I am very glad to have the opportunity to speak to you today for two reasons. The first is the importance of the topic of how Governments and Cabinet work. You will no doubt be overwhelmed by all you have already heard today but I hope you will feel that you have an appreciation of what we do as public servants and the system we work within.

The other reason I am glad to be able to meet you all today is that I would like this to be the beginning of an ongoing relationship between you and Cabinet Office. As we in Cabinet Office are the group within Government that is responsible for briefing the Premier on every proposal that goes before Cabinet, it is in both our interests to develop good dialogue. We have a good understanding of all of the other agencies within Government and the processes of Cabinet and Parliament and we are happy to help you at any time with queries or advice.
Snapshot of the SA Government

- The government manages the State Budget of over $10 billion
- There are 15 Ministers sharing 55 portfolios
- 13 main Departments
- 89,979 public sector employees as at June 2005 which represented 12.1% of persons employed in SA

Department of the Premier and Cabinet
"In the ordinary course of administering a recognised part of the government of the state..."

- Direct & control statutory bodies & public corporations
- Obtain, retain and publish information
- Direct and control statutory bodies and public corporations
- Plan and deliver services
- Make contracts
- Make payments
- Buy and sell goods
- Lease land
- Build works
The role of Ministers

- Premier assigns responsibilities
- Responsible to Parliament for portfolio areas assigned by the Premier
Cabinet is appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Premier. It is chaired by the Premier. In South Australia all 15 Ministers sit in Cabinet.

All significant matters are required to be brought to Cabinet. These include:
- strategic policy
- legislative proposals
- inter governmental issues
- administrative matters
- financial matters
Ministers must bring some decisions to Cabinet

- Strategic policy
- Legislative
- Inter-governmental
- Financial
- Administrative
Cabinet’s Workload

- In 2005 there were:
  - 49 regular Cabinet meetings
  - 70 special Cabinet meetings
  - 902 Cabinet submissions
  - 583 sub-committee matters
  - 737 Cabinet notes
  - 66 Executive Council meetings
  - 1010 items

Department of the Premier and Cabinet
How does Cabinet work?

- Cabinet submissions
- Cabinet sub-committee submissions
- Cabinet notes
Cabinet submissions are the basis for the Cabinet decision.

They follow a strict format and include:
- Economic, budget and financial implications
- Impact on community including small business, environment, regulatory impact, regional impact and social
- Spread and results of consultation

Properly prepared Cabinet submissions aid effective decision making and aid effective implementation.

In Cabinet Office our role is to analyse the submission and provide advice to the Premier and ensure that a whole of Government approach has been taken to develop the policy proposal.

Of course despite all the best efforts and following the rigour of the policy process there is no guarantee that the policy will be approved in the recommended form.
There are several critical foundations of the public service.

We need a neutral, professional public service that provides advice to elected officials, enforces laws and regulations and ensures the delivery of services to citizens.

We need an accountability regime with many checks and balances in the system to ensure continuous respect for the public interest.
Parliamentary processes

Responsible Government: ‘government by representatives of the people who are chosen by the people.’
### House of Origin

**Initiation**
- Normal Bill: Minister on Notice.
- Taxing Bill: Minister without Notice.
- Appropriation Bill: Minister on receipt of message from the Governor.
- Private Member’s Bill: Government Backbencher, Opposition member, Independent member; such Bills cannot include an Appropriation provision.

**First Reading**
1. Formal motion to bring in Bill - a request of, and approval from, the house to proceed.
2. Order to print - the authority of the House to print the Bill.
3. Listed for second Reading on a future day, the exception being Appropriation or Supply Bills which may be read on the same day.

**Second Reading**
4. Minister’s (or Private Member’s) Second Reading speech: copies of the Bill, usually with explanatory notes, circulated to all members; if Bill involves expenditure from the Consolidated Fund, a message from the Governor is required.
5. Bill debated in principle - that is, the general propositions of the Bill, but not the detail in the clauses, are debated.

**Committee Stage** (optional, may be dispensed with if the House unanimously agrees).
6. Bill examined in detail, clause by clause; relevant amendments are made where the Committee decides. A Committee may comprise all members of the House (a Committee of the whole) or some designated number (a Select Committee); an appointed chairman presides over each Committee.

**Report to the House**
7. Report from the Committee considered and adopted. The Bill may be recommitted.

**Third Reading**
8. Further debate, if necessary, on the Bill as reported.

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**BILL Passes HOUSE**
BILL PASSES HOUSE

Second House

Procedure
A similar scrutiny procedure to that used in the House of origin is adopted. If a Bill passes with amendments, those amendments are transmitted by message to the House of origin, and further messages flow between the two Houses accepting, rejecting or proposing modifications to the amendments. Each House must agree to any amendments in an identical form before a Bill can become law.

Approval
When a Bill has passed both Houses and any amendments have been agreed to by each, it will be prepared for Royal Assent.

Clerk of Parliaments
Certifies Bill

Governor
Royal Assent

Enactment

On day specified in the Act
OR
If Act so provides on day proclaimed by the Governor
OR
If not otherwise stated, when given

Royal Assent

LAW NOW APPLIES
More significant Acts include:

Natural Resources Management Act 2004
River Murray Act 2003
Fair Work Act 1994 (major amendments in 2005)
Criminal Law Consolidation (Abolition of Time Limit for Prosecution of Certain Offences) Amendment Act 2003
Commission of Enquiry (Children in State Care) 2004

Less significant Acts include:

Dried Fruits Repeal Act 2003
Dog Fence (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act 2005
Parliamentary processes

- Controls on the Executive
  - Legislation
  - Appropriation
  - Questions (on and without notice)
  - Annual reports
  - Parliamentary Committees
  - Ombudsman
  - Auditor-General

Department of the Premier and Cabinet