

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY**  
**THURSDAY 04<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2016**  
**APPROPRIATION BILL 2016**

*Estimates Committees*

**Mr PEDERICK ( Hammond ) ( 10:55 ):** I advise the house that I am not the lead speaker in regard to the estimates reply. I will say in my lead-in comments that I did appreciate the work of both chairs of these committees, the members for Florey and Little Para, who sometimes had to put up with interjections and frustration, but I think they did the job good service considering what was going on. I guess the disappointing thing—

An honourable member interjecting:

**Mr PEDERICK:** It is not all praise, I am sorry—with estimates is the need for some ministers to give long opening statements and then to have what are commonly known as Dorothy Dixers or government questions, if you talk to government members, and it takes up valuable investigation time. I commend the ministers who just took pretty well all opposition questions; I commend them for having the guts to do that.

I want to start in regard to forestry and PIRSA estimates. This was an issue where the Minister for Agriculture thought he needed to give a 20-minute opening statement in the agriculture sector and a 10-minute opening statement in forestry, which only had a 30-minute time frame, and it does create angst. I note that during the discussion and in the opening statement the minister talked about South Australia's fruit fly free status. However, the government has failed to support my motion to establish Mypolonga as a fruit fly exclusion zone.

I think it is very important to either have Mypolonga as its own exclusion zone, which may be the better way procedurally and bureaucratically, or attach it to the Riverland. I know the amount of fruit grown south of Bowhill is certainly a lot less than is grown in the Riverland, but I think it is vital to make sure we protect our vital producers and our markets. The government should have another look at what they can do in the area south of Bowhill towards Murray Bridge.

What I am disappointed about in the agriculture estimates and in the budget is the \$1 million annual funding taken away from the Australian Centre for Plant Functional Genomics. I asked the minister whether he met with Mr David Mitchell, who is the chief executive officer of the Australian Centre for Plant Functional Genomics, and he advised me he had not, yet he decided that he would cut that \$1 million annually. This is at a time when agriculture is really showing its force as a function of the state and a very vital function of the economy.

I believe agriculture has always been the economic base, yet here we have the Centre for Plant Functional Genomics and breeding being denied money to do

their valuable work and I think that may come back to bite us. The minister made the point in estimates that we are doing work that helps the whole of Australia. So what? We used to do work in Libya and Middle Eastern countries, going over there with our government advisers and John Shearer equipment showing them how to farm. We were showing the world, but it seems we cannot be world leaders any more, let alone national leaders.

It is noted that \$100 million is coming out of the budget of Primary Industries this year and \$81 million of that, I believe, is the South Australian River Murray Sustainability Program Funding, and the rest comes out of other regional grants. It is disappointing that this money is not being replaced by other moneys that could be sought by the state government from the commonwealth for other projects that are vitally needed throughout this state to promote agriculture. Agriculture generates over \$20 billion annually into our state's coffers, and so it needs more support.

Certainly, the Clipsal 500 grandstand has raised some interest. I think what has happened is disgraceful. It appears that the government realised there were some issues with some of the contracting, and many companies have been left out of pocket by Victorian company Elite falling over and people not being paid. I have seen some interesting comments about this on some online media commentary feedback, and people saying, 'This will get it out to Tailem Bend.' Yes, there is hope to have a second Clipsal at Tailem Bend by late next year, but I would still like to see two events, one in Adelaide and one at Tailem Bend into the future.

This is a huge problem for the government. Apart from giving a long-term contract to a company that has almost immediately fallen over, we find many people well out of pocket by hundreds of thousands of dollars, which they will take years to recoup. You have to question what the government is going to do for these people. Clipsal is a great event and these stands are absolutely vital to the running of that event, yet we do not seem to have any idea about in which direction we are going.

