



**Address In Reply
10 October 2000**

Mrs PENFOLD (Flinders): I rise in support of the motion for the adoption of Address in Reply, and add my congratulations and thanks for the manner in which His Excellency and Lady Neal carry out their duties—in particular, for their interest and support for the people living in the regional areas. As Sir Eric and Lady Neal know from their visits, my electorate of Flinders is a great place to live with clean air, wide sandy beaches, many parks and wonderful people.

However, we have suffered four tragedies in the past few months that have shaken us: the air disaster near Whyalla, taking eight lives; followed recently by the death of a young mother and her two infants; and, within two days of one another, two deaths from a shark attack at Cactus Beach and Elliston. I know that the sympathy of the government and opposition members will be with the families and friends of these people whose lives have been cut short before their time. These events clearly demonstrate our human vulnerability and have left many of us grieving. Although the tragedies have been spread across the region, our communities are very close. They often have family, sporting and other social ties that have brought them together.

I was confidently able to reassure one young man, when he came to my office concerned about the welfare of the wife of a shark victim at Cactus Beach, that she would be looked after well, because our communities always close in and support those in need in crisis—even when they do not know them personally. Checking confirmed that this was indeed the case.

Our gratitude and thanks must especially go to the police, emergency services volunteers and other services and volunteers involved in each of these tragic events. Each in a different way demonstrates the absolute necessity of having trained personnel available instantly. In the country, we often rely on volunteers, and I have noted the positive difference that has already come through the emergency services levy providing facilities, equipment and training. One never knows when they may be needed.

It is heartening, too, that a bereavement support group has recently commenced in Port Lincoln, aiming to provide support for people experiencing grief. Being able to work through issues helps with the healing process and assists one to pick up the pieces and go on with life. Carer groups, largely made up of volunteers, have been established across South Australia to provide support when needed. It is so important in times of grief and stress to know that you are not alone and that others are there to support to you.

Community spirit is strong on Eyre Peninsula, and I know that we will bounce back after these tragic events. However, some are vulnerable and they must be comforted. I am concerned that everything that can be done is done to assist with the aftermath of these events.

Fortunately, summer is now on its way, and the season 2000 looks like a good one for our farmers. Farm export income has been one of reasons why we have been able to improve our economic position as a state. In addition, Eyre Peninsula now boasts three vineyards, and the Boston Bay Winery, owned by Mary and Graham Ford, last week received a gold medal at the Royal Adelaide Hospital wine show for its 1998 cabernet sauvignon. Congratulations go to everyone involved.

I also congratulate the government and the people of South Australia on working together to bring our state to an AAplus credit rating. This has been a magnificent achievement that will benefit us all. We are fortunate to be living in this century, which is moving into areas undreamt of even last century. Technology is racing ahead and changing how we do things from moment to moment.

South Australia is a leader in information technology, and I commend the government for seizing the moment to bring this about. One of my pleasurable tasks a short time ago was opening the information technology suite at the Lake Wangary Primary School, with its 90 students, described by its principal, Tom Pointon, as 'a small school, a public school, and a disadvantaged school in many respects'. Tom goes on to say:

South Australia is a known leader worldwide in the provision of IT facilities for its students and what we have here...is very much the envy of many schools...especially in other parts of Australia and other countries. Our department and our government have committed large amounts of funding towards helping our students achieve excellence in IT. Our students are among the nation's and the world's leaders.

We can all be justifiably proud of that. Our government has recognised the importance of computer technology and the need for students to be literate in its uses and applications. Students in my electorate are undertaking subjects using internet and computer technology—subjects that were impossible for them to do only a couple of years ago. The internet makes businesses contactable from anywhere with two-way communication. Unlike factories that need to be close to transport and markets or offices that need to be close to business, information industries can operate anywhere. While people have traditionally looked towards working from the city, it can be safer and cheaper to operate businesses from the country.

This forward approach to our business community has been taken up by West Coast Security Pty Ltd. The business, purchased by Gary Scholz in 1993 with 480 customers, has expanded today into a grade one monitoring service with over 2 500 customers monitoring homes and businesses in four states. West Coast Security trains its staff, ensuring that all have their commercial security guard and communications licences. The business, with 20 staff, operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, monitoring a vast range of businesses as diverse as a business in Mount Gambier involved in gas extraction.

Occupational health and safety standards require West Coast Security to contact that business hourly to ensure that everything is safe. Gary Scholz, together with Ron Warland, has designed and purpose-built some unique monitoring devices, enabling the monitoring of pumps, water flow, air temperatures and freezer alarms for the aquaculture industry. Closed circuit television monitoring of tuna farms is another monitoring service being developed. This diversification is an extension of Gary's business in the home and business alarms that we have become used to. A classic example of the direction information technology is taking us is my recently launched web site, created by local business Webquarters, for the Flinders electorate.

Cathie Smith and Marianne Cox have developed their business which is rapidly expanding. My web site had 240 hits in June, 293 in July and 244 in August. Those who accessed the site came from the United States of America, Canada, Europe, Asia, Australia and Oceania. The longest session was up to three quarters of an hour, with a number of people visiting the site for more than 15 minutes. Surprisingly, Taiwan has been topping the list of contacts outside of Australia. Distance and communication have always been disincentives to doing business in the country. The computer age is overcoming both disincentives and, in some areas, has made being in the country an advantage, providing a stable work force and lower overheads in a very pleasant environment.

Today it is unnecessary to get people to cross your doorstep to do business. Potential customers—invisible customers and clients—seek you out on the internet and, if you are not there, you miss out. The virtual electorate proposed by the Minister for Information Economy, Dr Armitage, will help to tap into the contacts and business that we are currently missing from our expatriate population and encourage them to return with expertise to our great state. Tourism is the growth industry of the moment and this industry, too, uses information technology as a means of communicating to visitors where they can visit. Port Lincoln has the largest number of passenger movements of any airport in South Australia outside of Adelaide.

