



**STATUTES AMENDMENT (TRANSPORT PORTFOLIO—ALCOHOL AND DRUGS) BILL**  
**4th March 2009**

**Mrs PENFOLD (Flinders) (16:23):** The Liberal opposition supports the bill, but it is very evident that people living in rural, regional and remote South Australia will again be disadvantaged. Drivers who are disqualified because of driving infringements are severely disadvantaged the further away they live from the Adelaide metropolis. The necessary assessment procedure in a drug and alcohol clinic prior to applying for a renewal of a driver's licence is only available in Adelaide. A constituent in my electorate was advised in 2008 that an appointment at the clinic was not available until 2010, which is totally unacceptable. What are people to do in the meantime to hold down a job and live their lives, particularly when they live in remote country areas?

The licensing of a private clinic at Mile End to undertake these assessments to overcome the backlog again discriminates against those who can least afford it. I ask that at least one other assessment clinic, possibly at Port Augusta, be set up to alleviate the unconscionably long waiting time at the Adelaide assessment clinic and to better serve rural and regional South Australia.

I commend the former Liberal government for making South Australia the first Australian state to introduce a voluntary interlock system for serious drink driving offences in October 2001. The Liberal opposition supports the recommendation of the Road Safety Advisory Council that the scheme be mandatory for serious and repeat drink driving offences. However, for a law to be applied justly, all members of the public must be treated fairly and equally. Already country drivers who are disqualified are severely disadvantaged compared to their city counterparts. There is no public transport system—which, again, is supported financially for city residents by all South Australians through the taxes and charges that are levied on all of us. In many country towns no bus, train or plane services are available.

It has been stated by Labor sources over the years that it would not matter if all people moved from the country to the capital cities to live. That attitude displays a colossal ignorance of the revenue foundation on which our nation and our society is based. It also tries to manipulate people to fit one mould, ignoring the fact that some people psychologically cannot live in the city. This is attested to by some of our most talented indigenous Australian rules footballers, who give away playing at the top level because they cannot abide city lifestyles.

I appreciate the Premier's accepting the resignation of the Minister for Road Safety in another place. It took repeated contacts with the former minister over some months to elicit a reply to the questions which my constituent mentioned previously needed answers (incidentally, this constituent moved to the country from the city for health reasons). One of the measures of a just and democratic society is the equal application of the law and equal access to justice for all citizens.

Our regional people must be considered when our laws and their application are being considered, and I ask that they are considered in this Bill, with a view to reducing the impact caused by isolation.