

The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT: The member for Newland now says there is a meeting: a moment ago she said there wasn't a meeting. So, that is my understanding and, as I said previously, the discussions and the negotiations that have been taking place have been in respect to the general public that have previously had access to the gymnasium and as to how and when SASI can return to the gymnasium being used for its core responsibilities. Those discussions are ongoing, but it is no secret that SASI wants and needs the gymnasium to be used for its core responsibilities.

ROCKY RIVER

The Hon. I.F. EVANS (Davenport): Why did the Minister for Environment and Conservation tell the house that he was unaware of the views of the Kangaroo Island Council and Tourism Kangaroo Island about the concept plan for the Rocky River precinct when memos addressed to the minister and received by the minister's office prior to his giving the answer to the house say, 'Considerable consultation has occurred throughout the concept planning process. The plan has widespread support including that of Kangaroo Island Council and Tourism Kangaroo Island'? On 7 August, I asked the minister:

Did the concept plan for the Rocky River precinct have the support of the Kangaroo Island Council, Tourism Kangaroo Island and the Kangaroo Island Consultative Committee?

In his answer the minister said:

I'm not aware of the particular views of the bodies that you refer to.

Briefing notes, including one entitled 'Rocky River development: removal of residents', dated 12 April and received by the minister's office on 17 April, some four months before he gave that answer to the house, say:

Considerable consultation has occurred throughout the concept planning process. The plan has widespread support, including that of the Kangaroo Island Council, Tourism Kangaroo Island, commercial tour operators and many members of the Kangaroo Island Consultative Committee.

The Hon. J.D. HILL (Minister for Environment and Conservation): I will have a look at that matter very closely, check out the statements he has made and get a report back to the house.

GRIEVANCE DEBATE

CHILD ABUSE

Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett): In May last year, just shortly after this government came to power, it released a report on child protection, 'The child protection review discussion paper', which was followed up by a report by Robyn Layton QC. In the front of the discussion paper, there is a list of agencies available to protect children of our state. In the introduction to this discussion paper (page 5) it says in regard to the overall aim:

Society is often measured by how well it provides for, and supports, its most vulnerable citizens. Infants, children and young people need families, communities and environments to nurture, protect and enhance their wellbeing. Protection of children requires governments, communities and organisations to work together.

The discussion paper then goes on to list the key agencies in the Department of Human Services, including agencies such as FAYS, the Child Protection Service, Child Adolescent and Mental Health Service, community health centres, child and youth health, DHS grants programs, the sexual offenders treatment assessment program and Yarrow Place. The Justice Department has South Australia Police, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Crown Solicitor's Office, the Youth Court, the office of the Ombudsman and the Department of Correctional Services. The education sector has the Department of Education, Training and Employment, Special Investigations Unit, Children's Services (Licensing and Standards) and DETE. Non-government education bodies include the Association of Independent Schools of South Australia and South Australian Commission for Catholic Schools. Non-government community services organisations include the victim support service.

* There is a plethora of agencies there that should be protecting the young people of this state. However, the children of this state are being allowed to suffer. This government came into power with a huge agenda, one of which was touted was that of protecting the more vulnerable members of our society.

* I issued a press release on 12 September, entitled 'Suffer the little children'. I said that I would be calling on the Premier to show genuine concern for child victims of sexual abuse. In the house that day, I asked the Premier whether he would be requesting the Catholic Archbishop of Adelaide to present the results of the inquiry into sexual abuse of children at St Ann's Special School. I have asked that same question of the Premier again, and I am getting less than direct answers. The Premier is heading in the right direction but he has not said that he will ensure that the report is tabled.

On the Channel 7 *Today Tonight* program last Monday night, parents and counsellors of the victims of this paedophile, Brian Perkins, were interviewed. Some startling revelations were made there about government cover-ups, shredding of government documents and less than satisfactory investigation by the Catholic Church. In today's *Advertiser*, there was another report alleging that Perkins was not acting by himself.

Over the last 12 months, I have had a number of parents of individuals affected by Mr Perkins and his disgusting behaviour seeking my assistance. I am asking of this government what the deputy leader has been calling for, that is, a full and frank inquiry—nothing less than a royal commission—into the sexual abuse of children in this state. The parents of those children are calling for full and frank disclosures. They want somebody to take responsibility. They need somebody to show leadership. Whether it is an individual, an organisation or the government, somebody needs to show the lead here and we are not seeing it from this government.

I have written to the then minister for police, the Hon. Pat Conlon, a number of times on this matter. I received some replies. I have in my possession a number of very distressing letters from parents of these children. It is unbelievable when you see the horror these parents have had to endure, never mind the horror with which their children are having to live. The parents are trying their very best, when the Catholic Church will not be as open and frank as it might be. I believe a report is being finalised this month. This matter has been investigated over the last 14 or 15 months. We want the results tabled in this place. We want a full, open and frank discussion of that report.