In regard to New Zealand fur seals, I want to reflect on what minister Hunter said on 10 February 2016 when he was asked a question about the diet of seals and the effect that this has on the ecology, because they consume over 400 tonne a day. There are 100,000 fur seals living along the coast of South Australia and also in the Coorong and Lakes. The minister indicated from his answer that:

The best available evidence shows that the increase in seal numbers in the Coorong and Lower Lakes area has not resulted in any broadscale negative ecological impacts to the area ...most of the fur seals' diet in the ocean is made up of red bait and lantern fish, which are small bait fish that have no commercial fishery in South Australia.

In estimates when minister Bignell was asked whether this 400 tonne figure of fish being taken by New Zealand fur seals had been taken into account through the recreational fishing management plan, Professor Mehdi Doroudi provided a somewhat interesting answer which stated:

There is no specific study right now that has taken into account how many fish are taken by seals. As a general point, when SARDI does its stock assessment work and scientific work it is based on the availability and abundance of a species.

Minister Hunter was questioned about the impact seals are having on Ngarrindjeri totems and other native birdlife. I asked a question on the appropriate budget line which talks about animal welfare in Budget Paper 4, Volume 2, page 156, Sub-program 1.3:

I understand that sub-program 1.3 has been established to ensure the humane treatment of animals. Can the minister advise how this program is acknowledging and ensuring the humane treatment of the Ngarrindjeri's totems and other native bird life in the Coorong and Lakes, who are being pointlessly killed by the New Zealand fur seals?

The minister responded:

I just need to correct the questioner. The New Zealand fur seals he refers to are now called long-nosed fur seals—

It obviously was not convenient to call them New Zealand fur seals—

The New Zealand fur seals are long-nosed fur seals. They have been here for about 100,000 years, I am advised by our scientists. The Australian fur seals, on the other hand, seem to be an itinerant group of South African fur seals who have come in over the last 10,000 years. So, the long-nosed fur seals, or New Zealand fur seals, are the original seals, I am advised, going back that far.

Then I asked:

And what are you doing about the pointless death of Ngarrindjeri totems and other native bird life along the Coorong and Lakes by these fur seals? That was the question.

The next part of the response was:

My advice is that the agency has set up cameras and had volunteers monitor the pelican rookeries, for example, down in the Coorong. They have gone over 70 hours of filming time, checked it, and have seen absolutely no evidence of attacks on pelicans by long-nosed fur seals or any seals at all. So, we have gone to great lengths to monitor these colonies and to see if there are any interactions which need to be moderated, and my advice is there have been none that have been recorded on over 70 hours of monitoring from the CCTV recordings, or indeed seen by any of our staff, that I have been made aware of.

Then I asked:

So, aside from the colonies and right across the length of the barrages, the Coorong and the Lakes, DEWNR staff would have to be the only people who have not sighted any dead musk ducks, fairy terns or pelicans—not one.

The minister's response was:

My advice is this: yes, you may see corpses of animals around the place. They are not infrequent in nature, things do die, but there has been no evidence that we have been able to ascertain that they have been caused by anything other than feral animals—cats, dogs, foxes, for example. SARDI, apparently, has checked seal scats and has found absolutely no evidence in those seal scats of any seabirds or sea creatures in their diet

other than the fish that form a normal part of their diet. While you speculate, anecdotally, on seeing a corpse lying around, there is no evidence that I have available to me that the seals have been eating ducks or pelicans, and the scats checked through SARDI have confirmed that.

The minister continues:

Here you are speculating, on your great scientific background, about seals rampaging through these places killing all sorts of animals, and you are not even thinking that other species, like foxes, cats or feral dogs, could be taking any of these species and eating them and leaving corpses. You just have this one view that the seals are the things that are killing them, with no evidence whatsoever, Adrian. You have no evidence whatsoever, no scientific evidence at all, and you are maintaining this line of inquiry without even thinking that maybe something else is actually doing this. Maybe something else, like a fox; maybe something else, like a feral cat. Where is your scientific information about that? Whereas I can tell you that SARDI has told me that they have checked the scats of seals and there is no evidence of pelicans or ducks as part of their diet in those scats.

