

**SUPPLY BILL**

Mr PICCOLO (Light) (17:14): I am happy to speak in this Supply Bill grievance debate. I would just like to mention a story that relates to a meeting of my sub-branch that I attended on Monday night.

Mr Griffiths: Of the Labor Party.

Mr PICCOLO: Yes, of the Labor Party! I was referring to what happened at the last parliamentary session and I pointed out what I thought the Liberals were doing in parliament—I was trying to keep it civil and well behaved, etc.—and they said, 'Well, that's what the opposition does.' I said that that was partly right but that the opposition also wants to establish themselves as an alternative government. The problem with this opposition is that they think only about opposition. They oppose, without actually creating or providing an alternative program. Interestingly, during the last election, in my electorate there was a lot of generalisation but it was a policy free zone, short of one policy. Then they wonder why they did not win the seat.

They made all these sort of generalisations, which they applied right across the state, but they ignored the electorate itself. They made no policy commitments to the electorate, apart from saying, 'We will look into; we will investigate; we will listen to what people have to say.' They made no commitment because they had no commitment to this electorate, and I think that is part of the reason why I was re-elected. I was able to establish the government's commitment to the electorate and also my personal commitment to the electorate.

I will give members some examples of those commitments, which are the bases of the Supply Bill, because the current Supply Bill will now fund these initiatives. For example, electrification of the railway line, in conjunction with the federal government. This government is part of the \$2 billion investment in public transport. We are spending quite a bit of that money in my electorate, particularly with the rail upgrade, which will see an electrified line come into Gawler. It will provide a cleaner, faster, more reliable service. Basically, we will probably have one of the best, if not the best, public transport systems in the country as a result of that initiative.

Others initiatives include the upgrade of the Gawler and Munno Para railway stations, introducing the \$1 ride service to Angle Vale and the John McVeity Centre, which will start shortly. They are all the things in which this government has invested in this region. In July 2011, we will introduce buses to built up parts of Gawler and Hewitt for the first time in this region, which reflects a huge investment by this government in public infrastructure in this community. Then there have been a whole range of road improvements around the town, which I have been able to lobby for and which the government has accepted.

On top of that, the Northern Expressway, which is a project with the federal government, will revolutionise road transport for that region. That is something that is supported by industry in that region, whether it is the farmers to the Mid North or the wine industry to the north-east, etc. They see this as an integral part of reducing their transport costs and getting things to the port. That is obviously going to spur on investment in that area, and it has. We now have investors from interstate who are prepared to invest in the industrial land in that region because of the Northern Expressway—and that has been published. So, the government has actually invested in this area and, in turn, the private sector is investing, which, again, is leading to more jobs and growth in the area. So, they are some of the things around public transport.

If we look at education, that is another good news story. Roseworthy Primary School has been redeveloped, costing over \$4 million. We are investing over \$1 billion over the next 10 years in the Playford Alive project. We are rebuilding that community from the ground up. As part of rebuilding that community, we have two new schools: the Mark Oliphant College, birth to year 12 school; and the John Hartley School, birth to year 7 school. They are brand new schools, with the latest technology for kids in that area. Those schools are an investment for the future. We also have more than a \$14 million investment in the merger of Gawler School, Evanston Primary School and Evanston Preschool to make this school probably the pre-eminent public school in the region.

These are all things the government has used the Supply Bill dollars to fund to support those communities in that electorate. It is a huge investment—they are not only our young people but our future workers, teachers, lawyers, etc. in this community. So, it is an investment for the future of this state.

In addition, we have the children's centres. There are three children's centres, which are collocated with the three schools I have just mentioned. An additional children's centre will be created at the Elsie Ey Kindergarten. This is about two things. It is about supporting parents to ensure that they have the skills and resources to support their children to make sure that their kids achieve the best they can in their life. Not only are we supporting the parents but also the early intervention programs, through these children's centres, to make sure that kids who, for whatever reason, have some disability or some learning difficulty get early intervention and support to make sure they achieve the best they can.

In addition, we have the home visiting program, which was introduced, I think, by the former minister for health Lea Stevens. This program provides that, on going home, every child gets a home visit to ensure that we can intervene as a community at an early stage if a family needs support, which is a wonderful program. All these early intervention programs are supported by the Supply Bill—supported by this government—to make sure that young people in our community have a good and meaningful life.

In addition, the government, together with the federal government and the university, has also invested in the Roseworthy Campus of the University of Adelaide, which is in my electorate. It is an important investment in the VET program there, which has generated a lot more investment in the college and attracted some world-class researchers and academics. This is probably one of the best VET schools in the country. It is no accident to have hundreds more applications than positions available for that VET school. It is an investment by this government and the federal government not only in that community but in this nation in terms of providing the sort of skills they need.

We then come to health. This government has invested enormous amounts of money in redeveloping the Lyell McEwen centre, the GP Plus centres and, in my own town, ongoing support for the Gawler Health Service. These are public investments to support this community. If you had listened to the opposition over the last few days you would think the whole state was a ghetto. You would think that nothing was happening in this state. I realise that the opposition has to oppose as well, but the opposition also has to provide an alternative government. I have not seen that; I do not think that any of us have seen that alternative government, that alternative vision, besides the carping that we have heard from the other side.

Mr van Holst Pellekaan: Fifty-one point six per cent of the population did see it.

Mr PICCOLO: Yes, and 55.3 in my electorate. I even beat that. In addition to that—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! We've heard enough of whose is the biggest.

Mr PICCOLO: In addition to that—

Mr Griffiths interjecting:

Mr PICCOLO: I think we might do that in private, member for Goyder. In addition, we have issues of community safety announced today about the number of police and where this government has invested in the redevelopment of the Gawler River CFS. I could go on and on and list all the wonderful things that this government is doing in partnership with the federal government to support my electorate and the people in the northern communities. It is not only in my electorate but also in the regions generally. The point I am trying to make is that this government has a proud record of supporting the community in health, education and jobs. They are things that Labor governments are quite proud of, and I am proud to be a member of this government.