Many of these visits are for business, but often these people return with family or friends to visit our beautiful parks and beaches. The response to the Olympic Games in Sydney has been overwhelming, and such positive publicity will bring tourists from all over the world to Australia. Major events and festivals play a huge role in attracting visitors, and the South Australian Tourism Commission, under the Minister for Tourism, Joan Hall, is once again supporting events on Eyre Peninsula. This financial year these events included the Gawler Ranges Outback Challenge, the Ceduna Oysterfest, 2001 Port Lincoln Afloat and the Port Lincoln Mini Masters Games and Tunarama. Each of these events caters for a different corner of the tourism market but all attract tourists and their money into an area, thus bringing an economic benefit with them.

Jetties have always been an integral part of seaside tourism. Local government, communities and the government working together are overcoming the problems of retaining the jetties in a safe condition. Denial Bay, on the Far West Coast, was the first of three jetties in the Ceduna District Council area to be upgraded under the state government's recreational jetties

divestment program. Minister for Transport, Hon. Diana Laidlaw, said more than \$1.2 million has been spent on repairing and upgrading recreational jetties in the council areas of Ceduna, Elliston and Streaky Bay alone.

Infrastructure is an essential component of the tourism market. Again, the state government is working with local people and groups to bring infrastructure up to market demands. An exciting project to receive \$14 000 from the Tourist Development Fund is the Mt Wudinna Reserve Interpretive Trail. The grant will assist the LeHunte District Council in constructing a 2.5 kilometre interpretative walking trail in the 90 hectares of bushland and reserve at the base of Mount Wudinna. Incidentally, Mt Wudinna is the second biggest rock monolith in Australia; only Uluru is larger. The trail complements other attractions in the district such as Polda Rock Trail, Pildappa Rock Trail and the Gawler Ranges National Park. Local communities such as the Thevenard Residents and Ratepayers Group have used Coastcare grants to advantage. The Thevenard group received \$8 000 towards the cost of planting native vegetation at Pinky Point Lookout and constructing a large viewing platform that will provide panoramic views from St Peters Island and back across the bay to Ceduna. The work and the time put in by volunteer group members like Chris Gascoyne, Marion Uzzell, Coral Wilcox, Joe Haitana and Jim McBain, together with Ceduna Area School students, TAFE students and others ensure that every dollar of funding is very well spent.

While on tourism, I am delighted that Don Saltmarsh has set up a regular bus service, 'Coastlink', along the west coast of Eyre Peninsula between Ceduna and Port Lincoln. This is fantastic for the community and as a result it is anticipated that the Nomads backpacker chain of hostels that operates in Australia and New Zealand will soon create a link for backpackers to visit Eyre Peninsula. Jacqui Giles-Brown and Craig Brown who run Dutton Bay Woolshed hostel and museum, and who have been pushing for this service, have signed up with Nomads. It is anticipated that accommodation providers in other towns will also soon come on board in order to be part of the backpacker trail. The combination of local people, departments, businesses and the government is once again delivering a positive result that will benefit all communities along the route.

The community, local, state and federal governments have combined to improve the quality of health delivery in the Cummins district with the redevelopment of the Cummins hospital medical clinic to include adequate room and facilities for visiting specialists. The elderly and disabled in Cowell benefit from a day-care centre joining the hospital and hostel buildings. This was yet another joint effort. The executive officer of Cowell Community Health and Aged Care, Ms Sharon Godleman, appreciated the way in which the Department of Human Services under the Hon. Dean Brown acknowledged the needs of rural communities. Kimba Hospital now has the additional security provided by an automatic emergency power generating plant.

Governments are continually being asked to spend more. However, governments are also continually being asked to reduce taxes and charges. It is an impossibility to do both. But enterprising people look for and help to find solutions instead of harping on the negative. Every community in South Australia could well copy the example of Tumby Bay and Cummins Hospitals in improving their financial position. The secret: the support given by local residents who used their private health cover when admitted to hospital or when undergoing medical procedures increased hospital revenue and consequently lifted the service that the hospitals could provide.

Chairman of Lower Eyre Health Services, Anne Hall, said more funding for procedures meant that the hospitals were able to make better use of the top class facilities that have been put into rural hospitals in recent years. In addition, the clustering of the 10 hospitals and many health services on Eyre Peninsula into multipurpose service units has also increased efficiencies and the communities are to be commended for working together and undertaking these changes, changes that will help to ensure that we can keep our hospitals in our small communities.

This is an appropriate point at which to mention the late Mrs Natalie Bruza of Port Lincoln. Mrs Bruza suffered renal damage and required constant dialysis. Dialysis facilities in Port Lincoln are inadequate and many patients have to travel to Adelaide for treatment. Instead of sitting around complaining, Mrs Bruza—despite her own ill health—set about writing submissions, fund raising and using whatever means possible to get a home dialysis machine at Port Lincoln Hospital so that users and their families could obtain care, respite and the necessary teaching for their condition. Once again, the Minister for Human Services, the Hon. Dean Brown, has given government support to what the late Mrs Bruza and this active local committee are doing. A dialysis facility at Port Lincoln Hospital to serve the community on Eyre Peninsula is one of the goals to achieve in this term.

I am pleased to report that our government has assisted in providing funding for a number of projects on Eyre Peninsula for the benefit of youth. Possibly the most exciting was the purchase of a property in Ceduna for conversion to a youth centre. A property came onto the market that was ideally suited to use as a youth centre. Ceduna District Council had already identified the need and had prepared a detailed summary of what was required. Therefore, speedy action to secure the property was possible because the essential background work had been done. Thanks go to Minister Dean Brown and his

department for assistance with funding towards the project. The Chief Executive Officer of Ceduna District Council, Tony Irvine, when passing on council's appreciation, said:

Would you please convey the community's gratitude to all concerned for their prompt action in granting funds for the purchase of this much needed facility? The promptness of gaining the funding is a credit to all.

In supporting the purchase, the officer in charge of Ceduna Police Station, Senior Sergeant Kym Thomas, said:

In the past, communities have expected that crime will decrease by police action alone. This has not worked and there is a realisation now that crime is a community problem that requires a community solution.

He went on to say that evidence given in the National Crime Strategy 'Pathways to Prevention 1999' program suggested that intervention in early life can have a long-term impact on crime and other social problems such as substance abuse.

