

EUROPEAN WASPS

Mr GOLDSWORTHY (Kavel): Will the Minister for Local Government explain to the house why this government has made the decision to cease funding the European wasp eradication program via the European Wasp Equalisation Fund? This program has been very successful in seeing hundreds of wasp nests eradicated. However, at a time when reports of European wasp activity are increasing, the funding halt for the equalisation fund will exacerbate the problem for councils in whose councils nests occur.

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. R.J. McEWEN (Minister for Local Government): I will not be intimidated by people on the other side of the house. I have been dealing with this issue over the weekend, because the shadow minister has somehow had an incredible lapse in terms of realising that in 1998 he was the one who said that an eradication program for the European wasp was no longer possible and that there should be a change in the emphasis. Furthermore, he then took money for this program out of the forward estimates. What happened then was that, to allow further studies to go ahead, the program was funded for another three years. It was assumed, of course, that we would not achieve the objective, because the then minister had already said that it would not work. Sure enough, the outcome of the study was inconclusive. There is no point in spending money simply removing wasp nests: we need a strategy around the fact that wasps will be with us for ever and that we are not going to eradicate them. We need a strategy around educating people to come to grips with the fact that, like it or not, these wasps are now part of this landscape. If you are going to use scarce public resources, you need it in terms of focusing on an education program around accepting that these wasps are now part of the environment.

CHILD ABUSE

Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett): My question is to the Premier. Has the Premier received a copy of the Catholic Church's inquiry into child abuse? If not, does he have any indication as to when the report will be available to be tabled in this place? On 13 October 2003 the Premier advised me in answer to a question that he had both written to and spoken with the archbishop offering to table the report in this parliament. I have been informed by parents involved in this inquiry that the report is now finished.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The Premier is not responsible for any church or all churches, but if he cares to respond it is up to him.

The Hon. M.D. RANN (Premier): I did have a conversation with the archbishop and also I wrote to him, from memory, on 13 October. I have not been advised that inquiries by either the Anglican Church or the Catholic Church have been completed. Again, the offer remains open in terms of tabling the reports in this parliament. Certainly I will inquire whether it is true that the report has been completed. Obviously, that is in the hands of the Catholic Church. I suggest that the honourable member contact Archbishop Phillip Wilson directly in order to ascertain the veracity of the information he has been given.

DISTINGUISHED VISITOR

The Hon. M.D. RANN (Premier): In the house today we have a distinguished visitor in the Minister for the Arts,

Minister for Auckland, and minister for many other things, the Hon. Judith Tizzard, MP for Auckland Central in New Zealand. She is most welcome here. She is an old colleague of mine from many years ago.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I was going to acknowledge the visiting minister, whom we welcome to Adelaide. I also acknowledge—he has now left the gallery—the federal senator, Rod Kemp, Minister for the Arts. He was here earlier on.

HECTORVILLE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg): My question is to the Minister for Education and Children's Services. Has the government sold the former Hectorville Primary School site which has been closed for three years and which is occupied by squatters who are causing distress to the neighbourhood; if not, what action will be taken to secure the property pending its sale?

Members interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! As far as I am aware there is only one Minister for Education and Children's Services.

The Hon. P.L. WHITE (Minister for Education and Children's Services): My understanding is that the property is no longer in Education Department hands. I understand that it is in the hands of the Housing Trust.

SOUTH ROAD

Mr BROKENSHIRE (Mawson): My question is to the Minister for Transport. Following the response I have had following three letters to the Minister for Transport, from memory, requesting an upgrade of the very busy road out of the Victor Harbor-McLaren Vale area—

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: I rise on a point of order, sir. That is not a question but, rather, an explanation. Leave of the house should be sought if the member for Mawson wants to make an explanation.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member for Mawson will phrase it as a question.

Mr BROKENSHIRE: Thank you, sir. Will the minister join with me and constituents of my electorate at 7.15 on a weekday morning to see how busy the traffic congestion is at the entrance to the Sellicks South Road from the Old Noarlunga-Victor Harbor Road, and then take immediate action in the budget to address the problem?

The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT (Minister for Transport): No, I will not.

GRIEVANCE DEBATE

HICKMAN, Mr W.D.

The Hon. DEAN BROWN (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): I raise an important issue about inaccuracies of some credit checks by companies on individuals and the subsequent lack of concern by companies and the state government in correcting this serious error. A constituent, Wayne D. Hickman of Kangaroo Island, approached the ANZ Bank about a loan to buy sheep for his property. Everything seemed to be progressing well until the ANZ Bank told