We need to be able to point the finger at the people responsible for the despicable acts of paedophilia and sexual abuse of our vulnerable members of society. We cannot allow this to go on. I do not care who they are, whether they are of the highest judicial field such as Liddy, or any others: they have to be investigated, and this house has to do it as soon as possible.

Time expired.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AWARDS

Ms THOMPSON (Reynell): I rise today to congratulate the City of Onkaparinga on its selection as the category winner in the Youth Engagement Category of the 2003 National Awards for Local Government. I know that the Minister for the Southern Suburbs, who is also the member for Kaurna, joins me in congratulating the City of Onkaparinga for yet another national award showing its innovation and excellence in services. The award was for the entry called 'Creating Places,' which, as the letter from the federal minister congratulating the city indicated, is a particular achievement, as the standard of entries was very high this year, with 355 entries being considered. So, that is indeed an achievement. The City of Onkaparinga is now a finalist for a national award which will be announced in November. The minister and I wish to place on record our good wishes to the council in the judging in November and our confidence that its excellent work will be recognised.

The Creating Places scheme fits in very nicely with the council's forward plan, which indicates the need to develop a sense of the place in the south. This is their recreation and open space strategy, which has the objectives of promoting community, physical and mental health and wellbeing, maximising tourism opportunities and the potential of the recreation and open space industry, and the creation of jobs. It seeks to protect habitats and biodiversity, preserve open space and promote environmental education and awareness.

In terms of open space, it wants to provide a range of opportunities through the management of an integrated open space system. It has access objectives of providing a range of quality opportunities relevant and accessible to the needs of the community. Finally, it seeks to manage and maintain open space and recreation facilities effectively and equitably.

The projects that came under the Creating Places scheme were very exciting, and I am quite familiar with a number of them, which I will mention in a minute. The most important thing about the Creating Places program is that it moves away from the council determining what the community might want in terms of its facilities, whether that is creation of new facilities, management of ongoing facilities or repair of existing facilities, and it moves to a scheme of involving the community not only in the decisions about their community facilities but also in the planning and construction of the new facilities; so, it really meets the needs of the community.

This project has sought particularly to involve the young people of the south and it has involved them in planning skills, communication, consultation and enterprise skills as, in some cases, they seek to obtain the funding for the projects that they have identified as being necessary. Projects in my near area include the Christie Downs mosaic project at the Christie Downs Community Centre, where high school students and community members came together to learn the art of mosaic creation, laid the pathway, celebrated its opening and now guard that pathway with great vigilance. It

is astounding to see the range of mosaic tiles that were created in that project.

There have been several projects involving the Hackham West Primary School—a streetscape, a pathway and a playground partnership with council. There is also the upgrade of the Seeger Cooder Reserve, which involves an amorphous group of Morphett Vale Community Youth, who were regarded by the Housing Trust, Mission Australia and various council departments as being at risk of engaging in quite considerable unsociable behaviour. That project has brought together not only the young people in the area to determine how they would like to create their own play and recreation facilities but also the parents. Now, some parents and community members no longer see the kids down the road just as pests and problems but as children with energy, with problems, but with a desire to be part of the community. Their desire is evidence of the way in which they have got involved in building their community. It is an excellent project.

Time expired.

BUSHFIRES

Mr GOLDSWORTHY (Kavel): I would like to continue my comments from yesterday's grievance debate. I did not have enough time to make all the points I wanted to because of interjections from both sides of the house, particularly from government members. Nevertheless, I will continue my remarks on bushfire hazard reduction and make some general comments on that issue. Yesterday I spoke about the initiatives that the government has put in place to cold burn only a small percentage of our national parks and reserves. I calculated that to be one-third of 1 per cent. However, as I said, I was encouraged by the manner in which the fire authorities are going to implement those cold burns. They will use strip mosaic burning, which burns several kilometres in length by about 100 metres or so in width, creating some firebreaks in the Hills.

I believe that the government has been slow and lacking in its approach to this matter, because it could have picked up from where the previous Liberal government left off. As we know, it is 20 years this year since Ash Wednesday and I am really concerned—worried—as I stated yesterday, that many people who have moved into the Hills since Ash Wednesday are unaware of the bushfire risk they face. Many South Australians experienced the devastation of that day 20 years ago, and I know that some members in this place suffered considerable loss in that fire. I also know that the families of one or two members experienced tragedy in that fire. I will not go into that issue in any depth because they regard it as a personal matter.

Property owners in the Adelaide Hills need to carry out proper bushfire safety and fuel reduction work on their properties. We have had a long, wet winter and the fuel loads in the Hills are at an extremely high level. I know that this state faces a potential risk every year, but I truly believe, having lived in the Hills all my life, that we are really facing an extreme risk. Talking to fire prevention officers and Forestry SA staff, I know that it is a fact that cold burns are best performed in the autumn. I only hope and pray that we get through this summer without a catastrophe occurring so that the government can look to implement an increased fuel reduction and cold burning program in the autumn months next year.