



# FAMILY FIRST PARTY



Email News — Second Edition



## In this edition:

1. Robert Brokenshire—An Insight
2. Robert Brokenshire—Government Watchdog / WorkCover / Community Focus
3. Robert Brokenshire—A Stock Journal Report
4. Freedom of Speech Restrictions and No New Churches for Kangaroo Island
5. The Attorney-General Acknowledges 'Constructive Dialogue' with FAMILY FIRST on Strengthening Drug Laws
6. DENNIS HOOD MLC—Time for a Game of Cricket!
7. Adoption in Australia—DENNIS HOOD MLC
8. Binge Drinking—Interview with DENNIS HOOD MLC
9. FAMILY FIRST Transport Policy—Submission Request
10. ANDREW EVANS MLC Addresses Parliament Regarding Kangaroo Island Places of Worship

## FAMILY FIRST Appoints Robert Brokenshire

**FAMILY FIRST is excited to announce the appointment of Robert Brokenshire to the Legislative Council.** As mentioned in the last edition of Email News, Mr Brokenshire will take his seat in July when ANDREW EVANS MLC will step down from politics.

FAMILY FIRST are pleased to endorse Mr Brokenshire who firmly holds to the integrity and values of the Party and who has great experience in the area of Politics. Mr Brokenshire was a Liberal Government Minister for the House of Assembly for many years and was well-liked by the community. We look forward to Mr Brokenshire working with DENNIS HOOD MLC, as together they will have influence in the Parliament and in the State.

Mr Brokenshire, from the Mt Compass area, is a dairy farmer, currently experiencing the effects of the drought like others, and he understands the challenges of those in the rural community. He has a passion for the community at large and is determined to make a difference in State Politics. Mr Brokenshire is married with three children. His other interests include water sports, camping and football.

The following articles will give you an insight into some of the relevant issues that Mr Brokenshire will stand for. Please read on...



### Robert Brokenshire, former Liberal MP becoming a FAMILY FIRST MLC / WorkCover Rally

(5AA 20.11-20.26) Tues 1st April 2008

(Pantelis: ... former State Government MP who lost his seat in the ... 2006 election, lost an attempt last year to get into federal politics for a different party ... Rob Brokenshire ... you ... Liberal Government Minister and Shadow Opposition Minister until you lost in '06, you stood for FAMILY FIRST ... last federal election and you're about to be our newest MP in South Australia again?) Well that's right ... it's a privilege to be able to take the Honourable ANDREW EVANS's position once he retires. He's retiring unfortunately due to ill health and there was a pre-selection held a few weeks ago and I was fortunate to be successful. So I look forward now to working with DENNIS HOOD who's done an incredible job in the short time he's been in parliament with FAMILY FIRST to continue to  
Cont...

Robert Brokenshire, former Liberal MP FAMILY FIRST MLC / WorkCover Rally—continued (part 2)  
(5AA 20.11-20.26) Tues 1st April 2008

