

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: NEW MURRAY BRIDGE POLICE STATION

28 September 2011

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (11:44): I rise to support the work that the Public Works Committee has done in regards to the new Murray Bridge Police Station, and it cannot come before time. It certainly came to the fore in the debate following the announcement of the proposed Mobilong Prison in September 2006, that was announced on the front page of *The Advertiser*, as I indicated in a speech yesterday.

Murray Bridge has been in need of a new police facility for some years and, with the proposal to have the new high security prison built at Mobilong, it certainly came to the fore that it was absolutely essential that upgraded facilities be placed in Murray Bridge. It will be on an excellent site with good access off Swanport Road, one of our main thoroughfares through Murray Bridge.

I note from the site plans that there is room to build a new courthouse, and I hope that that happens sooner rather than later, because I can see some logistical problems with the issues of prisoners or people who need to be between the police station and the courthouse, which is on Bridge Street, next to the current police station. So, the sooner we have everything in one place, the better. This will become the headquarters for the local service area for the Riverland and Mallee and it will be a great boom for Murray Bridge. In fact, it would be better if we did not have crime; we would not have to build these great stations to combat crime. However, the reality is that we do have crime throughout the state and, sadly—

Mr Goldsworthy: Throughout the world.

Mr PEDERICK: —throughout the world, as the member for Kavel indicates. We have to make sure that we have the appropriate facilities, the appropriate staff and the appropriate number of police officers in place to combat crime. I note the \$12.62 million of expenditure and the forecast for 2025, that the building would be able to accommodate up to 102 staff. I also note that the population forecast for Murray Bridge will bring the population up to 35,000 by 2030. That is quite an upgrade from the 22,000-odd people who are there currently.

There are some exciting developments happening around Murray Bridge. We have the Gifford Hill development, with the proposed 3,500 houses, in conjunction with a new race track next to the freeway. Essentially, that is 40 per cent of what is currently at Murray Bridge being built there over time, so we will need centres like this to support the growing town.

As I indicated, the site does allow for future collocation with the courthouse. I repeat to the parliament: the sooner this happens, the better. I hope the government has a good look at this to make sure that we can get all the facilities needed to combat crime and ensure that justice prevails.

The station is designed to accommodate an expanded patrol base and specialist areas, such as, a criminal investigation branch, a crime scene investigation branch and criminal justice services, and it will have a compliant cell complex. I note that the member for Taylor has outlined some of these issues. The project is due for completion in October 2012 and should be up and running soon after that, so, well done. There is some good news for Murray Bridge and surrounding areas with regard to making sure that we can combat crime in a far better way.

I urge the government to have a close look at what can be done about relocating the court facilities in Murray Bridge as soon as possible, because that will obviously assist the process. I was pleased to be given the opportunity to present to the Public Works Committee.