

**Mr BROCK (Frome) (15:00): My question is to the Minister for Manufacturing, Innovation and Trade. Can the minister please advise what progress the South Australian government task force has made since the 3 December 2012 announcement regarding the proposed transformation of Nyrstar's Port Pirie smelter? Also, could the minister please advise the benefits to Port Pirie and the region?**

The Hon. T.R. KENYON (Newland—Minister for Manufacturing, Innovation and Trade, Minister for Small Business) (15:00): I will start by commending the member for Frome for his advocacy on behalf of his local community because, even though I have only just come into this portfolio, I know that the member for Frome has spent countless hours talking to and lobbying the Premier, and also the former minister, making sure that the interests of Frome and the people of Port Pirie in particular were looked after. It is a critical thing; this is a critical part of Port Pirie. Port Pirie would, quite frankly, die without the continued existence of the smelter at Nyrstar. The member for Frome understands that and he has never once failed to advocate on their behalf.

Since December when they met last year, the work of the task force has continued, and I am pleased to advise that this work is progressing on many fronts to ensure that the final investment case can be completed by the end of 2013, with a view to a new, cleaner processing plant being commissioned in early 2016.

The most recent task force meeting was held on 31 January, involving senior officials from the state government, the Australian government and Nyrstar. The state government's case management approach is coordinating expertise and input of officials from key state government agencies such as the Department for Health and the Environment Protection Authority, using a structure of eight working parties. It is a complex arrangement. It is looking towards environmental improvement, a targeted lead abatement program, development assessment, feasibility studies, legislation and legal agreements.

I am advised that the task force is on track towards achieving a range of key activities and milestones throughout the next 12 months. The outcomes of the task force are imperative to ensuring that all key milestones are achieved in a timely manner, so that the government and Nyrstar can make final decisions in the first quarter of 2014. The formal feasibility studies (both prefeasibility and bankable feasibility) for the transformation will provide an important

foundation for the investment decisions. I understand Nyrstar is rapidly progressing both studies.

Work continues apace. The government obviously has its full support behind Nyrstar. This is an important project for Port Pirie. The absence of the smelter would see a drop in land prices and a crash in employment. It would be the decimation, or worse, of Port Pirie and it just cannot be contemplated. The excellent work of the former minister and Bruce Carter and his team to come up with quite a sophisticated deal in support of Nyrstar is to be commended as is, once again, the work of the member for Frome in support of his community.