

**ANSWER TO QUESTION UPON  
NOTICE**

**24. Surf Life Saving Club Leases**

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Lands—

With reference to his replacement Land Use Policy—

- (1) Will the Crown leases on the Alexandra Headland, Mooloolaba and Maroochydore Surf Life Saving Clubs, that are due to expire in 1995, 1996 and 2015 respectively be renewed?
- (2) If so, what additional conditions will be placed on these leases?

Answer:

- (1) Firstly, I must clarify that the Life Saving Club leases mentioned by Mr Hobbs are not subject to the new policy of the Department of Lands which deals with the secondary use of trust land because they are Special Leases which have been issued to the relevant Clubs direct from the Department of Lands. The new Policy

only relates to leases which have been or will be issued by trustees over trust land.

Secondly, the expiry dates mentioned by Mr Hobbs are incorrect. For the information of the House, the correct dates on which the terms of these leases expire are: Alexandra Headlands—31 December 2036; Mooloolaba—31 July 2021 and Maroochydore—25 November 2016.

As to whether these leases will be renewed, I can only say that having regard to the substantial period of time before the expiry of each lease, it is difficult for me to give any firm commitment. However, unless there is some major shift in the methodology of lifesaving or the environmental management of beachfront land, it is highly probable that an application for the renewal of these leases will be treated favourably.

- (2) Given my preceding comments on the renewal of these leases, it would be inappropriate for me to give any indication of the conditions which will be applicable to beachfront leases which commence well into the next century.

## QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

### 1. Timber Industry, Maryborough

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

What are the future employment prospects for the ex-timber workers of Maryborough?

Answer:

I thank the honourable member for his question.

The Government undertook in 1991 to secure the employment of timber workers displaced from Fraser Island as a consequence of the end to Fraser Island logging.

We have kept that promise—all ex-timber workers have been offered alternative employment and a significant number of them remain in Government employment today.

In an election year the National Party has seen fit to indulge in scaremongering at the expenses of the ex-timber workers and their families.

I have previously reaffirmed the Government's commitment to securing the future employment of the ex-timber workers.

I repeat that commitment today—the future employment of the ex-timber workers is secure.

The Government will not walk away from the ex-timber workers and I call on the National Party to stop its despicable scaremongering which is causing unnecessary anxiety for the workers and their families.

### 2. Bundaberg North State School; Bundaberg North State High School

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Education—

What is the cost of new facilities completed or commenced at the North Bundaberg High School and the North Bundaberg State School for 1994 and 1995?

Answer:

I am pleased to advise the following information on this Government's funding of new facilities for Bundaberg North State School and Bundaberg North State High School in response to the Member for Bundaberg's question.

PROJECT	ESTIMATED COST	ACTUAL OR ESTIMATED COMPLETION
BUNDABERG NORTH STATE SCHOOL		
Resource Centre PS88	\$318,725	24 April 1995
General Learning Half Block— Stage 2	\$184,467	15 July 1994
Administration Block	\$423,393	19 July 1995
BUNDABERG NORTH STATE HIGH SCHOOL		
Amenities Block	\$168,114	15 February 1995
Extend Music Block for two Performing Arts Spaces	\$299,085	31 March 1995
Three Space Science Block	\$582,743	20 January 1995

### 4. South-East Queensland, Population Growth

Mr BEATTIE asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

What are the aims of the discussion paper entitled *Towards a regional transport plan* in light of the massive population growth projected in South East Queensland?

Answer:

The Member for Brisbane Central has astutely observed that South East Queensland (SEQ) will be experiencing massive population growth in the next 15 years or so.

In fact, Members should be aware that four out of the 10 fastest growing areas in Australia are located in SEQ.

In this context, Cabinet's Decision to require the development of an Integrated Regional Transport Plan (IRTP) to help shape this growth is indeed timely if we are to avoid creating a smog-ridden Los Angeles sprawl over the entire South East of Queensland.

The Discussion Paper, "Towards an Integrated Regional Transport Plan," is the first stage of a process which will give Queenslanders living in the South East, a chance to have a say in shaping a regional transport system which will serve them well into the 21st century.