grow the party for South Australian people and community. (Pantelis: ...the politics is the blood, you weren't able to shake it in two years back on the farm?) Well, I love the farm ... and in fact it's been a real challenge home here like everywhere else, even in high rainfall country supposedly we've had two years of drought ... in the Mt Compass area. And of course if we're struggling with drought you can imagine how devastating it's been for a lot of people in South Australia. But I'm still only young and I've had a lot of experience and investment by the community in South Australia when I was in the parliament and I've just got a passion to be able to do more for the community, more for South Australia and FAMILY FIRST is the party that I believe has an exciting future and I'm keen to be part of its building process. (Pantelis: Was it a sad thing ... to leave the Liberal Party though?) It was a big decision ... I'm a loyal person and I'd been a member of the Liberal Party since I was 18 but I guess ... over the last couple of years ... where you're listening to people calling in and you're listening to what the Government and the Opposition are saying ... I guess the most frustrating thing I had in the major parties was that you're hamstrung to a great extent and unfortunately a lot of the time the party is put and the power and control opportunities before community. But it's community that I really love and you can do a lot for them in the parliament and that's where FAMILY FIRST stand ... so once I thought it through it was a pretty easy decision in the end to go and join FAMILY FIRST. (Pantelis: And I imagine they would have welcomed an experienced polliie with open arms?) Yes, they did. Both Andrew and DENNIS HOOD and the Executive have embraced the opportunity they've given me as well. So it's a team effort and the beauty of FAMILY FIRST as a party is it's not factionalised, it's not a major machine organisation, it's been built to ensure that communities, family and people are actually put first in the parliament and ... there's clear evidence of that ... the Mullighan Inquiry ... the amendments to legislation to ensure that people involved in ... child sex abuse prior to 1982, it was FAMILY FIRST and ANDREW EVANS that achieved that actually. And so ... they've got a good focus on what needs to be done and I want to help them do that. (Pantelis: ...lets look ahead a couple of years, 2010, the next State election, DENNIS HOOD won't be up for re-election, his term won't expire until 2014, no Nick Xenophon ... when he was elected, the Greens candidate, Mark Parnell got in as well, so who's it going to be to get that last, maybe two last Seats in the Upper House come 2010? Is it going to be between FAMILY FIRST and the Greens?) Inevitably it probably will be, I obviously hope that it will be FAMILY FIRST because if you think back to the Democrats ... the Democrats came in to be a watch dog party and to keep the two majors honest ... initially they were focused that way and they drifted across extreme left and people didn't really appreciate or like that ... FAMILY FIRST are very middle of the road, central, they listen to all points of view, they're not radical and I would hope that DENNIS HOOD and myself would be able to convince the community of South Australia ... to ensure that FAMILY FIRST is up there as that strong watch dog party, particularly because this Government, the current Government are actually wanting to basically get rid of the legislative council ... sitting back now and having a big think about how the majors work, it's very, very important for the South Australian community that you've got independent smaller parties as watch dog politicians against the Government and the Opposition of the day ... you can really only do that in the legislative council ... (Pantelis: ...what do you think of the WorkCover situation today, the rally in King William Street and outside Parliament House? The Government seems to have backed down, they're saying they've always been open to suggestions, but lets face it, it's a backdown ...) It is a backdown, although knowing how the Government works ... [unclear] ... FAMILY FIRST actually put out a press release only in the last day or so, I'm really concerned about what's happening with WorkCover and workers ... as a farming family, we actually pay WorkCover every month and I know that it's very high and I wish it wasn't because it's another impost as an input cost in to business, but on the other side of it, if I've got someone working on our farm and they genuinely get injured and it can happen with farming as much as anywhere, with machinery, I want those people and their families to be looked after ... this is too simple what the Government are trying to do, I mean, the whole problem with WorkCover as I see it has been lack of proper case management, lack of detailed effort to get in and fix the rorters, because they are a small percentage, but they shouldn't be allowing targets of genuine people just because some are rorting and then the whole management structure of the corporation needs tipping upside down ... it was only six years ago and I think your listeners may not have picked up on this because it's been kept quiet, but only six years ago, WorkCover was effectively fully funded and in six years they've allowed it to get in to a situation where there's a billion dollar or thereabouts unfunded liability and that's mainly due to the lack of proper management, so why kick the worker (Pantelis: ...if you hadn't lost your Seat in 2006, would you still be a member of the Liberal Party today?) That's a hypothetical question ... I was a member of the Liberal Party until last year and then I started to think more and more about where I'd like to put my energies and I went to FAMILY FIRST, that's probably not a surprise because even when I was a member of the Liberal Party and a sitting MP, I publicly said to people in my own Seat, I said, look if you're unhappy with what we're doing, if you're not happy with the performance of our party, have a look at FAMILY FIRST because they've got the right principles to be an alternative party ... I've really been quite excited and supportive of FAMILY FIRST since ANDREW EVANS first came in to Parliament six years ago (Pantelis: ...the reason I ask that is just going back to WorkCover is where you would have stood with the Liberal Party today because of course they're supporting the changes in Parliament.) Well they are ... I would have had a fight over that with the Liberal Party ... I'm very disappointed that the Liberal Party have rolled over and they've rolled over to big business and the pressures of big business, this was a time when the Liberal Party could have shown a real difference to the Labor Party and actually dug in for the worker and the battler in this State ... I would have had trouble with that and the reason for that ... I supported and we had to after the State Bank debarcle, cuts to workers entitlements in a whole package of restructuring of WorkCover, that worked and WorkCover became virtually fully funded, it was looking at preventative occupational health and safety initiatives and workers were still getting a reasonably good deal ... at that point it's fair to say they were still getting one of the better support structures of any State, now the reason for cutting them today is clearly mismanagement of Government and the corporation ... So I would have had a real problem in the party room if I was still with the Liberal Party because I wouldn't agree with what they're doing. (Pantelis: See that maybe the case that the mismanagement angle and we can go down that path but something needs to be done doesn't it? Cont...

