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**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**GOVERNMENT ARROGANCE UNACCEPTABLE**

Independent MLC Ann Bressington today hit back at comments made over the weekend by The Hon Paul Holloway attacking the Upper House and seeking, amongst other things, to reduce the time allocated for private member's business.

“Indeed the Upper House is now a *“True House of Review”* with the government now unable to sweep social issues under the carpet because it does not have the majority,” Ms Bressington said.

“If the government had its way the Select Committee inquiry into Families S.A. would never have been proposed let alone passed.

“Private member's business is the only opportunity that the people of South Australia are offered to have their concerns represented through the very ‘motions’ to which Mr Holloway refers.

“Mr Holloway claims that legislation is delayed, when in actual fact the lower house has been known to take up to 10 months to announce it's position on legislation which means that the debate is stalled indefinitely in the Upper House. The fact that the government is not guaranteed of having the chair on all Committees shows that finally the Opposition and Independents are in a position to do their job.

“It is *not convention* that the government always has the chair on committees.”

“Now that this *tradition* is being challenged it could be that outcomes from these committees will reflect more accurately problems that exist in the management of this state. The government will be unable to control how those committees are conducted and the final reports that are handed down. *This is meaningful reform.*

“This government may finally be learning that control, arrogance and bullying does not equate to *‘leadership’* and is being dragged kicking and screaming into a true democratic process. The truth is the government now has to “work” to ensure that legislation is effective and rigorous debate holds them accountable. Perhaps Mr. Holloway’s concern about late nights has more to do with stamina than with how the Upper House is operating?”