Ceduna Community Hotel Motel supported the project with a \$20 000 grant towards the refurbishment cost and thanks must also be given to the former railway workers who donated the contents of the Australian National Railways Institute at Port Lincoln on the condition that the furnishings and equipment go to good causes. As a result, a pool table, table tennis tables, chairs, coffee tables and a pie warmer from the hall have been donated to the Ceduna Youth Centre.

Roads are already a topic of conversation in rural areas. Country South Australia has felt and seen the positive difference that a Liberal government makes. Local people have identified some of the most hazardous spots on major roads and their input has been helpful when deciding where to allocate funds. The main road between Kimba and Cleve has been sealed and work is progressing on the Elliston-Lock road. Lincoln Highway, both north and south of Cowell, has benefited from upgrading to improve the safety and efficiency of the highway. The widening of the Eyre Highway is also proceeding, with entrances to Poochera township included in the latest section.

Housing for underprivileged people in our society is an issue that this government has tackled in partnership with community groups and churches. Mark Thiel heads a committee in Port Lincoln that is tapping into government assistance to provide housing for people in most need. The South Australian Housing Trust has allocated some houses to the scheme this year. The committee and helpers give their time and skills to enable this type of project to proceed successfully. This program is additional to the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program for youth and women's shelters for people in crisis.

Liberal governments have been at the forefront of bringing conservation to public attention as an issue. Country communities are often seen as being environmentally reckless when, in fact, the reverse is the truth. I have mentioned previously the tremendous national Landcare competition win by Karcultaby Area School, but it is worth bringing to the attention of the House again. Those students, in a small, isolated rural school, are at the top of caring for the environment in Australia. Most of those children can reasonably be expected to remain in a rural community. However, all will retain the knowledge and expertise gained through their Landcare project.

Again, the state government is at the cutting edge in initiating positive work on the environment. Seventy-one Partnerships 21 schools and preschools around the state are pioneering projects that investigate issues such as waste management and water and energy conservation. Education Minister Malcolm Buckby said that school communities have already shown great commitment towards preserving the environment, and students, supported by parents and staff, have a high awareness of environmental issues. Partnerships 21 schools have demonstrated a spirit of enterprise in strong partnership with their local communities; hence people and governments working together will again deliver success.

Larger projects see farmers and communities, the Eyre Peninsula natural resource management group and government cooperating to overcome salinity and land degradation. The Driver River catchment project covers the Kimba area from the western side of Cleve hills to Arno Bay, an area about the size of Fleurieu Peninsula. She-oaks are being used to control wind erosion in the Elliston pastoral lands.

Conservation is not limited to out-of-doors projects. I am delighted that the leafy sea dragon has been accepted as the marine emblem of this state. I am equally delighted that the only seahorse farm on mainland Australia is in Port Lincoln. Proprietors Tracy and David Warland have undertaken several years of research, spent thousands of dollars and carried out untold hours of work—and worry—to bring their business to the stage of exporting overseas.

The Warlands went into the commercial farming of seahorses in response to market demand and the unsustainable level of harvesting stock from the wild. It was very much a trial and error process, since almost no information exists anywhere in

the world. Once they had proved that they could breed and grow seahorses in captivity they received a grant from the Aquaculture Business Development Program, a joint initiative of the Department of Industry and Trade and the Department of Education, Training and Employment, which enabled them to finalise the necessary details and procedures for export of live animals. They are continuing their research program to include other species, including the weedy seahorse, and hope in the future to extend that to the leafy sea dragon. Sea horses have arrived in Japan and South Africa in perfect condition, and negotiations are progressing for export to the United States. Individuals and the state government are working together successfully. Community input is valued.

I commend the work of the Eyre Regional Development Board for its proactive role in promoting new business enterprises on Eyre Peninsula. I quote from its web site as follows:

The Eyre region contains less than 2.5 per cent of the state's population, yet it produces one-third of South Australia's grain and two-thirds of its seafood harvest. So although the area is relatively sparsely populated it is highly productive.

I also commend the councils, particularly the Ceduna District Council, the Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association, the hospitals and the hospital boards and the people of Eyre Peninsula for being proactive and working with their communities and governments and always striving to improve on how things are being done. As we prepare to celebrate Federation in 2001, the future for Eyre Peninsula and for all of South Australia is bright. I support the motion.

Address in Reply 29 September 1999

Mrs PENFOLD (Flinders): It is my pleasure to second the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. I thank the Governor, Sir Eric Neal, for his leadership and for his strong support for South Australia and all that pertains to our wonderful State. Recent visitors from interstate have commented on the optimism, the cheerfulness and the hope that is evident among the people and communities here. This is, in part, the result of six years of Liberal government that has taken South Australia from despair and the brink of bankruptcy to the top state in Australia in most indicators. As the Governor mentioned in his opening speech yesterday, South Australia's exports increased 6.5 per cent compared with a national decline. South Australia exports to more destinations than any other state, thus insulating the state against such issues as the Asian crisis. South Australia has weathered this financial downturn in countries geographically near to us probably better than any other state.

Econtech, an independent private economic forecaster, in its August issue of Australian State and Industry Outlook, says that South Australia's employment growth this year, 1999- 2000, will be 2.8 per cent—higher than any other state or territory and well in excess of the national average of 2.2 per cent. Econtech also predicts that the work force participation rate will rise substantially in South Australia in future years. The Governor stated in his speech yesterday that in the area of jobs South Australia has had 14 consecutive months of increasing trend employment levels.

Mr Koutsantonis interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mrs PENFOLD: This government's policies and actions have stopped the population drain from South Australia. Australian Bureau of Statistics' figures show a net population increase for the 1998-99 financial year, the first increase for many years. Our state is now well on the way to recovery. The initiative and enterprise demonstrated by the Liberal government fits well with the Australian ethic of having a go and battling against the odds.

This is shown in the small rural town of Lock in my electorate and my home town. The people in the town and district could easily have given in and said that the future was hopeless. Instead, they looked for solutions to their problems, one major issue being the shortage of potable water on Eyre Peninsula.