## Robert Brokenshire, former Liberal MP FAMILY FIRST MLC / WorkCover Rally—continued (part 3)

(5AA 20.11-20.26) Tues 1st April 2008

I mean it can't keep bleeding the way it has?) No it can't but this won't stop the bleeding I suggest and it's unusual for me to probably come so close to union's empathy but as the union said today ... there are a lot of other things that need to be looked at and unless you look at a holistic approach ... I would suggest that this won't stop the bleeding and they'll continue to be a major problem with unfunded liability because it's too simplistic to simply say ... we've got a problem ... we're going to cut worker entitlements. I mean I can tell you lots of people that I met Matthew when I was an MP before ... whilst I assisted some constituents in the role of people that they saw rorting the system because there are proper processes there already ... there are a lot of genuine people who's lives were tipped upside-down and it's not fault of theirs when they go to work and they come home with an injury that they can't recover from within three months. (Pantelis: Rob what got you interested in politics in the first place? ... were you always a Mount Compass farm boy? ...) my mother's side have been farming since 1840 ... I have been tied up with farming since I was a kid but this particular farm here I was actually was fortunate enough over the years to buy myself ... we've had it for 24 years now ... I have loved that ... what brought me into politics ... the State Bank mess. I had kids, young kids then and I thought well this is no good. I mean billions of dollars worth of debt ... where is the state going? You've got to manage the state like you'd manage a farm business or any other business ... I thought, well I've got something to contribute so I will put my hand up there ... the second thing was that there was very little happening in the south at that time ... as a passionate southerner I was there to argue the case for the south. (Pantelis: Do you think it's changed down south? I mean there's still no major industry, Mitsubishi has gone ... has it changed?) Well I believe it was starting to change ... there were a number of initiatives put forward to have it changed but unfortunately there's been a lot of missed opportunities in the south and there's been neglect when it comes to major infrastructure ... (Pantelis: ... when do you take your seat?) Well we're waiting to hear from the government as to the actual swearing in day ... we believe it will probably be the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July or during that week ... (Pantelis: And what are some of your main goals? ... what would you really like to achieve over the next two years?) Well I would like to see a return and focus in the Parliament and particularly from the government to community, to people and families first rather than a superficial gloss that tries to spin people in a direction that isn't necessarily where the people want to go ... (Pantelis: ... thanks for your time tonight).



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### **Stock Journal - FAMILY FIRST for farmer Brokenshire**

TOM DAWKINS 1/04/2008 11:47:00 AM

FORMER State Liberal Minister and dairy farmer Robert Brokenshire is preparing for a second tilt at politics after winning FAMILY FIRST's endorsement to replace retiring MLC ANDREW EVANS. Mr Brokenshire, Mount Compass, has been out of Parliament since losing his seat of Mawson at the 2006 State Election. In last year's Federal Election, he officially made the switch to FAMILY FIRST and ran unsuccessfully under that party's banner in the southern suburbs seat of Kingston.