I responded:

Just like they do not find any evidence of little penguins which have been destroyed. Your department, from you down, has the Sergeant Schultz approach with regard to what impact these seals are having—

Then there was some comment about the points I was making, and I responded:

I don't care. If he can make a point, I am going to make a point. I have communities that see these effects—

Then I continued, stating:

This is the department that uses the Sergeant Schultz approach—

And if anyone does not know who Sergeant Schultz was, he was in *Hogan's Heroes*, a great program set in a World War II prison camp, and he knew nothing and saw nothing—

yet these communities and the Ngarrindjeri, whom I know the minister meets with, say these same things. Let him talk to the Ngarrindjeri and let him see when he gets round this approach whether they [DEWNR] just want to have their heads in the sand.

With regard to minister Bignell, I asked a similar question about the Ngarrindjeri totems and other bird life and his reply was:

We do not have responsibility to the pelicans ...W e just have the fish . W e do not do the pelicans.

I want to comment about a comment from a senior member of DEWNR's staff in one of the dot points sent out to DEWNR people and members of the working group. This is still the classic DEWNR response. It stated:

There is no evidence that seals are altering the ecological character of the Coorong and Lower Lakes. The suggestion that seals are a clear and present danger to the birds and fish populations have not been backed up by what we are seeing. Sustainable management of the fishery and long-term business survival of any business that

harvests natural resources is dependent on adapting business practices to environmental conditions. That is the focus of the current research—new crackers and new fishing gear.

I want to read a letter from Garry Hera-Singh. He is the Chair of the Southern Fisherman's Association, Lakes and Coorong Fishery. I quote:

Dear All

I support Tracy's [Tracy Hill] comments 100 per cent.

The difficulty with most people on the government payroll is understanding and appreciating NZ fur seal impacts in the lower lakes and Coorong region that the traditional owners said explicitly were never in the region in numbers like present. There is no evidence in their middens or dreamtime stories that go back 6,000 years. We (the fishing industry) see the devastation of NZ fur seal impacts DAILY. Whether the impacts are on native fauna or impacting on our fishing business, it is in OUR FACES EVERYDAY.

There is and has been a disturbing trend by DEWNR to continually 'down play' the impacts of [New Zealand] fur seals in the Coorong and Lakes over the last 12-18 months. Clearly this issue does not sit well in the current 'city centric' politics of the day!

The fishery (and community) is losing millions of dollars per annum because of the explosion in [New Zealand fur seal] numbers.

I would like to enlighten the author to some background information to their 'general info' dot points raised earlier.

This is reflecting on dot points from DEWNR. He continues:

Contra ry to your belief that there has NOT been a subsidy or waiver of LICENCE FEES for the lakes and Coorong fishers, there has been a specific NET FEE relief but not licence fee relief! E g . I am given almost an \$8 , 000 per annum net fee relief but I still have to find \$14,000 for licence fees in the 2016/17 [financial year]...you may argue a small price to pay for the privilege to supply consumers with a fresh and high quality seafood product that keeps a few locals in a job!

Secondly, there is an inference that the fishery has not done too badly with \$460,000 subsidy . I n the same period I estimate very conservatively the fishery has lost \$8 million in the last two years.

Briefly, lost value adding opportunities ie. filleted, smoked, cryovak and MAP seafood packs and an array of marinated products, loss of niche markets, and a loss of market share to increasing imports. Yep, this so called 'smart country' just keeps exporting rural/regional jobs. Further evidence of down playing the [New Zealand fur seal] impacts in the [Lakes and Coorong ] fishery is suggested by the windfall industry received from the Fisheries Research & Development Corporation (FRDC) of \$260,000 to look at seal deterrence an d other fishing methods. Let's get this issue clear, \$50K from DEWNR, \$50K from PIRSA and \$150K from FRDC = \$250K.

