

**SUPPLY BILL**

Mr BROCK (Frome) (11:49): I rise to support this bill. However, whilst I support the bill, I will make mention of some of the areas that I certainly hope attention is being given to in the forthcoming budget, and areas that I hope are not in the firing line for reductions in cost savings.

As mentioned in my recent speech in reply, this state has a great window of opportunity to capitalise on the resource opportunities and also defence and other activities throughout the state. Madam Speaker, I congratulate you on taking the Mayor of Whyalla and other members of that community to Canberra to try to ascertain the details of the proposed commonwealth resource supertax. While this may not affect the state directly, the resource industry in South Australia does have a great effect on the budget going forward. We respect all the activity in the regions of South Australia and the more activity we have up there, the more we will get in royalties to this state. The resource sector is the window of opportunity that this state has been looking for, and we need to have a clear understanding or a complete revamp of this proposed commonwealth taxation going forward.

We must ensure that there are no cuts in opportunities for skills and training. We must not allow our infrastructure to continue to be run down to a degree that is detrimental to the growing demands that will be required in regional South Australia. In particular, I mention TAFE opportunities and training throughout regional South Australia. TAFE, over the past few years, has been wrongly targeted to reduce training numbers with the excuse that there is no demand, or a decreasing demand, for certain courses to be taught at various locations. This tactic can have a dramatic effect on regional people requiring more skills to re-enter or enter the workforce.

Recently I was contacted by a person within my own electorate who wanted to undertake a TAFE course in hospitality. This person attended the Port Pirie campus only to be advised that they only have front of house courses for commercial cookery and that the Port Augusta TAFE had all the facilities there to be able to train in the commercial cookery sector. This person then went to the TAFE at Port Augusta and the response was that this course was no longer available at Port Augusta due to the trainer having left the facility. The only locations that we could have this training was in the Barossa, Regency Park or Port Lincoln. The silly thing about this is that the facilities at Port Augusta are only a few years old and here we are not utilising all these facilities.

Mr van Holst Pellekaan interjecting:

Mr BROCK: The member for Stuart indicates to me that he has the information that it is going to be dismantled. Here we have people looking to be up-skilled or to be retrained, yet they have to travel hundreds of kilometres and also have to stay three or four days a week away from their own home. I ask: how do we train or give unemployed people the chance of a job when they are already struggling to make ends meet? With the opportunities for cooks in the resource sector in the north of the state, it appears to be false economics that we are not utilising facilities and securing people to be trained in these facilities. This issue is a serious one, and I will be collecting the full data and arranging a meeting with the new minister responsible, the Hon. Jack Snelling, to voice my concerns on this issue.

Regional South Australia's health service needs to be maintained at the current level, not only with the services but also with specialist services. We should continue to provide more of these services closer to the people of regional South Australia. We cannot continue to locate these services in Adelaide. It is becoming more difficult for people in regional South Australia to access these services. We have just recently been trying to get renal dialysis machines in Port Pirie—and I congratulated the government. People in my area had to go from Port Pirie

to Port Augusta or they had to go from Port Broughton to Clare. Both of these distances do not qualify for the PAT scheme. These people were not only going up there at their own cost three to four times a week but taking five, six or seven hours out of their day three to four times a week. This not only created financial strains on their budgets, but also it was an emotional and physical strain on their wellbeing. Again, I congratulate the government on establishing four units in Port Pirie that will make it easier for the people from Port Pirie to be serviced and also for those at Port Broughton to travel only 30 minutes up the road.

Another concern to me is the road system in regional South Australia. I will mention some roads in my electorate that are getting to the degree that there are many opportunities for an injury whether fatal or long-term. There are many roads in my electorate that have been neglected over many years. Yacka to Clare is a typical example, as is Port Broughton to Bute and then from Bute to Kulpara, which is also in the member for Goyder's area. These are just two of the areas in South Australia that I could mention. We have recently seen that there have been quite a few fatalities on our roads. Whether it is from driver fatigue or road condition, we need to be very serious going forward and ensure that we maintain the best roads and all the rest stops across the whole state.