Due to fill the casual vacancy in the Legislative Council in July, Mr Brokenshire said he was looking forward to drawing on his experiences as a farmer in representing rural and regional South Australians. "I'm excited by the opportunity to represent all the State," he said. "I think it's important for country people, and indeed all South Australians, that there's a watchdog party that has a closer ear to the community." Having worked full-time on his family's 300-milker dairy for the past two years, where he farms with his wife Mandy and son Nick, Mr Brokenshire said maintaining an interest in farming had given him a valuable insight into the challenges faced by South Australian primary producers. Even when I was a minister I always did three milk mornings a month on the weekends," he said. "It was important to maintain my interest, keep an eye on the cows and have that reality in my life." Given the volatility in dairying over recent years, he was "well aware" of the challenges facing the State's farmers. "The past two years have been the hardest I've even known and we're blessed here at Mount Compass compared with most areas," he said. "While the price for milk is good now, input costs for grain, fertiliser and spray are so high that even with increased prices you're still battling to break even."

Farming was his "first love" and he had always had a passion for politics. He nominated a list of priorities and issues he would be pursuing in Parliament. "The buzz at the moment is all about mining and that's all well and good, but government has forgotten about farmers," he said.

The State Government had never enjoyed a better tax income, although revenue was not being invested properly on infrastructure, particularly in rural and regional SA. SA should have a better transport plan covering road, rail and public transport. "And I want to see the government better-recognise the importance of rural and regional SA," Mr Brokenshire said. "We need a better long-term focus and strategic plan for climate-change to help everyone adapt. "And the government has failed on water security. It's fundamental to everyone in SA and I've got some ideas I'm going to put to the government." Right-to-farm was an issue that needed to be addressed to protect farmers, as did corporate approaches to farming and its impact on family farming. "I'm passionate about family farming and I believe MPs need to create pathways for the younger generation to enter into the industry."

Mr Brokenshire said he was looking forward to broadening FAMILY FIRST's base and pushing its share of the vote from 5 per cent to 7pc, perhaps up to 10pc. "There's been rumours that FAMILY FIRST is not broad enough and that it is perhaps based from a specific area of the church but that's unfounded and incorrect," he said. "I'm Anglican and I'm proud to have a Christian base but I'm also broad in base. "So is DENNIS HOOD (FAMILY FIRST MLC) and I look forward to broadening it further once I get in."

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**FREEDOM OF SPEECH  
RESTRICTIONS &  
NO NEW CHURCHES FOR K.I.**

FAMILY FIRST has been concerned regarding recent Council intrusions into Freedom of Speech and Religion. On the heels of the Equal Opportunity Amendment Bill, which would have seen churches restricted from criticising certain practices (currently on hold due to FAMILY FIRST pressure) - councils are now also moving into the realm of religious freedoms.

DENNIS HOOD MLC and ANDREW EVANS MLC have addressed strongly worded letters to the Adelaide City Council after the recent arrests of street preachers in Rundle Mall.

Attention has also been given in Parliament and letters written to the Kangaroo Island Council following their decision to declare the development of any further churches "non-compliant" across most of the Island. FAMILY FIRST will continue raising these concerns in Parliament and the media and will not stop until the situation is satisfactory.

If you would like to send us your thoughts on this matter, please forward your these to: [office@sa.familyfirst.org.au](mailto:office@sa.familyfirst.org.au).

If you wish to forward a letter to the Council/s and express your concern, please attention the letters to the following:

Re: KI Development  
Mayor Jane Bates  
Kangaroo Island Council  
PO Box 121  
KINGSCOTE SA 5223

Re: Freedom of Speech - Adelaide Council Area  
The Right Honourable The Lord Mayor of Adelaide  
Michael Harbison  
Adelaide City Council  
GPO Box 2252  
ADELAIDE SA 5001

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO FAMILY FIRST BY THE  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL ON STRENGTHENING DRUG LAWS**

Leon Byner—Radio 5AA 1395 (3/4/08)

(Byner: ... we had in the courts about 4,000 cases of proven drug trafficking ... the penalties given to many who were convicted for trafficking, which is a difference offence than using, got relatively light sentences ... what is being announced today in terms of the tougher penalties, is this a reaction to that conversation and reality that we've had or is this something different?) ... it's a consideration and I have a good relationship with DENNIS HOOD from FAMILY FIRST, who is a Member of the Upper House, and wants to do something in this area ... we're having a really constructive discussion about what we can do. What we're doing first is carrying out our promises from the last election and that was that we would introduce specifically a hydroponic cannabis offence, because we don't think that hydroponically grown cannabis should be within the cannabis expiation notice system ... the reason we believe that is because if you grow cannabis under lights, chances are you will have a lot more success with growing it, you'll grow more and you'll be able to grow four crops a year or more, compared to what you might grow in your backyard in sunlight ... the amount of cannabis being produced hydroponically is vastly more than any individual ... could grow for their own purposes ... what we're saying is, if you cultivate cannabis hydroponically, you're outside the cannabis expiation notice system, you will go to court and you will get a criminal record for doing it.