The next stage will be the development of the draft Plan, to be considered by Cabinet towards the middle of the year.

The aims of the IRTP are:

1. To develop a transport system supporting a more sustainable pattern of development which reduces the need to travel;
2. To provide better and more accessible public transport and restrain traffic growth.

Over 700,000 residents in South East Queensland have received information about the IRTP through brochures and the Discussion Paper, and more than 40,000 have made the effort to respond to a questionnaire so that their views can be taken into account.

Around 25 public workshops have been held in different centres in the region and I believe quite a few Members have taken the time to attend these workshops to listen to the views of their constituents.

I look forward to the completion of the draft IRTP and its recommendations about the future shape of the transport system in South East Queensland and recognise the efforts and cooperation of the 20 Local Governments in the region, in getting it to that stage.

Most importantly, the process needs to maintain its momentum after the Plan is completed, to ensure a long term transport investment program which addresses the key issues of social justice, the environment and economic development in a balanced and responsible way.

### 6. Aboriginal Health Facilities, Consultancy Fees

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Administrative Services—

With reference to the construction of aboriginal health facilities in Far North Queensland and as the Public Works Committee was critical of the \$300 000 worth of consultancy fees paid in relation to this project—

Will he supply (a) details of the tender process for the awarding of consultancies in relation to this project, including the value of tenders called, when they were called, and applicants, (b) a complete list of consultants commissioned to assist the Government in relation to this project, and (c) details of each and every payment made to consultants in relation to this project?

Answer:

(a) Geotechnical Investigations and Contour and Detail Surveys were required of the individual sites to enable designs to be prepared. Due to the large number of sites involved (12 sites), their geographical locations, and the limited number of appropriate consultants available in the Far North Queensland area, (3 Geotechnical, 4 Surveyors of which 1 was to undertake a survey of Thursday Island Hospital at the same time), it was decided to split the sites into three geographical areas and accordingly, in September 1993, fee proposals were obtained from one consultant firm for each area. The firms and the accepted fees involved were as follows:

#### Geotechnical Investigations

Eastern Side of Cape (3 sites)—Golder Associates Pty Ltd (\$7,500)

Western Side of Cape (5 sites)—D.J. Douglas & Partners Pty Ltd (\$14,193)

Torres Strait (4 sites)—McIntyre & Associates Pty Ltd (\$12,962)

#### Contour and Detail Surveys

Eastern Side of Cape (3 sites)—John Mac Isaac & Associates Pty Ltd (\$23,474)

Western Side of Cape (5 sites)—C & B Consultants Pty Ltd (\$25,855)

Torres Strait (4 sites)—McIntyre & Associates Pty Ltd (\$15,800)

Following evaluation of the submissions received to ensure the proposals were reasonable, the above firms were commissioned.

For design purposes, the overall project was split into two identifiable portions during the Design Stage. In September 1993, fee proposals were sought from appropriate Far North Queensland firms. The firms and the accepted fees of the commissioned consultants were as follows:

#### Primary Health Care and Community Health Centres

Architects—Peddle Thorpe Cleland Pty Ltd (\$84,480); Thomson Adsett; Power Graham Dempsey

Quantity Surveyors—Rawlinsons (Qld) Pty Ltd (\$11,198); John Mitchell and Associates; Rider Hunt Cairns

Following evaluation of the submissions received (in accordance with the guidelines contained in the State Purchasing Policy), the firm of Peddle Thorpe Cleland Pty Ltd was commissioned as the Design

Architects and the firm of Rawlinsons (Qld) Pty Ltd was commissioned as the Design Quantity Surveyors for the Primary Health Care and Community Health Centres.

#### Remote Area Accommodation

Architects—Woodhead Firth Lee Pty Ltd (\$61,286); Michael Ferris and Associates; Stenders Morris and Partners; Clarke and Prince

Quantity Surveyors—Butler Wright & Partners (\$16,582); Rider Hunt Cairns; WT Partnership

Following evaluation of the submissions received (in accordance with the guidelines contained in the State Purchasing Policy), the firm of Woodhead Firth Lee Pty Ltd was commissioned as the Design Architects and the firm of Butler Wright & Partners was commissioned as the Design Quantity Surveyors for the Remote Area Accommodation.