These roads are also utilised by our transporters, to transport our goods from their home locations to the market. I know for a fact that in Gladstone a new roundabout has just been put in, and this roundabout is well and truly overdue. About \$1.7 million has been expended on the roundabout and it will make the intersection far safer for general traffic. However, one of the things that I will be talking to the minister about is that this roundabout has now eliminated or basically destroyed a roadhouse adjacent to it. Transporters cannot get into that location any more because of the access coming through.

Also, farm machinery which has to traverse from the north side of that roundabout to the south side on the adjoining properties can no longer get through that roundabout. This double-wheeled farm equipment has to have an access of about 25 feet across, and the intersection has an entrance of 16 feet. It is an absolute nightmare for these people. If they want to get to the south side of Gladstone they now need to go via Caltowie, which adds another 70 kilometres onto their journey. Again, this is an issue that I am getting information on and I will send the documentation through to the Minister for Transport to have it investigated.

We only have to look at the road infrastructure being implemented in the Gawler and Virginia regions, and again I congratulate the government on that. It is absolutely fantastic. It is tremendous activity for people residing in the area. However, I hope that these road infrastructure improvements continue to move north to accommodate the ever-increasing demands from those residing in the north of the state.

I hear that my fellow member alongside of me, the member for Stuart, has been up to the north of South Australia and the Oodnadatta Track and the Birdsville Track. I understand that there has been a fair bit of rain up there, which is great, and those roads also need to be maintained. I will be working very closely with my counterparts adjoining my electorate on both sides to ensure that we all get our fair share of the budget coming forward to at least start the roads in the north of South Australia and regional South Australia. We need to place more money in regional South Australia. I agree that we need to provide the required recreational facilities within the Greater Adelaide area, but we should not forget the people of regional South Australia.

Another area of concern is the current land tax imposition. Whilst I understand that revenue needs to be collected by the state government of the day, I question how the system works. The tax is calculated on the capital value of the land in question. While this is the agreed way to go, there appear to be numerous instances in regional South Australia where, as the developers have established housing estates—and due to the economic situation out there—there are numerous blocks that have been serviced, ready for sale, only now to be unable to attract buyers.

These developers are not only paying council rates on those unsold blocks of land but are also levied land tax each year at the end of June, in some cases in excess of \$2,500 per block. This is an area that we need to have a serious look at in regard to ensuring that these developers are not penalised. We understand that when these estates were established the market was very buoyant; currently, it is dying. One of these developers has not sold a block of land for the last 12 months and currently has 22 unsold blocks. Therefore, at 30 June each year he gets a bill for \$2,500 per block, which takes away his ability to maintain his profit margin. At the same time, they have also reduced the price to try to expend these, but that has been unsuccessful.

Whilst we need to be very aware of what we have been spending, we must remember to create more employment opportunities and look at the resource sector and the production of not only our food produce but also our export agricultural needs. We need to spend more money on the correct areas to allow this growth to occur.

We need to make sure that our roads are safe and accessible to our rail, which needs to be of top quality. For the ever-growing mines that are emerging in the north and on the West Coast of South Australia, we need to ensure that we have accessible ports to be able to facilitate those products out of South Australia, or they will all go by rail up through Darwin and then be lost to the state.

For each job that we create in this state, one person comes off the social security system. This reduces the budget for the social security system but also creates extra revenue in taxation and spending by the now employed person. This, in turn, creates extra positions in the employment sector to cater for the increased demands. There is an argument that payments for the social security system do not come from state coffers but from the commonwealth; however, this can only be explained by cost shifting.

I am fortunate that my electorate has opportunities for growth in the resource sector of our state, as has the electorate of the member for Stuart; however, if the infrastructure to accommodate this growth is not there, then we all lose. The more assistance we give to areas where people can choose a lifestyle and live will not only assist the issue of the Greater Adelaide plan that we will encounter for the next few years but also help people have a better and healthier life.

I request that regional South Australia not have any further cutbacks. We need to look at where our growth in revenue will come from. Export earnings and royalties will come from regional South Australia. I will work in collaboration with all my other parliamentary colleagues whose electorates adjoin the electorate of Frome to ensure that we all share in the funds being expended by the government of the day.