**DENNIS HOOD MLC —Time for a Game of Cricket!**

**Politicians versus the media Easter Thursday cricket match**  
Rob Lucas, Liberal MLC (5AA 13.52-13.57) 20-03-2008



(Kenny:... Rob, Ben Hook, what media organisation do we know him from?) ... as you would know from your days in the media there's a long tradition of this. If anyone's ever walked past the front door of the Barossa Bugle or whatever it happens to be they've somehow got a media connection. (Kenny: ...you find a good cricketer, buy them a newspaper and they can join the media team.) All sorts of people of strange pedigrees have played for the media...not only Ben Hook, we've got Dale Lewis...Tom Wilson and a variety of others as well. So ... it's a pretty formidable side that's lined up against but at the moment we've got Rob Kerin out there with our Christian representative, FAMILY FIRST's DENNIS HOOD is facing up at the moment... John Riddell's coming in....

(Later on .... )

Well, we're not getting up to much at all at the moment ... I've got to say that Steve Griffiths ... opened the batting for us and put on a very impressive 48 so he's got us ... in the hunt chasing 223 in a 30 over game is a pretty steep task ... at the moment we've got Kerin and ... DENNIS HOOD out there and only about 10 overs to go so I think we have to average about 10 runs an over to get there ...

**DETAILS UPDATE**

We would like to keep you informed with Parliamentary updates and legislation challenges. If any of your contact details have changed, please notify us by phone on 8237 9122, or by email to [office@sa.familyfirst.org.au](mailto:office@sa.familyfirst.org.au) or by filling in this form and returning it to: Family First Party, PO Box 420, Campbelltown, SA, 5074. **Thank you!**

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss/\_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Suburb: \_\_\_\_\_ P/Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

(Kenny: ... DENNIS HOOD ... has called in ... what do you think? Do you think it's too hard to adopt children in Australia these days?) Well it is too hard, but it shouldn't be, I've been a campaigner in favour of adoption for a number of years now and I commend you on the position you've taken recently ... the truth is, adoption is a fantastic option with rising infertility rates in the community, it really is an obvious answer and to hear that adoption rates were in the many hundreds in South Australia in the early 1970's and I'm talking in the vicinity of 500 or 600 a year (Kenny: ...nationally in about 1970 nationally we had about 10,000 adoptions and it's dropped down to about 400 nationally) That's right and South Australia averaged about 600 plus a year, around that figure and we did peak up at 1,200 in one year ... in the late 60's, early 70's, so it was a very, very common occurrence and I should declare my bias here ... my wife is adopted and my father is adopted as well ... I've got a real passion about this ... without adoption laws they wouldn't be in my life ... (Kenny: ...you would have heard Cynthia then from Families SA and she raises a number of very legitimate issues and first among them of course is we do need to have proper checks on parents ...) I don't want to be critical of Cynthia in particular or personally, but I think if we look hard enough, we'll always find reasons why we can't do something and the truth is adoption is a wonderful option ... we should be doing everything we can to enhance adoption and one thing that really frustrates me, is whenever conversation turns to adoption, the almost default conversation topic is overseas adoptions, really that should be the second option, the first option should be what's happening to adopting people from our own country ... this is a relatively complex issue ... the thing that nobody seems to want to raise the issue of and that is the truth is, that many of the babies that were offered for adoption in the early 70's and late 60's and during that whole period, of course these days abortion numbers are very high with around 20 abortions a day occurring in South Australia (Kenny: ... you're right and that starts another debate, but the outcome of all that is certainly that there were fewer children available for adoption domestically now) And that's the point I'm making ... exactly, there just are fewer children, because many of them ... are aborted ... it's time to have a look at that whole debate, including the impact that abortion has ... adoption is a terrific option, it is incredibly successful and frankly it just seems to be unpopular or un-trendy or something to that effect at the moment and there's just no good reasons for it (Kenny: ...there are a lot of people out there who are looking to do it, believe me ... there are a lot of people who want to adopt ...)