Consultants were required to undertake audit roles during the Construction Stage and, in December 1993, fee proposals were sought from appropriate Far North Queensland firms. The firms and the accepted fees of the commissioned consultants were as follows:

Architects—Stenders Morris and Partners (\$21,000); Woodhead Firth Lee Pty Ltd; Michael Ferris and Associates; Power Graham Dempsey

Quantity Surveyors—Rawlinsons (Qld) Pty Ltd (\$77,769); Butler Wright & Partners

Following evaluation of the submissions received (in accordance with the guidelines contained in the State Purchasing Policy), the firm of Stenders Morris and Partners was commissioned as the Audit Architects and the firm of Rawlinsons (Qld) Pty Ltd was commissioned as the Audit Quantity Surveyors for the whole project.

The overall consultant fees for the project are considered to be good value for money and are in fact considerably lower than would be expected for a project of this nature.

Following the rescinding of the Prentice Builders Ltd contract in October 1994, due to financial difficulties identified, the actions of Project Services in taking over the contract minimised what would have been more significant delays and additional costs to the State of Queensland. The Audit Quantity Surveyors duties increased and accordingly the original commission was extended at a negotiated fee of \$7,500 per month. The amount of this additional fee was considered reasonable. It was not appropriate to seek proposals from alternative consultant firms.

Also following the rescinding of the Prentice Builders Ltd contract, it was necessary to engage a Structural Engineer for audit of the steel framing as constructed. It was decided the most appropriate strategy was to engage a consultant on an hourly rate.

A fee was negotiated directly with Karamischeff Nagel Pty Ltd, a firm which had the background knowledge necessary to provide this service, at an hourly rate of \$65.00. The rate was considered extremely competitive and it was not considered necessary to seek proposals from alternative consultant firms. Further complications identified

with the structure have necessitated additional input by this consultant on the project.

Questions (b) and (c)

The commission value of fees and total payments made (to 23 March 1995) to the private consultants on the Cape projects are summarised on the attached schedule.

#### QUEENSLAND HEALTH—CAPE PROJECTS

##### SUMMARY OF CONSULTANTS FEES

SERVICE	CONSULTANT	COMMISSION VALUE	PAYMENTS MADE
<b>SITE INVESTIGATION</b>			
Geotechnical Investigation	Golder Associates Pty Ltd	7,500	7,500
	D J Douglas & Partners Pty Ltd	14,193	14,193
	McIntyre & Associates Pty Ltd	12,962	12,962
Contour & Detail Survey	John Mac Isaac & Associates Pty Ltd	23,474	23,474
	C&B Consultants Pty Ltd	25,855	25,855
	McIntyre & Associates Pty Ltd	15,800	15,800
	Sub-Total	99,784	99,784
<b>DESIGN STAGE</b>			
Architect	Peddle Thorpe Cleland Pty Ltd	84,480	84,480
	Woodhead Firth Lee Pty Ltd	61,286	61,286
Quantity Surveyor	Butler Wright & Partners	16,582	16,582
	Rawlinsons (Qld) Pty Ltd	11,198	11,198
	Sub-Total	173,546	173,546
<b>CONSTRUCTION STAGE</b>			
Audit Quantity Surveyor	Rawlinsons (Qld) Pty Ltd—original	77,769	77,769
	Rawlinsons (Qld) Pty Ltd—extension	60,000	10,019
Audit Architect	Stenders Morris and Partners	21,000	21,000
Audit Structural Engineer	Karamischeff Nagel Pty Ltd	12,264	2,088
	Sub-Total	171,033	110,876
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>444,363</b>	<b>384,206</b>

NOTE: Payments made are to 23 March 1995

## 7. Train Derailments

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to the sustained and continued number of derailments on the main coastal rail line between Mackay and Rockhampton—

- (1) Will he detail the initiatives necessary to overcome the current situation and renew confidence in rail travel?
- (2) What is the estimated cost of these initiatives?

