

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2015

### Natural Resources Committee: Kangaroo Island Natural Resources Management Region

**Mr PEDERICK ( Hammond ) ( 11:56 ):** I rise to speak to the 100<sup>th</sup> report of the Natural Resources Committee, entitled Kangaroo Island Natural Resources Management Region Fact Finding Visit, 5-7 November 2014. I just want to make a few quick comments about bees and the fact that beekeepers do not have access to national parks like they used to. It is certainly a major concern in regard to beekeeping and agriculture in this state and in this country.

Bees are a vital part of our agricultural landscape, as they make sure there is pollination in cases where it is needed, whether it is with broadacre crops or in more horticultural-style crops, like almonds, which are planted in a broadacre fashion in some places. Certainly, in regard to canola and other crops, they are vital for pollination. The restrictions on going into national parks are really hurting the bee industry. This happens on Kangaroo Island and in Ngarkat Conservation Park as well. Before, beekeepers were actually custodians of the parks and maintained tracks and access, yet more and more I keep seeing and hearing about these beekeepers being given less and less access to keep up their vital work.

It is a vital time to access the flowers of the native bush in the season when they need to have their bees in the parks. They certainly do a great job in managing the parks and looking out for problems, as well as other issues around compliance in relation to the general public's access to parks. Kangaroo Island is well known for honey from its Ligurian bees, and that is why there is a strict quarantine protocol on bees going over to Kangaroo Island. All machinery has to be completely cleaned out for that process.

New Zealand fur seals are causing massive issues around the state, not just on Kangaroo Island, where they have decimated the little penguins, but certainly through the Coorong, where they are decimating fish catches for commercial fisheries. Something really needs to be done for people to get on board and manage those. We have heard about the effect of marine parks, which is really hurting fishers on Kangaroo Island, and also the issues around managing—

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Hammond may need to seek leave to continue his remarks.

**Mr PEDERICK:** I seek leave to continue my remarks, Mr Speaker.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.