$1 billion, and South Australia has a very good case for its being sited in the north of our state. The federal government has allocated \$23.5 million to research into Australia's astronomy future through its major national research facilities program. This preliminary work is essential in supporting Australia's bid. The state government has promised \$400 000 towards the site selection, which is now being undertaken, and I urge the new Labor government not to neglect this wonderful opportunity. Competitors for the SKA site are Western Australia, the Northern Territory and New South Wales. The United States of America is also a competitor, although there is a possibility of too much radio interference and the facility would be sited in the wrong hemisphere to collect information on the southern skies. South America is also competing for this facility, but it has political instability, and South Africa, another competitor, has the same problem. This project must continue to be supported if South Australia's leading position (in the view of some CSIRO scientists) is to be maintained for the future.

Eyre Peninsula has 10 local councils, a local government association, a regional development board and one state member covering 45 000 square kilometres. The federal member is based in Whyalla and has responsibility for 92 per cent of the state. There are no legislative councillors or senators based on Eyre Peninsula. The fragmentation resulting from having 10 councils that are large in area but small in population, the difficulty of providing adequate state and federal representation caused by these huge distances and small populations, plus the many unusual and diverse issues resulting from these small populations and their isolation, make influencing policy and getting city-based departments and political leaders to understand our different needs and huge potential very difficult. I cannot emphasise enough the uniqueness of this region's strengths and weaknesses. These weaknesses would best be overcome by giving special development regional status for Eyre Peninsula at both state and federal level. With this recognition and support, Eyre Peninsula would be able to fulfil its potential for the benefit of South Australia for all South Australians.