Answer:

Following a series of derailments during the last quarter of 1994 there have been two main line derailments between Mackay and Rockhampton in 1995. Both of these derailments occurred near Yukon, south of Sarina, and were caused by heat induced track buckles.

Queensland Rail has undertaken several significant initiatives in managing its safety. These include the production and progressive implementation of the Corporate Safety Plan and the recent independent Safety Audit and subsequent recommendations which have been integrated into the Corporate Safety Plan.

Control of derailments is a fundamental issue for the operation of any railway. It is a complex issue requiring action on many fronts. As such there are numerous routine actions that are taken to reduce the risk of derailments. As well as normal maintenance practices, there are standard measures

taken in hot weather to reduce the likelihood of track buckles and potential consequential derailments.

In addition there have been specific initiatives to reduce the risk of derailments. These include:

Completed in 1994: elimination of plain bearing wagons; elimination of buffers on wagons; improved stability of fuel tanker wagons; withdrawal of CFJS four wheel wagons

Current Actions:

An expert Technical Review Committee was set up in November 1994 to review all derailment Investigation Team reports and determine appropriate actions to avoid recurrences.

A team has been set up to investigate the derailments on the North Coast Line in 1994 to determine if there are common underlying factors. This team will report by the end of April 1995.

As the majority of derailments are caused by rollingstock defects, operational factors (including inappropriate train handling by Drivers), track defects or by a combination of these factors, the specific strategies being implemented to address these concerns are detailed below.

A review is being undertaken of existing wagon maintenance standards for appropriateness and consistency across QR.

Audits have recently been undertaken at Brisbane, Rockhampton and Townsville of locomotive and wagon condition, wagon loading, train slack, marshalling and train examination.

A test site was selected north of Caboolture to measure wagon loading and to check on the extent of overloading. (No overloading was detected by the test).

Equipment has been set up to test the longitudinal forces on trains between Brisbane and Rockhampton.

Improved Freight Group wagon maintenance including:

Comprehensive cyclic inspections being introduced as an integral part of the Rollingstock Maintenance Strategy rather than the long practiced QR tradition of waiting until a wagon defect is detected.

Comprehensive survey of freight wagon condition completed. This allows wagons in an unsatisfactory condition to be scrapped or repaired as appropriate.

Improved maintenance standards documentation nearly completed.

Extensive Maintenance staff training commenced.

Review of the method of train examination being undertaken.

A major bogie overhaul program is to commence shortly.

Operational Strategies:

The average weight, speed, size and density of QR freight trains has increased rapidly during the past three years as the Freight Group's efficiency improvements are implemented. It is now evident that many Drivers' train handling techniques are no longer appropriate to the changed parameters and

hence a major "in service" training program is being instituted.

A three year project is under way with Central Queensland University to study train dynamics and develop improved driver handling techniques. This will ultimately result in fewer derailments. This project is in its second year and is being expanded from coal trains to cover general freight trains.

In conjunction with the coal train investigations a Train Handling project has been commenced for freight trains. A Project Manager has been appointed to manage this project.

Procedures have been put in place to rectify loading problems with some container wagons which was contributing to derailments.

Positions of Tutor Driver have recently been filled. This will assist to improve driver skill level and reduce the risk of derailments.

Investigations have been initiated into train marshalling practices with a view to balancing business requirements and derailment risks.

Automatic Train Protection (ATP) is being introduced on the Rockhampton - Townsville and Ipswich - Toowoomba sections. This will eliminate cases of excessive speed which have been a suspected factor in some derailments.

**Current Track Maintenance and Upgrading Strategies:**

Over the past 15-20 years the maintenance of QR tracks has undergone a dramatic change from predominantly manual methods to predominantly mechanised methods. Along with the change there have been significant on-going reductions in field maintenance staff and the need for manual maintenance processes has steadily declined.

Recently the changes have been more rapid due to the provision of more modern equipment and more appropriate gang transport. Further, the increasing use of steel and concrete sleepers and other low maintenance track components has allowed staffing reductions to continue.