Eyre Regional Development Board, Elliston District Council, the Community Enterprise and Business Network and Eyre Enterprises worked together on the problem. Scientist Dr John Baxter invented a modular unit for the solar distillation of water that is suitable for home domestic use. The distillation units take any type of water, including

sewage and salt water, and remove all bacteria and minerals to produce pure drinking water. The problem of providing drinking water to Andamooka and Cooper Pedy mentioned today on the radio may well be assisted by this innovation. Grants were obtained to turn the invention into commercial production with the potential eventually to employ 20 people (some located in the small community of Lock) and produce a projected annual profit of \$1.5 million. Malcolm Hancock, one of the local leaders involved in the project, said that they have now employed their first full-time worker and will stage their first demonstration and information day at Urrbrae in October this year. The state government is continually encouraging research opportunities for regional communities such as the little town of Lock. Even before this new enterprise, the population drift from Lock had been slowed, if not halted. The numbers of school children are on the rise, and this equates with an additional teaching staff member, so the cycle of uplift is repeated and expanded. The Liberal government has a strategy for the state that includes all South Australia. The sealing of all rural arterial roads by 2004 is one of the many strategies welcomed by rural South Australia and which is already bringing benefits to communities. The longest of these unsealed regional arterial roads in 1993, the Elliston-Lock road, has been the bane of council and residents for all this century. The sealing of that road has now reached the halfway mark, with local residents holding a barbecue on the road at the halfway mark this month to celebrate.

The second longest regional arterial road in the state, the Kimba-Cleve road, will be completed this financial year except for the final seal. Local roads of economic importance are the next category of road that requires urgent attention. Many of these roads now have the additional heavy truck traffic caused by the SACBH strategic silo sites that have been developed in regional grain growing areas of our state. Large trucks, combined with domestic traffic, including school buses, need good roads to travel on if we are to make them safe.

The positive action of the government contrasts with the obstructiveness and short-sightedness of opposition and Democrat members whose attitude has robbed some regional centres of developments. Employment is essential to retain the population of regional South Australia. The opposition to the government's announcement yesterday of the reclamation of a small part of the Yumbarra National Park to allow for exploration and mining is a case that highlights this. This wonderful opportunity has been denied to our state for more than 10 years by people who do not really care about the wellbeing of people, particularly those who live and work in remote locations.

The government has allocated \$4.5 million for a rural and regional infrastructure fund to assist in delivering services to regional areas to help stimulate business enterprises and therefore jobs where they would not otherwise be likely to be viable—infrastructure that is taken for granted by many city folk.

Health has been one of the major topics this year. The Liberal state government has increased health spending from \$421 million in 1993-94 to \$587 million in this latest budget. The Australian Bureau of Statistics puts the increase at 37.2 per cent in nominal terms and 24.2 per cent in real terms. This has been done despite the constraints of the state debt. The immediate question posed by the rising health budget is: why then are hospitals and the health service in turmoil? Several reasons can be put forward: our increased expectations; fewer people with the private health cover; the fact that we can do so much more but at a greater cost than even a decade ago; complicated funding arrangements; a lift in average life expectancy; and a higher proportion of the population in the 60s plus age range.

There is much that you and I can do. I cite Tumby Bay community as an example for the rest of the state. Patients and clients of the Tumby Bay health services are encouraged to use their private health cover when accessing health or hospital care. The successful cooperation of the community and the hospital has put Tumby Bay hospital in a sounder position financially than that of most hospitals at the present time. It is an attitude and action that can be emulated anywhere. It highlights the fact that the use of private health cover does indeed make a difference. There is no such thing as a free anything, and that applies to health as much as to anything else. Individuals can choose to pay their own way by utilising private health cover where possible, or they can choose to pay through higher taxes for the government to foot the bills. However, it was foreshadowed at least a decade ago that the advances in health science may eventually mean that we have to decide what can be funded through taxes, that is, through the public health system. Perhaps we have arrived at that time.

With 74 educational institutions within my electorate, I have been greatly interested in the opportunities offered by the introduction of Partnerships 21, a system to give to schools the control of their finances. This could be good news for schools in my electorate, which would be able to arrange their own cleaning, for instance, in preference to a multinational company contracted by the department for the whole of the state. It is quite possible that they will be able to get a better job done and also save money that can be used for educational activities of more importance to

the students. I have noted with enthusiasm the Liberal state government's continued improvement of schools' infrastructure and equipment, both of which have been neglected. New resource centres and science laboratories have been particularly welcome.

The forward thinking of Liberal ministers is apparent in their insistence on computers in schools and on computer technology. Computers have changed our society at least as dramatically as machines changed society during the industrial revolution of the 1800s. South Australian students will be well placed and trained to be part of the society of the new millennium. Yesterday's announcement of Pathway SA, which will provide high quality internet access to every country school at a local call rate, is a major breakthrough in providing quality of education in remote areas such as on Eyre Peninsula. South Australia as a state leads the nation in many fields and will continue to do so under a Liberal state government. Outsiders recognise this. I congratulate Santos on its \$25 million donation to the University of South Australia to establish a chair. The thrust of the new discipline will be on fossil fuels. It is practical acclaim for the researchers and professionals in our state's tertiary institutions. Education is being used in some quarters to campaign for the Labor Party. Geoff Spring, the Chief Executive of the Department for Education, Training and Employment, has found it necessary to remind people that the department's budget is a public document. The three year funding for schools at the same level as in 1999, subject to enrolments, is guaranteed in all the documentation that has been issued for Partnerships 21. It is not only insulting to parents, teachers, students and the community to propagate mischievous untruths: it also denigrates what is being achieved across South Australia. I believe it also shows the titanic miscalculation on the part of those trying to politicise everything to do with education to think that people can be fooled so easily. I place on record the achievements of primary producers in positively supporting the environment. I am angered when country people are portrayed as rapacious destroyers, when the opposite is the truth. South Australian farmers were embracing environmental agriculture long before land care became a popular issue. Reclamation of salt affected land is a case in point. I am aware of the inventive and ground breaking work done on Eyre Peninsula, where there are dramatic examples of reclaimed land. The work being done here is being watched across Australia—just one more instance of South Australians leading the nation. Farmers have relied on researchers to provide them with the technical information required for sustainable agriculture. The simple fact is that if agriculture is unsustainable then the primary producer goes broke very quickly indeed.

