



**The Hon. L. STEVENS (Little Para):** My question is to the Premier. What impact did the 2005 Eyre Peninsula bushfires have on the Tunarama Festival and what support is the government providing to the festival?

*Mr Hamilton-Smith interjecting:*

**The Hon. M.D. RANN (Premier):** That is very interesting. The future leader of the opposition, who has got two campaign medals, plastic ones, for two failed leadership assaults, has just said—

*Members interjecting:*

**Ms CHAPMAN:** Point of order, Mr Speaker.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Premier will take his seat.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** It is most offensive language towards one of our members of the parliament, and I ask the Premier to withdraw it.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. M.D. RANN:** Look, I'm so sorry, Martin, if you are upset. But, anyway, have another go and we'll be behind you once again. We keep encouraging you to run. You will get there eventually if you keep undermining your leader the way you do. But the key point is: he questioned our priorities when I rose to answer a question about the future of Tunarama. He said that was our priority. Well, I have actually heard from the honourable member sitting behind him (Mrs Liz Penfold) who has asked me for assistance, because this is a priority for people on the West Coast of this state who were devastated by a bushfire just 18 months ago. It might not be the priority of the member for Waite but it is the priority of people on the Eyre Peninsula. That shows your total contempt for people in regional and rural areas. So, I would like to thank the member for Little Para for her question.

The Tunarama Festival has a 46-year history of promoting one of South Australia's strongest export industries as well as showcasing all that Eyre Peninsula tourism has to offer. The 2005 Eyre Peninsula bushfires, with their devastating impact on the region, occurred just 10 days before the start of the Tunarama Festival. It was decided, in an effort to lift the morale of the community at a very difficult time, to still go ahead with staging the festival. In doing so, the event incurred a significant financial loss. Whilst the organising committee and the local community have been working hard to turn this around, they have found it extremely difficult to recover from the loss of income from an entire festival.

I am pleased to inform the house that after receiving a request from the president of the local organising committee, and also from the member for Flinders—who is sitting behind the member for Waite, who does not regard this as important or a priority—that the government has agreed to provide one-off funding of \$60 000 to relieve the debt accumulated through unforeseen circumstances well beyond the control of the community.

This funding will enable the Tunarama festival to continue into the future. I am sure I am joined by the member for Flinders, at least, in wishing them all the very best success in doing so. I call upon the member for Waite to apologise to the people of Eyre Peninsula for the absolutely disgraceful comments he made across this house.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Premier has made his point.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!