

Appropriation Bill response – 14 October 2010

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (17:54): In the brief time I have left, I wish to make a few remarks about the lack of spending on agriculture in this state. I just want to repeat from the *Hansard* the closing comments of the opening statement of the so-called expert minister in his own right, minister O'Brien:

I conclude my opening statement by reiterating that the government recognises the contribution that our primary industries make to the state's economy and wellbeing and that PIRSA's role in supporting this sector remains vital.

Yet, this Labor government has just delivered a budget that tears the heart out of regional South Australia, tears the heart out of primary industries funding and seeks full cost recovery across all sectors whether it be farming, fishing or aquaculture. Now we see biosecurity measures where there will be people who have horses whether for pleasure or other matters, or people who run a few alpacas—

Members interjecting:

Mr PEDERICK: I haven't got time to respond to interjections.

Mr Piccolo interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, the member for Light! It is time to go home.

Mr PEDERICK: I think we had better go for another hour. People who have small numbers of animals, whether they are just sheep for lawnmowers, will be hit for extra fees, property identification code fees, biosecurity fees. The government says it has consulted but it has not consulted publicly; it has only consulted with a few people, the representatives of different bodies.

We have also seen where another 180 jobs will go from primary industries, including 40 from the regions. With the multiplier effect, that will be at least 200 jobs in regional areas. Service is being scaled back for primary industries where we see the Keith office closure, and I had to eke it out of the minister during estimates when it had already come quietly to me that the Keith office was closing. What future for Jamestown, Nuriootpa and other offices?

I also look at the advisory board and it is interesting to note that the minister has not turned up to the last two agriculture advisory board awards nights. One was last night and the member for Schubert commented on it. I do not think there is a future for this board. I think the government will roll up its new frameless and nameless, whatever they are going to replace the food council with, and the minister does not even know what that will be because it is frameless and nameless and he basically admitted that during estimates.

I also acknowledge that the forward sales of forestry in my mind will be a straight swap for the Adelaide Oval botch-up, which it is, because that is where the money will go. It will just go straight into that and decimate 30 per cent of the regional economy that is reliant on forestry in the lower South-East.

Just in closing I note a couple of other things. The small schools are getting an impost of \$12 million taken off them. That will really hurt us in the regions and the fuel rebate cut of \$50 million will devastate us in the regions.

My very final comment relates to the Parks decision by this government. It was an absolutely shameless decision. They were forced to do a backflip with a triple pike. I would just like to say that my lovely wife is a product of the Parks. She did not finish her matriculation at Woodville; she went to the Parks and did a TAFE course and that helped her to become the environmental scientist she now is. These people just do not talk the people; they do not talk to anyone and they think they can get away with it in their own electorates and they have just found out that they cannot.