

BAROSSA WINE TRAIN – 30 October 2008

Mr VENNING (Schubert) (11:30): I move:

That this house support the introduction of a trial tourist train operating between Adelaide and Angaston and further support the operator of the Barossa Wine Train in re-establishing the train service to cater for the increased tourism in these areas.

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (11:57): I rise to support the member for Schubert's motion. I think it just smacks of the government's utter disregard for the regions. I mean, you would think the Barossa Valley, somewhat like my electorate—

The Hon. M.J. Atkinson: We hold the federal seat.

Mr PEDERICK: —with the town of Murray Bridge, were at Birdsville, or somewhere, the way this government acts. All the funding that this government provides is dovetailed directly to votes. The odd Labor voter in the regions does not even get a crack. This government was not even going to select a candidate in the seat of Mayo at the federal election, if you want to talk about federal politics.

Mrs GERAGHTY: Mr Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I do not think the member opposite has started debating the motion at hand at this stage. I hope he comes to it very shortly.

The SPEAKER: It has been a wide ranging debate covering a number of issues. I will listen to what the member for Hammond says, and if I think he is straying from the topic of the debate, I will pull him up.

Mr PEDERICK: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I will refer to railroads and the fact that so many backbenchers over there have been railroaded in their ambitions to come forward. What I would like to say, getting back to the Barossa wine train, is that I think it is disgraceful how this government just ignores—

The Hon. M.J. Atkinson: You are such a talent. You make Peter Lewis look balanced.

The SPEAKER: Order! That is a reflection.

Mr PEDERICK: It's all right, let him carry on, I don't take any notice of him, Mr Speaker. I would like to say that it is an absolute disgrace the way this government treats the regions. If it is above Gepps Cross or below Glen Osmond, they do not even know it exists because only one government member lives in the regions, the member for Giles, and it would be too far for the Attorney-General to cycle his bike. I do support the member for Schubert in his many endeavours in that seat. Apart from trains, it is hospitals, ferries. I support his enthusiasm. I can understand why the Labor government does not wish to put any money into his area. He has made it such a safe seat, and I commend the member.