

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY 24TH MARCH 2015

STATUTES AMENDMENT (BOARDS AND COMMITTEES - ABOLITION AND REFORM) BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 18 March 2015.)

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (12:51): I rise to continue my remarks from last week in regard to the Statutes Amendment (Boards and Committees—Abolition and Reform) Bill. In my earlier speech I spoke about our concern with issues around the retention of the Pastoral Board, the Health Performance Council, the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee and the South Australian Tourism Commission Board.

In the little time I have, I want to make a few comments in regard to why I am so concerned about the potential abolition of the Health Performance Council. We need only look at the issues around Transforming Health—not just the dialogue of what is proposed for essentially the city areas and suburbs, but my fear is about what is not proposed for the regions. Having no proposal is sometimes good, because then you find out that, for a change, there are no proposals to close down country and regional hospitals or health services. However, in the whole Transforming Health debate there are concerns. I read an article in today's *Murray Valley Standard*, the Murray Bridge local paper. There is a front-page story on, 'What is happening in Murray Bridge? Where is the \$3 million needed for the overhaul of the emergency department'—the access point and associated things. There are many concerns raised in the regions as to what is happening.

As I indicated in my earlier contribution, what happens in the city does impact country people, because at any one time up to 30 per cent of the people admitted to urban hospitals are from the bush. They need to know what is happening as far as access to emergency departments and which hospitals they need to get to. We believe there could be quite a bit of confusion in regard to where an ambulance has to go when it picks someone up, depending on the time of day, what emergency department is open or whether a stroke facility is open at that particular time, so we are certainly concerned.

At the other end of my electorate, at Goolwa, I have mentioned in this place before the concerns about triage not being available at Goolwa anymore, where people will be shifted by ambulance to Victor Harbor. This impacts directly on what will happen with Noarlunga and the Flinders

Medical Centre. As I said earlier in my contribution, we will unpack this extensively during committee to find out what the options are for some of these boards going and the potential, certainly for the boards we are concerned with, to stay on into the future, to make sure that the management of this great state goes on in a proper and ethical way and is not just left to ministers to handle.