Just for your information, the Lakes and Coorong fishers have paid an annual levy into the FRDC research fund for more than 30 years. Last year the levy was just over \$15K.

Enough said about our contribution from 36 fishers and their families.

It appears that the various seal counts are perceived to be an accurate reflection of what is actually within the Lakes and Coorong.

I will repeat what one 'seal expert' (and employed by govt.) said to me on a number of occasions, he said, 'generally what you count is only about 20 per cent what is in the region.' The more I see, the more I think this is so true!

Next time you see a number, just think there was 80 per cent that was NOT counted.

Yours Truly

Garry Hera-Singh,

Chair,

Southern Fisherman's Association

Lakes and Coorong Fishery

That shows the level of angst, and they would have relayed these concerns to DEWNR. When you have a minister that says that not one native bird has been attacked by a New Zealand fur seal or a long-nosed fur seal, whatever he wants to call them, I think that is a disgraceful comment to make because it is absolutely not true. Something needs to be done. Communities at Goolwa and Meningie are being severely affected by these seals, and the government needs to stick with the facts and not keep creating a fantasy.

In the closing time I have, other things I am concerned about include foster carers and the fact that it is something like 130 children who have to be housed in motel rooms. I am not surprised because some of the things that have come to me from foster carers and previous foster carers about allegations about their treatment—and a lot of the time these turn out to be false allegations. The treatment that foster carers get from staff is absolutely disgraceful. I know some people who have served for decades in this role, and they wish now they had never stepped down that path.

Families SA is falling apart as a department. With FOI requests, we just keep getting excuses about why we do not get them. We cannot get them out of the DECD side of things. I note they are still running two streams. It is an absolute disgrace and it has to be fixed so that we can get some foster carers, if that is at all possible.

**Dr McFETRIDGE ( Morphett ) ( 11:15 ):** This year's estimates were slightly more bearable because we did not have to put up with staged questions from the government, and that was a bonus. The downside was that from some ministers, particularly the more inexperienced or out-of-their-depth ministers, we had long opening statements. Occasionally, we saw the backbenchers come in as human shields to try to deflect and divert away from the questions during our time for questions.

One budget line that is often used by members of the opposition to question the ministers is the net cost of services; that is an omnibus-type budget line. Certainly, in the ageing portfolio, it is the only reference to that whole portfolio, that whole Office for the Ageing. If you do a word search, it is one word in the financial summary, and then for the title of the Department for Health and Ageing there is no particular budget line about that.

I asked the minister about that and she said, 'Go and ask the Treasurer.' Well, I ask the Treasurer: next year can we have a budget line showing the budget and the FTEs for the Office for the Ageing? If you are going to have half an hour set aside for that very important area, let's have some specific spend so that we are not having to waste time in the committee asking questions about the FTEs and the budget line.

As it turns out, for the information of the house, the budget line for the Office for the Ageing is \$3.78 million and there are 18 FTEs in that particular department. As we know with South Australia's ageing population, there is a need to make sure that we are well and truly looking after the ageing South Australians so that they are getting a fair deal. The Office for the Ageing does a lot of good work, and I congratulate the people in that office on the work they do.

The opportunity to use estimates is vital. People have been disparaging about estimates for many years now in the time I have been in here, and this is the 14<sup>th</sup> estimates session I have been through in this place. I have seen ministers come and go, and that is not because of the length of time that this state has been subjected to a hard Labor government. It is because there is a paucity of talent. People have been making mistakes and have not been performing, so the chairs have been rotated, the deck chairs on the *Titanic* have been moved over and over again.

The current Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation is the fifth one I have served with—and I say 'with' because it is one of those areas where we try to be bipartisan. The current minister is one of the better performers. He did his apprenticeship under the late Hon. Terry Roberts who I think was one of the best ministers I have worked with in that area.