I pay a warm tribute to the officers and researchers in the Primary Industries and Resources Department of South Australia, Waite agricultural institute and Roseworthy college. I especially commend the people in the Minnipa Research Centre on the work they have done in dry land farming techniques, which are now applauded internationally. It is the expertise, experience and inquisitiveness of the above people that has kept this state at the forefront in dry land farming. Recent upgrades of the centre, costing in excess of \$1 million, will ensure that this good work continues. Primary producers and departments have worked together to the benefit of agriculture in this state. Few people would recognise the past farms of wheat and sheep, with a few pigs to get through the hard times that were characteristic of South Australia in the 1950s. Today the bright yellow fields in spring are flowering canola, not soursobs or dandelions. Rows of vines and olives stretch across the paddocks. The state government for some years now has virtually stopped the clearing of land, thus preventing a number of the problems that are surfacing in other states where land clearing is not so restricted.

The state government's willingness to work with and support those who are prepared to have a go and battle against the odds is reaping positive dividends in the fishing industry. The income of about \$180 million plus, generated by the tuna industry alone, is more than the entire fishing effort for New South Wales. South Australia is now internationally recognised for its abalone and aquaculture industries. Our oyster farmers cannot meet the demand for their product. Value adding of crayfish by penning small animals and growing them out to a more appropriately marketable size is practised.

Aquaculture covers abalone, mussels, barramundi, snapper and sea horses. The sea horse project at Port Lincoln is the only one in Australia outside Tasmania. South Australia's aquaculture industry is growing at a faster rate than that of any other Australian state in terms of production, and is now the largest producer of farmed seafood by value in Australia. Aquaculture other than tuna production is now valued at more than \$100 million at farm gate. Employment in the Australian aquaculture industry is forecast to grow by 90 per cent by 2010. The value of aquaculture production in Australia is forecast to triple to \$1.4 billion by 2005, with production forecast to rise to 39 million tonnes by 2010. The state government's support in developing the aquaculture industry through the five year farm seafood initiative is helping to produce these outstanding results.

The expansion of the South Australian industry reflects what is happening with the industry at a global level. Aquaculture is the fastest growing food industry in the world, increasing in value by 9 per cent per year. At present, 25 per cent of seafood consumed world wide is farmed and this is expected to rise to 40 per cent by 2010. The initiative and forward thinking of the Liberal Government has positioned South Australia at the forefront of development, with the capacity and ability to reap the potential rewards to the benefit of our State and its people. As already stated, a solid industry policy has seen our exports increase faster than those of all other States, defying the national trend, which has seen exports fall. In addition to primary products, exports included processed foods, wine and manufactured goods.

This Government is achieving success in a number of environmental issues. Specimens of bettongs, bilbies and black cockatoos, all endangered species or considered at risk, have been reintroduced into the native habitat in national parks and reserves in my electorate. Cape Barren geese have become a pest in some instances. The community is working with officers of the Department for Environment, Heritage and Aboriginal Affairs and the RSPCA to deal with this problem. The removal of noxious plants from the islands in Spencer Gulf which are the habitat of the geese is but one aspect of the strategy to control the destruction that the increased numbers of geese are causing.

National parks and reserves are dear to my heart, as my electorate contains a large proportion of the state's parks. These have the potential to become world class and significant attractions for international tourists and the impetus therefore for many more jobs within the region. The herd of Timor ponies that has lived in Coffin Bay National Park since the 1840s is one example of this potential. Marie Bishop of Aberfoyle Park, who supported the retention of the ponies in the park, quoted a comment written years ago by the Australian author and poet A.B. Paterson:

There are not many places in Australia where there are wild horses, but if any of you that are listening to me has a mob of brumby horses on his place I would advise him to let them alone and make a tourist attraction out of them. A mob of wild horses going across country at full speed is a great sight.

The number of horses in the park has been strictly limited for some decades, with surplus horses regularly culled and sold. I wonder where else in the world a person could enjoy all the comfort and luxury of the twenty-first century within an hour's drive of such a spectacle.

Tourism is a growth industry world wide. South Australia has a successful tourism policy in place that is seeing this State increase its share of the overseas visitors who come to Australia. In fact, it is in regional South Australia where tourism numbers are showing the strongest growth. Viewing great white sharks off Thistle Island, southern right whales at the Head of the Bight, and tuna farms at Boston Bay are examples of unique South Australian tourism attractions that attract international attention. International interest has certainly focused on Geoff and Mick Scholz of Wudinna and their tours to the Gawler Ranges in the north of Eyre Peninsula, and Alan and Patricia Payne, who run Baird Bay Charters and Ocean Eco Tours on the west coast of Eyre Peninsula. The Paynes were featured in the inaugural Channel 7 series of South Australian features screened last week. Their eco-tours enable people to swim with the sea lions and dolphins in their natural habitat, and then return to shore to feast on grilled King George whiting, oysters and crayfish fresh from the surrounding sea.

Upmarket tourism wholesalers and journalists from Europe and North America who have visited Eyre Peninsula say that what Geoff and Mick Scholz and Alan and Patricia Payne are doing is of world interest. Baird Bay Charters and Ocean Eco Tours have also been featured on the program Wild Things, shown across all American states. What people can experience off the coast of Eyre Peninsula in swimming with the sea lions and dolphins in their natural environment is unique in the world. One of the journalists doing the Wild Things program mentioned that people can swim with sea lions and dolphins in California. However, the animals are hand-fed and are partially captive.

The topic of power generation has occupied the minds of the majority of people over the past few years. What is not known is the tremendous amount of work that is going into research in power generation from wind farms. The government has encouraged this environmentally friendly and sustainable form of power generation. I am pleased to say that several groups and individuals are looking at wind farms, including Cowell Electric Supply. This leads into an aspect of politics that affects this government to a much greater extent than any previous government. This is the lead time required for delivery of policy decisions: generation of electricity by wind power is an example.

It could be some years before plants become operational. However, by then the general public has forgotten that it was this Liberal government that supported the industry. Decisions made this week can take years of unstinting effort to bear fruit—years before the electorate actually feels that any action has been taken.

