

## APPROPRIATION BILL

Mr GRIFFITHS (Goyder) (19:30): I wish to use my opportunity tonight to talk about issues that occur in my electorate as they relate to the budget. Certainly, I will put on the record in the first instance my appreciation that a commitment of \$7.1 million has been given over the forward estimates for the Kadina Memorial High School; \$5.9 million of that is in the last financial year of the forward estimates, but it is very pleasing to see that some very necessary work has been done at that school. I have been there a few times, and it is obvious that a little more work needs to be undertaken, but it is fantastic to have \$7.1 million committed to it.

In fact, there are 27 schools within the Goyder electorate, 22 being public schools and five private schools. All of them have needs to some degree, and it is pleasing to see that all of them have received quite substantial amounts of money from the federal government through the Building the Education Revolution fund. It is interesting, though, because I was at a local football game on Saturday and a few people commented to me that there was a level of concern about the fact that those funds were being used to build facilities that might not necessarily be appropriate in the longer term. They quoted to me an example of a three-quarter size gymnasium that is not big enough on which to play netball or basketball.

It would be ideal to use as a community facility but the fact that it is too small means that that is prevented. Let us hope that some negotiation will occur to ensure that there is an opportunity to make better use of those very important funds to which taxpayers around the nation will be contributing for many years. Again, I put on record my appreciation for the Treasurer's and the Minister for Education's support for the Kadina Memorial High School, and I hope that other grants flow through to other worthwhile projects within the Goyder electorate.

The road network, though, is something that I want to talk about for some time, because, being a regional member of parliament I have no or a very limited public transport option. The necessity for people in my electorate by virtue of where they live is to be on the roads. Much of the road length is a Transport SA controlled facility, and I think it is fair to say that much of the road length is the topic of a lot of the concern—very much in the negative sense—that I have within my electorate office. People are quite concerned about it. Some areas were done up, and I do acknowledge that, about five years ago, when the Hon. Michael Wright was the minister responsible for that area, some funds were expended to improve the road from Ardrossan going towards Federation Park, towards Port Wakefield.

Some shoulder widening was put in and a passing lane, which has improved that enormously, but hundreds of kilometres within the Goyder electorate certainly do need an investment to take place. I want to concentrate on three roads in particular. One road is going from Kulpara through to Kadina, Wallaroo and Moonta. It is a very high traffic area. It is a community that is expanding enormously. Moonta, Moonta Bay and Port Hughes currently has a population of about 4,000, projected across the next 15 years, or so, to grow to 16,000 people. The area is becoming increasingly popular with a far greater number of transport actions on that road network; and, sadly, sections of it are quite dangerous.

Some speed restrictions are in place, but there are areas of the road where I can see very little work has been undertaken. Terrible and quite shocking instances, I am told, have occurred. It has been reported to me third-hand that, when they are going towards each other, trucks are coming across very poor sections of the road, causing them to shimmy across the road, and the trailers of these trucks are touching each other as they pass. That is an accident waiting to happen. We have a vast number of people who travel that road with caravans and boats, and all these people are quite fearful of the condition of the road.

They do slow down but it is a 100 km/h road, and I think it is in urgent need of funds being spent there. I know that the District Council of the Copper Coast has been quite diligent in its contact with the Minister for Transport (Hon. Mr Conlon), trying to get recognition for a significant upgrade in the road network to occur there. I offer my full support for that, especially in terms of the ferry that travels between Wallaroo and Lucky Bay, which is further increasing the road network needs. Let us hope we get some money in the future.

In terms of central Yorke Peninsula, the road that comes from Kulpara, goes through Maitland, Minlaton and down to Yorketown, Edithburgh and Warooka has some very poor sections where the shoulders are quite pronounced. It is quite a skinny road network, too, so there is a lot of trouble when heavy vehicles travel towards each other. You do find instances where it is necessary for one truck to get one side of its wheels off the road to give each other plenty of passing room. I know that the travelling public is concerned about it.