**DENNIS HOOD, FAMILY FIRST MLC—Binge Drinking** (5AA 10.07-10.16 / Kenny for Leon Byner) 27th March 2008



(Kenny: I want to look at binge drinking now ... DENNIS HOOD who's an Upper House Member here for FAMILY FIRST in South Australia is going to put up a bill before State Parliament to have alcohol and binge drinking referred to a Parliamentary Inquiry ... good morning Dennis ... why do you think that Parliament needs to put this issue before a committee so that we can have more talking about it?) Well Chris I think it's not necessarily a matter of just talking. What I want to do is put this matter to the Parliament ... so we can properly investigate the situation ... we hear that alcohol is a massive problem and the statistics appear to bear that up but it's time to really look at this issue properly. (Kenny: ... which issue in particular? Is it going to be a broad ranging inquiry into alcohol or specifically binge drinking?) Well specifically the impact that alcohol has on our society but obviously it's the pointy end of those things such as binge

drinking for example. Now the wording will be determined by the Parliament so it's difficult for me to pre-empt that but it is designed to be as broad based as possible. Let me give you some, with a specific emphasis of course on what legislative and/or regulatory changes need to be made in order to curb the problems that alcohol can cause in our society. (Kenny: It's a big topic. Your committee could be meeting for a long while?) Yes it is a big topic there's no doubt about it but I think that's the whole reason ... it's time to put it on the table and really pull it apart so to speak ... let me give you a couple of quick statistics that really alarmed me ... the first one ... apparently 80% of alcohol consumption by 14 to 17 year olds is at the binge or high risk level. One to ten 15 year olds binge drink on a weekly basis apparently, one in five 16 to 17 year olds binge drink on a weekly basis and some 500,000 children live in a home where they witness an adult binge drinking on a weekly basis. (Kenny: How do we define binge drinking?) In these particular studies that I have this data from ... all of them have the common definition of more than five drinks in one hour ... (Kenny: That's knocking them back by anyone's standards.) That's high level drinking ... and when you consider one in five 16 to 17 year olds is doing that according to the number of surveys I have seen on this topic ... there really is huge amounts of very concerning levels. So something needs to be done to investigate the real problem and then make proper recommendations about what legislative changes and regulatory changes are required and Chris I think it's important to say here ... we should have everything on the table ... for many years we've had certain things perhaps as taboo around these topics ... there have been some very strong opinions that there's no point even discussing changing the drinking age for example. Well I think all of those issues should be on the table. (Kenny: Well we talked to a few people earlier this week about raising the drinking age to 21. Do you support that idea? ...) I certainly support the investigation of it. Now I have mixed feelings on it to be honest ... when I have looked at the data from around the world there has been mixed success ... I think we need to talk it through ... I don't think we should rule it out. (Kenny: Well no one is going to support binge drinking particularly by underage people but is there any evidence that this is increasing? I mean I suppose we've known historically ... even our parents perhaps as teenagers ... the first times they have indulged in alcohol may have overdone it ... do we actually think this is increasing? ...) Well again ... one might suggest yes but the question you raise is valid. It's difficult to ascertain with certainty ... what we can say ... the advertising exposure of kids in particular to alcohol products has increased substantially ... I am informed that kids under 12 now apparently are exposed to one in three of the alcohol ads levelled at, directed at adults ... so they would see about a third of the ads that are directed as adults ... that's kids under 12 ... the kids from 13 to 17 year olds see essentially the same level of alcohol advertising as adults do ... I think everyone would agree it's not appropriate for 13 to 17 year olds to be exposed to that much alcohol advertising ... should there be tighter regulations about how alcohol is advertised and packaged and the like ... I don't believe the government is serious about addressing this problem, certainly none of their actions at this point have shown that they're serious ... this is the Federal Government I'm talking about ... (Kenny: ... I enjoy a glass of wine with my meal ... I like to catch up with friends at the pub ... you wouldn't want to ignore the good that comes out of the hotels industry and the wine industry and the like ...) I absolutely agree. I have the occasional glass myself ... (Kenny: You devil you.) That's right, lock me up ... of course ... I think the issue here is one of moderation ... we hear it all the time but the real issue of the inquiry that I'm setting up ... look are our current laws appropriate? ... we need to have that properly debated and come to a decision and implement those decisions once and for all and move forward ... one thing that can't be denied is that there are some very real problems ... particularly amongst young people and binge drinking and the like and just alcohol in general ... we have a rising rate of teenage alcoholics ... that's something nobody wants ... (Kenny: ... thanks very much).