The Adelaide to Darwin rail link is another example. The federal commitment to complete the line was made in 1926 or 1927 when South Australia cut off what has become known as the Northern Territory and handed it over to the commonwealth. Part of the agreement was to complete the north-south rail link. Premier John Olsen is now much closer to achieving what others have been trying to achieve for more than three quarters of a century. This kind of achievement is all too easily lost in the day-to-day reporting of what the government is doing. Defence contracts are another example. Defence contracts have long lead times, that is, it is a long time between making the initial decision and seeing the effect of that decision. The Liberal government in South Australia had to create the correct business climate to be ready for the work now coming to the State.

Andrew Killey, of Killey Withy Punshon Advertising, in a recent speech said:

South Australia has 16 per cent of Australia's manufacturing industry with 8 per cent of the population. We have General Motors, Mitsubishi, Bridgestone Tyres. Plus we have British Aerospace, the Submarine Corporation, F.H. Faulding, Gerard Industries, Santos and Michells. We have 55 per cent of Australia's wine industry, plus 65 per cent of Australia's wine exports, 100 per cent of Penrice, which manufactures all of Australia's soda ash and exports to a number of our Asian neighbours for all their requirements.

Small companies such as Minelab make a high-tech metal detector, which is the United Nations preferred land mine detector. At Dynek they make a range of sutures, which are exported to over 50 countries world wide. Added to this we have the largest copper, silver, gold and uranium mine in the world. We have large reserves of natural gas, a rapidly growing aquaculture industry, plus the largest silver and lead smelter in the world. Coopers Brewery is the largest manufacturer of home brew in the world.

We have a lot going for us in South Australia that we seem to overlook. Andrew Killey also quoted Juliet Haslam, South Australian Olympic gold medallist, as follows:

I'm continuously having heated discussions with my team mates who come from all over the country about which is the best state in Australia. Inevitably I am the last one standing singing the praises of our great state, South Australia. Did you know that in the recent Commonwealth Games the medal tally of South Australian athletes alone exceeded that achieved by most other nations?

The Liberal government is prepared to make the hard decisions which are in the best interests of the state and its people but which may not be electorally popular. Our prime interest is that South Australia and South Australians prosper not only now but in the future, not only in the city but also in the country regions of our wonderful state. The electorate is sufficiently mature to recognise this and to give the government credit. More people are realising the truth of the ethic that we rise and fall together and that the selfish remark of 'What's in it for me?' does not deliver prosperity across the board.

I commend the state government's program, as outlined by the Governor, Sir Eric Neal. South Australia will continue to build on the optimism and cheerfulness and the hope that interstate visitors have noted when visiting our great state.

**ADDRESS IN REPLY
28 October 1998**

Mrs PENFOLD (Flinders): The speech by His Excellency the Governor, Sir Eric Neal, opening the Second Session of the Forty-Ninth Parliament set the scene for a most productive Parliament in the run up to the twenty-first century, setting out as it does a plan to reach a goal that we can all believe in, that is, to deliver economic growth with social responsibility.

The Governor's leadership in the business of the State is an inspiration to all. I am delighted that he and his wife, Lady Neal, have accepted an invitation to again visit Port Lincoln in my wonderful electorate of Flinders early in the new year. Here they will see evidence of what can be achieved by people who are self-reliant, self-confident and dedicated to the sustainable economic growth, in particular, of the fishing and farming industries, which are daily increasing the job opportunities of this wonderful State of South Australia.

If this State is to create the wealth and jobs we need to provide the kind of socially responsible State we want for our future and that of our children, as the Governor has stated we need to be bipartisan. We have to work together. Only by working together can we produce the wealth of which this State is capable and which will provide the funding to give South Australia the best health, education and services in the country and indeed in the world; especially needed as we gear up to provide for our generation, who will be the largest group of retirees in history.

We as the people of this State have good reason to be more self-confident than we are. We need to appreciate that South Australia often leads not only our nation but also the world. This fact was commented on only last week by writers in the Advertiser's letters to the Editor column and is regularly promoted by the SA Great campaign.

Our State Government is committed to its social responsibilities, and I applaud the mobile health services that our Government, through the Health Commission, provides to South Australia's women. I am particularly appreciative of the mammography units. Breast screening for cancer was one of the issues for which I worked for many years, so I was pleased when the Liberal Government acted to provide mobile units. Additional funding of \$300 000 this year boosted the previously announced \$1 million capital expansion for this program. The message from cancer experts is that early detection is a key to successful treatment. I can personally testify to that, having had breast cancer that was caught very early and not having to have debilitating chemotherapy and radiotherapy. It is not well enough understood that this outcome can result from early detection. The Government provides the service free of charge, and access through mobile clinics and various units is very convenient. I urge women 45 years and over to have this procedure.

I also commend the Government's South Australian Health Plus strategy aimed at empowering and educating people to take more control over their own health, bringing about a healthier community, thus resulting in fewer visits to doctors, fewer hospital admissions and a lower cost to the State's health budget. Preliminary evaluations of the trial show that among participating patients there has been a 40 per cent reduction in hospitalisation compared with the control group. The Health Plus trials on Eyre Peninsula involve about 1 400 patients with chronic conditions such as diabetes and complex medical problems. General practitioners on Eyre Peninsula participating in the Health Plus trials have been provided with personal computers to support the preparation of personal care plans, education and improved medical record keeping. The aim is to have all computers linked in a network and for that network to have links with hospitals and specialists. This program is being monitored by the Federal Government with a possibility of its becoming the basis for the provision of health care across the nation. Prevention is not only better than cure—it is much less costly. Hence the State Government this year introduced free influenza vaccine for people 70 years plus. With a number of 90-year olds in the electorate, let alone those in their 70s or 80s, this move was appreciated.

South Australia has led the nation in the field of organ donations. This was recognised with the appointment of the South Australian Governor, Sir Eric Neal, as Chair of the new National Council of Australians Donate in July this year. All State, Territory and Commonwealth Health Ministers agreed to set up the council's secretariat in South Australia. In instances where young adults have died, usually although not always as a result of accident, it assists families in the grieving process to know that organ donation has been a positive result of an untimely death. I commend the Liberal Government for the money put into upgrading the health system infrastructure, especially in rural areas. It has been a major undertaking to overcome the neglect of previous years.