The Minister for Emergency Services is the fifth minister I have worked under. He might have been a union heavyweight, but I was quite amazed at what a lightweight, what a featherweight, he was in here. He was out of his depth, he was not able to give the answers that I would expect from somebody in that very important position, and I was really amazed.

I think the members for Lee and Port Adelaide should thank me for exposing him as not being the new Right hope. I do not think this guy will ever be the Premier of this state. I know that there are Labor insiders who tell me he has been put in the upper house to test him out, and he has been given portfolios which are testing and there are always lots of issues with them. I do not believe that this guy has the mettle, the ticker, the backbone or the gonads to do the job.

The examples I will use are the MFS WorkCover and pay rises. This minister has come from being a union heavyweight to a ministerial lightweight. He came in here, and I asked him about backing up the MFS employees on the fact that they consider being locked into a 1.5 per cent pay rise to be unfair, particularly when the UFU secretary, Greg Northcott, was quoted in the media saying that, because the government's wages, taxes and levies are going up so dramatically, for them to be locked into a 1.5 per cent wage increase was very unfair, and they were being treated as second-class citizens who are second-class to employees.

I have to agree with Greg Northcott. I agree with him wholeheartedly, particularly when you see the police getting a different deal with WorkCover and wages, and the ambos getting different deals. What would minister Malinauskas say to the shoppies out there if he had one workplace and two or three workplace agreements? I know we have it in here with our superannuation and some other things. For one workplace, we have that, which I think is unfair and should have been sorted out. I think it is very unfair on the new members, and attracting quality in here is going to be difficult. Who did minister Malinauskas replace? That's right, Bernie—Big Bernie. We remember Bernie, don't we? He was a shoppies aficionado as well.

Anyway, how would minister Malinauskas treat that proposition from Woolies or Coles that, 'We are going to have one workplace but three or four workplace agreements in there, and you are superior, and you are the B team'? That is what he is insinuating about the MFS, that they are the B team. Let him go and tell Greg Northcott, Max Adlam and the others down at the UFU that he is not going to stand up in here and lobby on their behalf, because that is what he told me and that is what he told the committee.

He said that he is going to leave that for the Minister for Industrial Relations. Not good enough, minister. You are the minister who has that responsibility. Part of your responsibility is to make sure that those emergency services under your jurisdiction run as efficiently as possible and that the workers whom you are representing as their minister, in the same way as you did when you were in the union, are getting a fair deal.

It is not a fair deal. I will be more than happy, and this is what the UFU or the MFS firefighters want, to march down from Wakefield Street to the steps of Parliament House to demonstrate how unfair this deal is. I will be happy to walk arm in arm with them because it is unfair to have one workplace and three or four workplace agreements. We know the ambos, the firefighters and the police are the people who stick their necks out. It is the same workplace out there. They are putting their lives at risk. I know my father would come home from the job bandaged, burnt and beaten up because of the work he was doing in the Metropolitan Fire Service. I know what it was like. It was very stressful.

You cannot undervalue their effort, and I will be making sure that every MFS firefighter knows what this minister said in this place. The fact is he did not stand up for them, he is not going to go in and lobby for them on their behalf, and he is not going to give them the same rights, privileges and workplace payments that the police and ambos are getting. He is not going to do that so, to me, that is not the sort of person who is going to come in here, stamp his mark and say to the government, 'This is what we should be doing. This is right, this is fair, and I have the potential to be a leader.'

He does not have that. I did not see one glimpse of that in our estimates committee. At the end of it, he then came out with these little, bitsy, gratuitous comments about what I was saying in tweets and on Facebook. If he has any evidence that I have been in any way derogatory or disparaging about CFS or SES volunteers, put it up there, minister, because it is not true. It is just not true. Do not come in here and cast disparaging comments like that and think you are going to get away with it because you will not.