Recently, a detailed inspection of the North Coast line from Rockhampton to Townsville showed that the level of deferred maintenance was rising in some areas, primarily due to resources being concentrated on track and bridge upgrading works associated with the Main Line Upgrade (MLU) project. To ensure that the trend was reversed prior to serious effects being experienced, the decision was taken to temporarily place additional resources into the area. In essence, this strategy allows additional resources to be put towards both the maintenance and the MLU works with a consequential acceleration of the MLU track upgrade program from completion in March 1997 to completion in September 1996.

**Longer Term Track Upgrading Strategies:**

The present Mount Isa and North Coast line (MLU) upgrading programs involve interim strategies to strengthen the track structure which will permit the safe operation of heavier locomotives and wagons at higher operating speeds. At the same time, the completed works will significantly reduce the risk of

derailment by providing a more robust and maintainable track structure.

Estimated cost of these initiatives:

It is not possible to extract the costs of all of the strategies put in place as they form an integral part of the overall management of QR's freight business.

Projects such as the Main Line Upgrade program, costing some \$580m over five years will provide many benefits including reduced derailment risks.

## 11. Jet Skis

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to the volume of complaints about the dangerous behaviour of persons using jet skis in tidal waterways such as Tallebudgera Creek—

- (1) Will he expedite completion of the proposed review of the use of waterways before an innocent swimmer is killed?
- (2) Will he insist on adequate policing of jet ski misuse and ensure that adequate penalties for infringements are imposed?

Answer:

The Member for Burleigh may be assured that the State Government shares community concerns about the misuse of jet skis, and any other form of watercraft, in any waters within the jurisdiction of the State.

This concern is being addressed through new marine safety legislation and the development of Marine Safety Management Plans for the safe management of waterborne activities in areas of high usage.

The first of these plans, the draft Marine Safety Management Plan for the Southport Broadwater is about to be released for public consultation and comment.

The review to which the member refers is the review of regulations relating specifically to the use of Tallebudgera Creek which commenced in February this year and is due for completion in June.

The review will take into account the management principles being developed within the draft Marine Safety Management Plan system and the new marine safety legislation, and will involve extensive consultation with all relevant stakeholders.

To attempt to expedite the process in order to produce a quick solution to the Tallebudgera Creek issues would of necessity put at risk the consultation process; this is not an option. The consultation process will take place to ensure that all aspects and concerns are considered and the review will be completed, on schedule, in June.

The enforcement of marine safety legislation is undertaken by Water Police officers and by Boating and Fisheries Patrol officers as part of their routine patrols of the area.

The service agreement between Queensland Transport and the Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol is currently being renegotiated and updated to

reflect current issues which include adequate monitoring of the state's waterways.

Forward planning of monitoring activities will ensure that areas such as Tallebudgera Creek receive the attention necessary to maintain a safe marine environment.

Penalties for the infringement of the marine safety regulations which are currently being drafted will be in line with penalties for similar offences under other legislation, such as road traffic offences.

The operation of any craft at speed in the area of a person in the water is one example of an offence under the draft regulations which will incur a severe penalty.

The proposed inclusion of marine offences on the schedule for Self-enforcing Ticketable Offence Notices system will allow for immediate, on the spot action by enforcement officers.

I can assure the Member for Burleigh that safety for all users of the waterways is a prime concern for this government and strategies are being put in place to ensure that the waterways will be safe.

## 12. Toowoomba, High Schools

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the current student population at Toowoomba State High School, the record enrolment figures at most private schools in Toowoomba and the fact that enrolments at the new Fairview Heights State School have not greatly eased the pressure on other State schools in the area—

Will he give an undertaking to immediately review the need for a fourth high school in Toowoomba?

Answer:

In responding to the Honourable Member's question it should first be noted that enrolments at Toowoomba State High School have in fact declined by approximately 200 over the last three years.

The distribution of education resources must be determined based on the greatest need and priorities and is re-assessed annually on the basis of enrolment date.