## **FAMILY FIRST Transport Policy—Submissions**

The FAMILY FIRST parliamentarians are in the process of preparing a South Australian Transportation policy to address concerns such as the high price of fuel, global warming, and road safety. If you have any submissions to make regarding South Australian Transportation Infrastructure, please contact ANDREW EVANS's Policy Advisor, [nicholas.greer@parliament.sa.gov.au](mailto:nicholas.greer@parliament.sa.gov.au) or by phone 8237 9279.

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### **ANDREW EVANS ADDRESSES PARLIAMENT REGARDING KANGAROO ISLAND PLACES OF WORSHIP**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES - Legislative Council**  
**Thursday 3rd April 2008**



**HON A. L. EVANS:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Urban Development and Planning a question regarding proposed amendments to the Kangaroo Island Development Plan.

Mr President, I was concerned to note proposed amendments to the Kangaroo Island Development Plan which came before a public hearing recently, on the 12<sup>th</sup> of March.

Under the proposed amendments, places of worship will be considered non-compliant to the plan across the vast majority of Kangaroo Island, including (as some examples) the Commercial Zone, Conservation Zone, Deferred Urban Zone, District Town Centre Zone, Industry Zone, and Primary Production Zone. The amendments greatly increase in the number of zones where religious buildings will be considered, (quote) *“generally inappropriate and not acceptable”* (end quote- and I am using the wording of the plan). When Captain Robert Morgan first landed on Kangaroo Island in 1836, he is believed to have conducted the first service of Christian worship in South Australia, at Nepean Bay.

I have written to the Council advising of my belief that the Kangaroo Island Council not now take a lead in restricting the ability of South Australians to worship freely, and asking them to reconsider their plans to restrict the development of places of worship on the Island.

#### **My questions to the Minister are:**

1. Is the Minister aware of the Kangaroo Island proposal, and is the Minister aware of any other council considering similar amendments?
2. Is the Minister concerned that such a declaration of non-compliance may restrict freedom of religion on the Island?

#### **RESPONSE FROM HON P HOLLOWAY:**

The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY (Minister for Police, Minister for Mineral Resources Development, Minister for Urban Development and Planning) (14:44): I thank the honourable member for his question and, in answer to the first part of it, yes, I am aware there have been some concerns expressed, because I have received correspondence. The development plan amendment proposal, of course, is one that has been put by the Kangaroo Island council and it has developed that proposal. The advice I have is that public consultation on this development plan amendment finished on 3 March and a public hearing was held in relation to this matter on 12<sup>th</sup> March, and I am sure that a number of residents on Kangaroo Island who were concerned would have made their views felt.

The process from now on is that council will be required to consider all public and agency submissions received, as well as issues raised at that public meeting on 12 March, and the council will consider how it will respond to these issues.

The council may choose to amend its development plan amendment to address the submissions received or comments made “indeed, I hope it does”. Council is then required to submit the development plan amendment to me for consideration. As with all submissions, I will carefully consider the development plan amendment, along with the submissions received and the concerns that the honourable member has expressed, before making a decision on the DPA.

In summary, the council has developed this development plan amendment and it is going through those statutory processes, and one expects that the council will give proper consideration to those issues that have been raised in that public consultation process. However, I can assure the honourable member that I will be looking very closely at the development plan amendment when it eventually comes across my desk to ensure that the concerns that have been expressed by the honourable member have been properly taken into consideration by the council.