

SHARED SERVICES INITIATIVES – 22 November 2007

Mr VENNING (Schubert) (11:45): I move:

That this house—

(a) condemns the Rann government for the potential loss of jobs in regional South Australia through its shared services initiatives;

(b) recognises that regional South Australia is already under great stress because of drought and irrigation restrictions; and

(c) calls on the Minister for Regional Development, who is a country member representing the Riverland and leader of the National Party in South Australia, to abolish the initiative and replace it with job creation initiatives for regional South Australia.

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (12:23): This state Labor government obviously does not take the views of its regional members into consideration when they make any decisions throughout this state.

It has been proved with the lack of water security management and proved in relation to what they are doing as far as looking after people in regional communities is concerned, when we are in the grips of the worst drought we have seen in history.

They are quite happy to see families split up when they are having terrible times in the Riverland. There might be a wife or a husband or a partner working in a government office supporting the vineyard, supporting the orchard, or whatever, and the next thing they will lose their job and take the double whammy.

I will be very interested if the Minister for Regional Development decides to—

The Hon. K.A. Maywald interjecting:

Mr PEDERICK: The Minister for Regional Development likes to interject a lot; I would like her to get up and give her views on how she wants to cut the guts out of the seat of Chaffey. She does not look after her constituents, and that has been proven.

But it is obvious that the Premier has deemed the country members irrelevant in his party, because the Labor Party obviously does not know that the boundaries of South Australia exist beyond Glen Osmond and Gepps Cross. It is obviously an accountant that has worked this out. It will split up the families and we will take up to \$164 million out of the regional economy.

The Minister for Primary Industries is making a lot of comments about Public Service jobs. I would like to reiterate on the record the 12,000 Public Service jobs that this government has put on since 2002, and 10,000 of these jobs were totally unbudgeted. So, they are quite happy—

The Hon. K.A. Maywald interjecting:

Mr PEDERICK: If the Minister for Regional Development wants to make a contribution, I challenge her to make a proper contribution after I have made mine.

The Hon. R.J. McEwen interjecting:

Mr PEDERICK: The Primary Industries Minister appears not to realise that he has finished his official contribution, as he seems to keep going.

What does this unbudgeted 10,000 public servants cost the state a year? Is it \$500 million, \$600 million, \$650 million? It is totally outrageous! They probably do not even know what they are doing.

As far as jobs in regional communities are concerned, people feel bullied; they are frightened to speak out, but they are coming to MPs on this side.

I want to make a couple of points in my contribution on this. Where are the redundancies to be offered to these people who will leave their jobs? They will not move to Adelaide; they want to stay in their local area. People in Murray Bridge with partners want to stay and work locally. This is the Labor Party which supposedly champions workers' rights.

The members will get up and carry on, as we have seen in this federal campaign. They have campaigned about WorkChoices; they have just gone to town. If they get back in—we have seen our ads—'They'll be back'—those union thugs. Where are the union thugs looking after workers now? I challenge members on the other side. Where are they? Why aren't the unions looking after these people? Because they just do not care. No redundancies will be offered to any of these people—none, zip. If there is, I would like to hear about it. Let us see if someone can pull that up.

I think regional members of cabinet on the other side should be utterly ashamed of what this government is putting onto regional communities in South Australia.