At present there are more urgent needs in other parts of the state than there are at the specific schools mentioned in the Honourable Member's question.

However he and the House can be assured that priorities are re-assessed annually on the receipt of enrolment information and I am conscious, from representations I have received, of the need to keep the situation in Toowoomba under close scrutiny.

## 13. Stock Inspector, Clermont

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

With reference to further cutbacks and reshuffling of staff in the Department of Primary Industries in Central Queensland resulting in the Shire of Belyando, one of the biggest cattle producing areas

in Queensland, now being left with no stock inspector—

When will a replacement stock inspector be appointed in Clermont to adequately service this area?

Answer:

Clermont will continue to receive the services of a locally based stock inspector.

## 14. Ban Ban Springs

Mrs McCAULEY asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

- (1) What action has he taken to safeguard the Ban Ban Springs, given that it recently stopped flowing for almost the first time in living memory, and given that both the Gayndah Shire Council and the Wakka Wakka tribe are opposed to the proposal to run a pipeline across the road from the adjoining property, to artificially keep the water supply up to the Springs?
- (2) Is he aware that Aboriginal people in the region regard the Ban Ban Springs as a sacred site?
- (3) Why will his Government not move to address the problem which his department allowed to occur in the first place, and which has seen the springs depleted of water?

Answer:

(1) After continued consultation with the Gayndah Shire Council, Wakka Wakka Jinda people, landholders at Ban Ban Springs and the community generally, an investigation has commenced which may lead to the declaration of a groundwater area for the Ban Ban Springs locality and enable some control of bores in the area.

(2) Yes.

(3) The Government has attempted to help the Gayndah community resolve this problem by finding a solution to the Springs drying up. At the same time, many people there forget the severe drought going on all around them.

## 15. Laidley-Helidon Rail Line

Mr FITZGERALD asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development

With reference to the Laidley to Helidon section of the main railway line—

- (1) What maintenance program is carried out on the track?
- (2) What changes have been made to this program over the past five years?
- (3) How often is the track physically inspected?
- (4) What quality evaluation of the maintenance program is in place?
- (5) If there is a maintenance program, is it providing better maintenance of the track compared with permanent fettler gangs and gangers

responsible for sections, as was the practice in the past?

Answer:

The track is spot resleepered on a continuous basis. The track is also ballasted and tamping of sleepers and lining of track is conducted as required by large tamping and lining machines. Recently, there has been in track flashbutt welding of rails in the area, to eliminate rail joints at close spacing. This is being followed up with restressing of rails to reduce the probability of track buckling.

During the latter half of 1993 and the first half of 1994 extra attention was given to the Ipswich-Rosewood area because of changes for electric passenger trains. Efforts since then have been concentrated between Rosewood and Helidon.

Depot groups are currently located at Ipswich and Laidley. They are large groups that are now equipped with all manner of motorised equipment, and road vehicles for rapid deployment. Work priorities are determined from inspections, and both large and small jobs are tackled in priority order.

The former arrangement of many small gangs along the line (prior to 1992/93) ensured regular attention to minor defects, but attention to major renewal work was delayed until 'flying gangs' could be programmed to work in the district.

The former smaller fettling gangs and flying gangs were not mechanised to the degree the current groups are, and many man hours were lost in travelling on track between trains, and setting up flying gang camps.

The track is inspected by hi-rail vehicle at least twice every week. The track section supervisor also inspects every curve by walking twice every year. Hi-rail inspections are conducted more often (daily) in times of hot weather, or wet weather when flooding is threatened.

In the past, the track recording car has run once every year over the track, but from next year will run a minimum of 3 times over this section of track. This car records track geometry details on computer disks. This is analysed, exceptions noted, and all information returned to local track staff with defects highlighted in priority order for attention.

Maintenance Team meetings are held approximately every eight weeks, and eight week work programs are drawn up on Gantt charts. Actual performance against the previous eight week program is analysed by the Track Section Supervisor and local work group leaders. Marked up programs (planned and actual) and all inspection records are forwarded to the District Engineer in Brisbane for checking. Audits of inspections and work records are conducted annually by staff responsible to the Manager Civil Engineering. These staff do not report to local infrastructure manager, and are therefore independent auditors.