In my electorate of Flinders both Ceduna and Port Lincoln have benefited from hospital upgrades, while the upgrade on the Kingscote Hospital on Kangaroo Island has also demonstrated the Liberal Government's positive concern for rural and regional South Australia. Stage 1 of the Ceduna Hospital redevelopment was opened about a year ago and now the \$100 000 redevelopment of the north-east wing is about to be opened while \$80 000 has been provided for an anaesthetics machine. Further redevelopment is in the planning process. The final stage of the \$17 million upgrade of the Port Lincoln Hospital is progressing well and is on track to be completed by early 1999. The hospital management, staff, doctors, specialists and visiting specialists are working together to use to the fullest our state of the art facilities.

It gives me a great deal of satisfaction to see the positive results flowing from the hard work that this Government has done in helping to get overseas doctors into rural areas which are unable to get Australian trained doctors. Doctor Bishop from the United States of America is filling in his 12 month working holiday at the Ceduna-Koonibba Health Service, while Doctor Mason from Wales is with Doctor Griffin at the Ceduna medical practice until December this year. The practice is negotiating with a South African doctor to begin in December. Dr Wolf du Plessis, who came to Wudinna from South Africa, has taken up flying as one of the ways of coping with the remoteness of his rural practice. Two highly skilled and experienced general practitioners are working with the Investigator Clinic in Port Lincoln on a two year contract, which I understand they would like to extend. Cowell has a new doctor starting practice in December.

It is very gratifying also that the University of Adelaide Medical School, along with the State Government, has recognised the need to attract doctors to rural areas by retaining up to one-third of its entry positions for applicants from rural areas. It is a known fact that professionals from a rural background tend to practise in the country. This is additional to the rural health scholarships worth \$5 000 each for up to three years to medical, nursing and allied health students, conditional on the students practising in the country upon graduation. Jennifer Bubner of Wudinna benefited from one of these scholarships while studying social work at Whyalla University. The excellent work undertaken by Dr Talina Vizard of Cleve on an internship program was recognised with a grant of \$60 000 for its continuation. The program has been instrumental in attracting medical students to rural practice upon graduation.

Mental health has been identified as an area of need. The issue of suicide continues to be a major concern. The 24 hour mobile crisis service that also provides telephone and telepsychiatry video conferencing support in rural and remote areas is just one of the Government's initiatives which are a positive response to an identified need to combat suicide especially in rural areas.

The area of child mental health was excellently addressed by the Tumby Bay community, where medical professionals, the school, hospital and the public combined under the leadership of Dr Graham Fleming to initiate a program which has been expanded to other schools.

The money coming into the electorate from grants from the gaming machine fund has been well received. Constituents do not sit around waiting for a grant to fall into their lap but use grants on top of their own efforts. The Ceduna Sports Club is an excellent example. The club, under the leadership of its President John Tonkin and secretary Marcus Knill, is undertaking a \$330 000 redevelopment using a \$100 000 sports and recreational grant, added to the \$100 000 members have saved over six years and a bank loan. We hear about opposition to gaming machines but seldom do we hear the other side of the argument. Active club grants have assisted a range of sports, including pony clubs, gymnastics, bowls and hockey. The Eyre Peninsula has more clubs and groups than in an equivalent metropolitan population due principally to distance. I continue to lobby for an equitable distribution of gaming machine funds taking social factors into account.

The Eyre Peninsula continues to produce top athletes who appear in all sorts of sports. Shaun Rehn from Arno Bay is a star of the Adelaide Crows, as is Nigel Smart whose family roots go back to Wudinna and Cowell. One of the best players in the North Melbourne Football Club is Byron Pickett from Port Lincoln. These stars look to return something to their communities, as is evidenced by Jenny Borlase from Cummins, who has recently conducted clinics in netball across the Eyre Peninsula.

The \$1 million grant from the Centenary of Federation Fund for the redevelopment of the Port Lincoln Civic Hall as a regional arts facility caused great excitement. Within a couple of weeks Bill Watkins, Chairman of the Lower Eyre Peninsula council, announced that the council would contribute \$100 000 to the project. The Port Lincoln arts community, with public support, has about \$60 000 to contribute. The Port Lincoln City Council has promised \$600 000 and the State Government has also supported the concept, with funding expected. A theatre for Port Lincoln has been on the agenda for about 50 years, going back to the time when Colin Thiele was president of the Port Lincoln Players in the late 1940s. It will, indeed, be a cause for celebration when it becomes reality.

The great success of the Eyre Peninsula in Concert (EPIC) at Minnipa's Tcharkulda Rocks, attended by about 3 000 people, including the Minister for the Arts (Hon. Diana Laidlaw) last weekend, illustrates the great need within the community for a greater opportunity to participate in the arts. I cannot mention all the many people who have contributed to this event, but South Australian Country Arts Trust officer Sue Du Bois of Wudinna and coordinators Jan White and Narelle Kurtzer of Minnipa are typical of those who have put in countless hours to make this spectacle

a success. EPIC was part of the very successful work of the Eyre Peninsula Rural Strategy, and I commend their very hard working and visionary committee.

Strategy committee member Brenton Ramsey of Wudinna initially came up with the idea of inviting Philip Satchell to broadcast from Eyre Peninsula to publicise EPIC. Philip said that the broadcast from Graham and Elaine Waters property at Wudinna in early October was the best outside broadcast he had ever done. On the Satchell program, Eyre Peninsula Rural Strategy chairman Jeff Pearson outlined the uptake of new techniques to improve the sustainability and viability of farming on Eyre Peninsula.

The Eyre Peninsula Regional Strategy Task Force, chaired by my colleague in the Upper House the Hon. Caroline Schaefer, was set up by the Liberal Government in 1996 to increase the standard of living and to promote a more secure future for farming businesses concentrating on sustainable agriculture. The resulting strategy is an outstanding example of the Government's encouraging sustainable economic development and self-esteem delivered through self-reliance and self-confidence. The EPRS has more than succeeded in fostering a positive image for the Eyre Peninsula and in generating a feeling of pride in the community.

