

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

THURSDAY 06TH SEPTEMBER 2012

ROBIN BRIDGE

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (12:38): I am not sure whether I am doing this reluctantly or not, but I would like to support the member for Schubert in his endeavours and his motion which condemns the state Labor government for its failure to commit to painting the Robin Bridge in Nuriootpa prior to 2014-15 and urges the government to undertake the necessary repainting works immediately to ensure the bridge is once again a beautiful landmark in Nuriootpa.

I would just like to say a couple of things. I urge the government to take up this matter because I do not want to see a by-election in Schubert. We have enough work with every one of us in this place working towards the elections in March 2014, and I am concerned for the occupational health and safety of the member for Schubert, but I do understand the extraordinary circumstances that he is in that he is prepared to take on this job.

He is saying that he can do this job on a very modest budget of \$1,500, donating his time because he is obviously already paid out of the public purse and he is going to do it after hours. I am concerned, in all seriousness, with what the member for Schubert indicates, that the government is talking about a \$600,000 paint job on this bridge, and not just with this bridge but with everything involving government quotes. We saw this with the Building Education Revolution, everything cost twice as much for government schools as it did for private schools because of the process, because of the bureaucracy.

An honourable member interjecting:

Mr PEDERICK: No; that is exactly right. I saw this happen in Coomandook where we have an \$800,000 (alleged) basketball court that is only about two-thirds size. Two days before it was opened they had to run 23 tradespeople in there to finish construction so that we could have Senator Anne McEwen, the Hon. Bob Sneath and myself present at the opening of that gym. We saw the water tanks that were installed—which were ridiculous anyway because they are within 20 metres of a River Murray pipe that has plenty of hydrants, the firefighting tanks—which normally would have been quoted, with appropriate fittings, at \$50,000.

Mrs GERAGHTY: I rise on a point of order. While it is interesting to hear the member's version of history I think he is straying well beyond the bounds of this motion.

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The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Odenwalder): I uphold that point of order. Get back to the subject matter.

Mr PEDERICK: I will get back to the subject. I feel suitably admonished. I support the endeavour of the member for Schubert for a whole range of reasons, as I have said. I do not want to see any problems and I want to make sure that everything is done with the utmost safety and integrity. The last thing I want to see is a by-election in the seat of Schubert. I would like to think that the government would grab the bull by the horns, or the bridge with a paint tin in this case, and get on with the job and do it for the benefit of not only the residents of Nuriootpa but for the benefit of the residents of Schubert.