The Manager Infrastructure (South Qld) for the Freight Group also collects key statistics from inspection reports, records historical information on sleeper condemnation statistics, and Track Condition Indices from the Track Recording car. This officer

also reviews this history with local track supervisors and the District Engineer on an annual basis.

Records for this section of track indicate that Track Condition Indices (which basically indicates track riding quality) have been consistently maintained at or about the level they were prior to the new maintenance procedures being introduced. Maintenance costs per kilometre of track have been reduced by almost 33 percent, this representing approximately \$10,000 per track kilometre per year.

The number of defective sleepers is not considered to be a problem, as the pattern of defective sleepers is carefully managed. This is confirmed by the track recording car, which shows that satisfactory track geometry is still being maintained.

#### **16. Ingham TAFE College**

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations—

- (1) Will there be any funding provided in the next budget for the construction of an Ingham TAFE College to a level envisaged in 1989?
- (2) If not, could an indication be given to the future direction with major improvements that will occur with capital investment for TAFE facilities in Ingham?

Answer:

It would be inappropriate for me to pre-empt the release of the State Budget in relation to this question. Matters in relation to TAFE capital works funding for the coming financial period are still being considered and I shall be in a position to answer your question after the release of the State Budget.

#### **19. Swans Lagoon Research Station**

Mr STONEMAN asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

With reference to advice I received from the then Head of the Department of Primary Industries, Mr Jim Miller, that following discussions between a neighbouring property owner to Swans Lagoon Research Station in the Lower Burdekin, and the Northern Regional Director of the Department, investigations, both internally and by the Criminal Justice Commission, would take place—

- (1) Will he confirm such investigations took place?
- (2) What actions took place as a result of the investigations?
- (3) What communications have been undertaken between the department and neighbouring property owners following the original allegations which raised concerns of a most significant nature?

Answer:

- (1) Yes—the matters raised by the complainant were thoroughly investigated.
- (2) The results of the investigations arising from the allegations showed no evidence of wrong doing.

- (3) In view of the lack of substance to the allegations, no further communications with other parties outside of the department has occurred.

### **21. Maleny-Stanley River Road; Beerwah-Kilcoy Road**

Mr TURNER asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

- (1) When can residents and road users of the Maleny-Stanley River Road expect an upgrading of the gravel section to bitumen standard, before serious accidents and fatalities occur?
- (2) When will the Transport Department take steps to bypass the centre of Beerwah on the Beerwah-Kilcoy Road?

Answer:

The works needed to upgrade and seal the remaining ten kilometres of road would require substantial funds. Currently, this level of funding cannot be justified in terms of economic benefit to the community because of other more urgent and higher priority works. As a result, it has not been possible to include any upgrading works in the 94/95 - 98/99 Roads Implementation Program.

The Queensland Transport traffic accident database has records of only four accidents on the unsealed portion of the road in the past ten years. All of these were of a minor nature and two were on a section which has since been bitumen sealed.

The Transport Technology Division of Queensland Transport is conducting a study into the maintenance and improvement of unsealed roads, including the Maleny-Stanley River Road. This study will investigate current maintenance practices and the effectiveness of alternative materials.

Pending the outcomes of the study, you may be assured that Departmental officers will ensure the road is maintained in a safe and trafficable condition.

Queensland Transport has a long-term plan to bypass the Beerwah town centre and landowners on the proposed route have been advised of possible future land requirements. However, as the bypass would have a high cost and low economic benefits, it is a low priority project and detailed planning is not likely to commence for several years.

### **22. Borumba Dam**

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

With reference to the increasing demand for water from Borumba Dam, which is holding only 60% capacity at the present time which is near the end of normal wet season—

What steps will be taken in the near future to ensure an increased capacity of water will be available for the growing demand from users who will be relying on that dam for their water supply?