Anybody in this place knows my background. They know my background in the MFS and CFS, and the passion and pride that I have in all of our emergency service workers. I will be talking about the SES a bit more in a minute because we owe those men and women in the SES big time, particularly for the work they have been doing during the last storms and floods, along with the CFS, SES, SAPOL and the Ambulance Service—they are all in there—but, certainly, the SES have been at the forefront.

I will leave minister Malinauskas to his own devices. He can make replies in the other place if he wants to. All I know is that minister Close and minister Mullighan have no fear. Those two are the new leaders. I hope I am not giving them the kiss of death. They are the two I see with intelligence and credibility on that side over there. I do not see any others—I am not being offensive—at the moment. Let's move on to some of the more specific areas in the estimates committees.

I have always had a very good relationship with minister Bettison. I am not so sure she is terribly happy with me at the moment, though. I was doing my job as a shadow minister and inquiring into not the first, not the second, not the third, not the fourth, not the fifth, not the sixth, not the seventh, but the eighth audit into the concession system. It was started under the current Premier, minister Weatherill, as he was then, for communities and families. The Concession and Seniors Information Service (CASIS) started at \$600,000 and blew out to \$7 million after going through minister Piccolo, and the current minister, minister Bettison, was handed this poo sandwich as it was just starting to really smell.

She had the courage in some ways to pull the pin on this, but the problem was that South Australian taxpayers were out of pocket by \$7 million—\$7 million. That was CASIS. The Concessions and Rebate Tracking System (CART)—don't you love all these acronyms?—was supposed to make sure that CASIS (the Concession and Seniors Information Service) was going to work. CASIS was going to replace CART. Now we have COLIN, the Cost of Living Concession Information, a new software that has come in. The only problem we have with COLIN is that COLIN is growing. He is not a little boy anymore, he is growing into a delinquent teenager. COLIN started out at \$2.2 million, and now we see that COLIN has had an extra \$1.4 million added on—a growth spurt, a real growth spurt.

What we are seeing now is CASIS mark 2. We have to make sure that we keep an eye on this because I do not want South Australians to be subject to another CASIS mark 2. The need to make sure that the people who need concessions and deserve concessions in South Australia are getting those concessions is vital, not to have, as it was in the Auditor-General's Report, 4,350 dead people being paid concessions. Sure, the minister said in her responses to the estimates committee that some of these were able to be qualified, in that these were payments being made back to DCSI. Some of them were where the primary cardholder was not deceased but the concession holder had died, so there were some excuses there. Ninety-eight payments were made within the 13-week grace period, but that still left 852 payments being made to dead people.

To compound that, though, we also then had a number of other examples put out by the Auditor-General of where DCSI had no record whatsoever of the client. How can you pay money to somebody if you do not know who they are? Where did that money go? I did not get an answer in estimates. I think that was a bit over \$1.5 million. I think it might even be a bit more than that, that was going to who knows what, to who knows where.

In disabilities, the unmet need was interesting. We have put a lot of money into disabilities with the NDIS coming in. It is a very exciting time, but what did we see? The unmet need really has not reduced at all, so we have a lot more work to do in that area. Disabilities is another area where I am more than happy to work in a bipartisan way and to give the federal government a touch-up if we need to on behalf of South Australians. I stood on the stage at Novita with the Premier and said that if you cannot be bipartisan about disabilities, what can you be bipartisan about? It is an area where I will certainly be more than happy to work with minister Vlahos.

I was interested to hear, though, that there are a lot of people—we do not know how many—who should be in the disabilities care sector, out of hospitals, who are in our public hospital taking up beds. After 25 days, they are charged for those beds. They charge a rent for those beds. It comes out of their disability support pension. That was information given by one of the health department bureaucrats. It is in the *Hansard*.