A series of forums held recently in Wudinna, Ceduna, Cummins and Cleve provided opportunity for local communities to receive an update on the progress of the strategy, as well as provide feedback and suggestions for the future. Those attending the forums agreed that the strategy had been successful in progressing towards its objectives and that a positive image of the Eyre Peninsula had been projected. Keith Freeman of Ceduna, Tas Sundberg of Streaky Bay, strategy chairman Jeff Pearson of Cummins, and PIRSA's Jim Cawthorne and Hilton Trigg of Port Lincoln have already met to discuss issues raised through the forums. The quick action is typical of Eyre Peninsula get up and go. Most farmers attending the forums had a positive view of the future, but recognised that it was important to be prepared for the inevitable bad seasons. An acceleration of change has occurred through the strategy and it was generally agreed that the momentum of change should be maintained. The point was made that it is important for farmers to take responsibility for their own future through a commitment to ongoing training and education. Financial management and planning were considered paramount to ongoing viability.

EPRS is a member of the National Rural Partnership Program where its initiative and experience has seen it take a leadership role. The first gathering of regional partnership program people from around Australia is being held in Adelaide this week. Representatives of south-west Queensland, Atherton Tablelands, Desert Uplands from Barcardine in central Queensland, West 2000 from central New South Wales, Gascoyne-Murchison based in Carnarvon, Western Australia, north-east Victoria, Loddon-Murray, Sunraysia (Mildura), Riverland and Eyre Peninsula will meet to discuss mutual issues.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the good work being done on Eyre Peninsula and in other regional areas of the State by the regional development boards supported by their relevant councils and our Government. Much of the groundwork for necessary change to occur within country communities is initiated by the pro-active people to be found on these committees and within their staff. It is my hope that as a member of the Premier's South Australian regional development task force I will be able to help them by identifying and providing a strategy to remove constraints that are holding back regional development.

In promoting economic development the Government has put its money where its mouth is by contributing \$1.9 million through SARDI, PIRSA, GRDC and the University of Adelaide to upgrade Minnipa Research Centre's infrastructure, research personnel and programs. In the 1980s it was the Minnipa Centre that picked up the reason for Halberd wheat's better productivity on Eyre Peninsula than later wheat types. Many Eyre Peninsula soils are high in boron and Halberd was more boron resistant than newer varieties of wheat. Work on boron tolerance in cereals is continuing. Currently, wellknown plant breeder, Dr A.J. Rathjen, is researching the inheritance of boron tolerance in wheat.

Minnipa Agricultural Centre Chairperson, Andrew Polkinghorne of Lock, launched the Minnipa Research Foundation at the 1998 Wudinna Agricultural Expo. The foundation will give the people of Eyre Peninsula the chance to contribute to the work of the centre. If the success in fundraising found for sporting facilities, halls and recently the Marine Science Centre in Port Lincoln is anything to go by, once again the self-reliant people of Eyre Peninsula will put their hands in their own pockets to ensure that they are at the forefront of progress.

The Liberal Government's commitment to rural and regional Australia is strong and practical. I participated in the opening of Ruralink Government service centres at Kimba and Ceduna, two of six set up initially in the State. The service centres will be reviewed in two years. This initiative of the State Government was a response to the difficulties faced by rural communities in accessing services and information. Each of these service centres is a 'one stop shop' where people with a need for information about or access to State Government services will be able to get the assistance they require. The service centres operate from the Centrelink offices at Ceduna and from the Kimba Learning and Business Centre at Kimba. The South Australian Rural Communities Office is working with the Government departments to identify other services that may be delivered from the centres.

During my time as a member of Parliament I have worked actively for the establishment of wind farms in South Australia to generate electricity. This is one form of alternative energy that is environmentally friendly and sustainable. Solar power is another such resource, and an enterprising group in my electorate has researched and developed a solar distillation unit to supply clean drinking water to those who currently do not have access to this at a reasonable cost. Research scientist, Dr John Baxter, is backed by an energetic and forward thinking board headed by Judy Longmire, Valda Glover and Malcolm Hancock.

Eyre Peninsula people are known for their initiative and this has again come to the fore with the establishment of a manufacturing business for this desalination unit in the small rural town of Lock. Consumers want water that is safe, environmentally sound, chemical free, healthy, convenient, good tasting and cost effective. The Solar Pure water distillation unit produces water which meets these criteria. Initial research on global demand for the machine is also encouraging.

Education and training are essential if people are to be able to grasp the job opportunities which will help to bring to them the self-reliance, self-confidence and self-esteem mentioned by the Governor.

The Government's emphasis on information technology is evidence of forward thinking. Already technology is breaking down the tyranny of distance that rural students experience. I have great pleasure in mentioning that Jason Collins of Wudinna Area School was among the top 1 per cent of students in Australia in the 1998 Australian Mathematics Competition. Jason has been invited by Dr Keith Hannan to participate in a workshop of talented students within the Australian Mathematical Olympiad. Today's technology will enable Jason to accept the invitation and to correspond with this group in solving mathematical problems.

I and my staff consistently watch for possible sources of grant funding to bring to the attention of appropriate people and bodies. Lock Area School took up the initiative of applying for an EDS grant and was successful in gaining \$2 000 for computer technology.

The opening of the Minya Bunhii Child Care Centre at Ceduna was a milestone for the Aboriginal community. Director Margo Walker outlined the 20 years of effort that had gone into setting up child-care and working for the new facilities that were opened by the Federal member for Grey, Barry Wakelin, and me in July. The two eldest members of the local Aboriginal community, Leon Kent and Pearl Seidel, cut the ribbon to the entrance.

A new library and administration centre currently under construction for the Cowell Area School is expected to be completed and ready for occupation at the start of the 1999 school year. The project has been funded by the Department of Education, Employment and Training and Franklin Harbor District Council. The upgrade will provide improved facilities for the community library and school administration.

A community based board of management has been formed for Cowell Area School's aquaculture course. The board works as an incorporated body, not a subcommittee of the school council. However, the board still reports to the school council which is represented on the committee. Industry and community members elected to the initial Cowell Area School Aquaculture Board of Management were Steven Pope, Richie Baker, Simon Turner, Trenton Hardie, George Tovo and Ron Elleway.

I am proud to be part of the Liberal Government of South Australia that is eliminating the debt while still managing to fulfil its social responsibilities and to be the catalyst for sustainable economic development. There are many more examples that I could provide from my own electorate that indicate that we are heading in the right direction to help provide the opportunities for a wonderful future and high quality of life that should be our right and that of our children in a State such as South Australia. I support the motion.