The locals understand the condition of it and travel accordingly, but for the visitors that we have—and we have hundreds of thousands of visitors to the Yorke Peninsula each year—it is a great concern. That is a very long area of road network that really does need a significant upgrade. One road within the Wakefield or Adelaide Plains area is the road that goes from Balaklava across to Hamley Bridge. They are great little communities with wonderful people. They are farming communities that have been very supportive and that have done wonderful things in the past, but the road network from that stretch of road is quite poor.

Some work has been done on Nine Mile Corner Road to upgrade that area but, beyond that, heading towards Hamley Bridge, it is in a poor condition. The speed limit is 100 km/h and it is desperately in need of an upgrade. As

is my wont for as long as I have the great opportunity to represent the people of Goyder, I will continue to bring this issue forward and hope that, in future years, an investment takes place there. One other issue I wish to talk about is the water provision for Yorke Peninsula. It is a difficult issue to raise given the desperate situation of the Murray and the continuing drought.

The minister has been quite proactive in this and there has been an investment of SA Water resources physically with some very good people doing work on a Yorke Peninsula long-term water supply plan. I understand that, in past years, a similar exercise has been conducted on the Eyre Peninsula. I know that some preliminary planning is also being done for a similar exercise on Kangaroo Island. I have been invited, with observer status, to attend meetings of this group, and I appreciate the opportunity the minister provided to me.

I also attended three of the five forums that were held after preliminary work was done when the public was invited to attend to understand some of the issues involved and to create some preferences in terms of where they wanted the effort to go. It was good; we got feedback. Five of those meetings were held on the Yorke Peninsula and one meeting was held in Adelaide. I went to that one also. It was not big in numbers, it is fair to say, even though something like 600 submissions were received, which was an outstanding effort from the people of the Yorke Peninsula in the Copper Coast council areas in terms of putting their fingers to the typewriter to write letters and to put in these comments.

It really has proven to me that this exercise has to be more than words. I know that the people who have gone to the effort to put in submissions and attended the forums want to see outcomes. They want to see some outcomes which will give them a greater opportunity to grow their region; and they know that, in order to do that, they need an improved water supply.

It is an emotive issue, but it is appropriate that it be addressed. The Minister for Water Security when answering a question in parliament today talked about the response by the state and federal governments to withdraw a \$160 million contribution towards the BHP plant. She said that the action in Adelaide to create a 100 gigalitres plant means that country South Australia is quite secure in its water supplies. I know that the country licence is 50 gigalitres of water. I think it has been downgraded to something like 31 gigalitres because of the ongoing dry conditions.

It is obvious to me that the network, too, is a problem. The study on Yorke Peninsula has highlighted the fact that we have 1,850 kilometres of pipeline network that SA Water controls and owns. The majority of that pipeline network is over 50 years old. I am told that it is designed for a 100 year life—and I am quite surprised by that, given the physical condition of it and the apparent lack of maintenance that is occurring—but part of the challenge is to get the pipeline network of a sufficient size with sufficient storage in order to have the capacity to supply the growing needs of the communities on Yorke Peninsula and the Adelaide Plains and to have some option to give a water supply to the 16 communities in the area that do not have a potable reticulated water supply. Part of the vision must be to improve it.

My closing comment is about broadband funding, on which there needs to be a greater emphasis. If business is to have the opportunity to locate in regional areas and if regional people are to have the opportunity to have access to broadband technology, we need to ensure a combination of state and federal government effort goes into it. In previous years the federal government has contributed vast sums towards it and the state government within my area has supported projects, but lots of areas of the state need an improved system; and I hope the government chooses to work actively on that issue.

Stormwater opportunities for capture and reuse in the regions do exist. It needs a lot more support. Federal money to some degree has apparently dried up. Local communities are taking a proactive response to this issue. They are trying to work out opportunities, engaging their councils and challenging their communities to come up with a solution to capture the rainwater, store it in dams and pump it to a reticulated network. Let us hope that the government supports it in every way possible.