What percentage of their DSP is paid? I think it is 85 per cent of their DSP is charged in bed rent. I understand that mental health patients at James Nash are also charged a bed rent, 85 per cent of their pensions. The minister was not able to verify that. She was going to come back to the house. Lots of questions were taken on notice. The other thing I did notice this year was that lots of questions were taken on notice. To me, these are examples of ministers who are not across the board, not on top of their portfolios as well as they should be.

Another quick thing that I will mention in mental health is that there were some questions about restraint practices of juveniles. The minister was not able to answer that. Dr Groves, the Chief Psychiatrist, said that there should be reports coming back to the government on that, but he did not know how many young people had been subject to restrictive practices. I notice in the 30-page guidelines on restraint and seclusion in the Department for Health's files, mandatory requirement 14: 'All incidents of restraint or seclusion of mental health consumers are recorded on an auditable database and reported to the Chief Psychiatrist.' So I am surprised that we did not have a figure on the numbers of young people being restrained.

Aboriginal affairs and reconciliation is another area where I try to be bipartisan. It is an area where we see extraordinary amounts of money being spent in South Australia on our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. The amount of \$1.9 billion is spent. It works out at a bit over \$60,000 per man, woman and child. We do not see as much progress as we would like. It is a very difficult area, but when it comes to the Close the Gap reports, that says it all, particularly if you add in the areas that Close the Gap does not cover, and that is involvement in the justice system and the corrections system. Those are huge areas to respond to.

I will spend the last few minutes I have on emergency services. I thank the MFS, CFS and SES volunteers and paid staff for all they do. They have a huge responsibility. People do not care whether it is a red truck or a white truck, or a person wearing an orange, yellow or other coloured uniform: they just want help when they need it. What I am so frustrated about are the responses to major incidents, and in some cases just other straightforward incidents, by the emergency services, particularly the SES and CFS.

I want to know when a priority 1, which is normally lights and sirens, is a priority 1 and when a priority 2 is not a priority 2. As an example, the other day a tree was down near Macclesfield. The CFS responded priority 1, but the SES responded priority 2 to the same job. What I am seeing so many times is the SES responding as a priority 2 to a tree down across an 80 km/h road. In my opinion and from my experience of having been out to a number of these incidents with the CFS, it should be a priority 1 job.

There is a potential for a car crash or an incident. They are being given priority 2, which then allows them to stack up 27 jobs. There is delay after delay in some of these attendances at jobs. The other day, Strathalbyn SES went past Strathalbyn CFS, Macclesfield CFS, Meadows CFS and Kangarilla CFS to cut up a little tree, a six-inch or 150-millimetre diameter tree, on Cut Hill Road at Kangarilla. It is a dangerous road, so it should have been dealt with straightaway as a priority 1.

I know that road well because we lived there. My veterinary practice was there. It is an 80 km/h road down a very steep hill. Kangarilla CFS is a matter of two minutes away, but the Strathalbyn SES, those overworked and undervalued SES volunteers—undervalued by this government, certainly not by the opposition and the South Australian public—were forced to get out of their beds, leave their families, leave their workplaces and attend to this job. It is completely unnecessary, and to be quite blunt, I do not think the SES management gets it. They seem to be in a state of denial over the fact that this is not about them, this is not about their jobs, this is not about protecting their patch and stacking up the numbers so they can have *The Advertiser* say the SES attended 2,000 jobs.

Credit where credit is due, but let's give these SES volunteers, these hardworking volunteers, some appreciation. Let them stay with their families, let them stay at work, let them stay in their beds when they do not have to get out of bed. There are so many examples. If the SES senior management, including the chief officer, do not do something about it, I will be saying a lot more and having public meetings because you cannot keep treating not only volunteers but also the people of South Australia like this.

They want the service when they want it. They do not want to have to wait an hour with a TV crew waiting for the first emergency services to wake up, and I can give a number of examples of that. I have spoken to the people. It is a ridiculous situation. I will not tolerate it, I do not expect volunteers to tolerate it and I certainly do not expect the public of South Australia to tolerate it.