

Speech

House of Assembly - Wednesday, 23 November 2011, Page 6065

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIES EDUCATION CENTRE—TONSLEY PARK**

Mr BROCK (Frome) (11:37): I commend the member for Waite for making it obvious to the rest of the members in this place that this is a minority report from this committee. I just want to say that I support the proposal; however, as the member for Fisher indicated, I am also very concerned about the comments which have been made over many years and which continue to be made that we have a shortage of skilled tradespeople out there.

I think that we lost the opportunity when the GFC hit. I thought that we had an opportunity then to start training a lot more people for the time when we came back on track. Unfortunately, I think that we may have lost a bit of an opportunity there because we had two or three years to be able to consolidate ourselves, get the training into the existing locations and to ensure that, taking into account what is going to happen in the resource industry in the top end of South Australia and also interstate, we would have that skills availability.

As the member for Fisher has indicated, I am supporting this motion even though it is a minority report. One thing I want to say is that, whilst this facility is going to be fairly great and it is going to consolidate a lot of training opportunities in the Tonsley Park area, this government and all members in this house must ensure that we do not forget the regional areas. Lots of people require skills training and they are looking for the opportunities. I have a fear that, if we start to consolidate everything in the metropolitan area, people in the regional areas will suffer.

Facilitating training in the metropolitan area is a lot less expensive for people who live in the metropolitan area. However, if we do not increase and improve the facilities in the regional areas, people coming down from the country will have to pay for accommodation and travel, and some of those people just do not have that money. Whilst I agree that it is a great facility, we must not forget the regions. I want to reinforce that: please do not forget the regions. I commend this report to government, but, in future, please ensure that we do not forget the regions.

Motion carried.