Answer:

In conjunction with a review of the future water supply sources for the Mary Valley and Sunshine Coast, the Government has agreed to a strategy that includes raising of the Borumba Dam's wall, initially by some two metres around the year 1997, and then an ultimate raising around the year 2010 of about 25 metres, with an associated requirement to convey water to the Sunshine Coast by pump stations and pipelines.

### **26. Daisy Hill Forest**

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to the South East Freeway and the estimated cost of \$35m for the tunnel through Daisy Hill Forest—

- (1) Will he acknowledge that no proper studies had been done by main roads engineers when this figure was announced?
- (2) Have the engineers now done these studies and investigations?
- (3) What is the current estimate of the cost of the tunnel?
- (4) If there is not a properly calculated cost, when can we expect a definite cost to be available?

Answer:

The tunnel is being considered in the Impact Assessment Study now being undertaken by consultants.

When the study is finalised, a better estimate cost for the tunnel will be known. However, it will not be until the tenders are called that the actual cost of the tunnel will be known.

### **27. Barramundi Farmers; Aquaculture**

Mr PERRETT asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

With reference to concerns of North Queensland barramundi farmers who feel they have been overlooked for investment grants in favour of overseas investors—

- (1) Will he provide a copy of his department's charter/guidelines for attracting and promoting investment in the potentially lucrative aquaculture industry?
- (2) Will he guarantee a fair assessment by his department of applications for investment grants by local barramundi farmers and investors before seeking overseas investment in the industry?
- (3) Will he provide a copy of the promotional brochure targeting Asian investment entitled *Future of Aquaculture—Queensland Australia*?

Answer:

- (1) The DPI works within guidelines of the "National Strategy on Aquaculture in Australia" released for public comment in April 1993 and



subsequently endorsed by key industry bodies. This National Strategy was approved by the Ministerial Council of Forestry, Fisheries and Aquaculture and published in March 1994. A copy is now tabled.

In 1994/95 Agribusiness, with my support, initiated a project to tell interested people about the opportunities that exist in Queensland for satisfying the growing international markets for aquaculture products.

My colleague, The Premier, through his Trade and Investment Development Division, is currently undertaking an exercise of promoting overseas investment into Queensland aquaculture industry. This exercise is highlighting our commitment to environmentally-sustainable development, and our desire to attract foreign companies which can offer additional technology, capital and markets. No special treatment or grants are being made available to foreign investors.

- (2) There are no investment grants provided by DPI to domestic or overseas investors. DPI provides advice and assistance on licencing, environmental studies, species research, extension and marketing.
- (3) There is no promotional brochure targeting Asian investment. The brochure *Queensland Australia—The Future of Aquaculture* is for all interested persons including domestic and overseas investors. A copy is now tabled.

### 29. Boat Builders

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

When will he amend the *Maritime Safety Act* to provide that Queensland boat builders will have to comply with the same basic safety standards that apply to other boat builders in other States?

Answer:

The Member for Southport may be assured that the State Government will continue to ensure that ships built in Queensland are designed, built and surveyed in a way that maintains safety.

The Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994 provides for a system of accreditation of designers, builders and marine surveyors for this purpose, and imposes a general safety obligation on these people to ensure that ships are designed, built and surveyed safely.

The requirements a person must have, such as experience, qualifications, plant and equipment, to be accredited as a ship designer, builder or marine surveyor will be stated in a Standard.

Accredited ship designers, builders and marine surveyors will issue certificates of compliance so that commercial and fishing ships may be registered as required by the Act.

In selecting acceptable design and construction methods designers and builders may choose to follow a prescriptive system using sections of the

Uniform Shipping Laws Code or other accepted codes and standards.

They may however choose a performance based system where the accredited person ensures the safety obligation is maintained. This second option allows an innovative approach to be applied to the design and construction of ships without a reduction in safety.

Queensland Transport Marine Safety Officers will randomly monitor ship designers, builders and surveyors for compliance with marine safety legislation.

No specific regulations are imposed for the design and construction of private pleasure vessels which is in line with all other states.

### 33. Sunshine Coast, Public Transport

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to his department's advertisements in the *Sunshine Coast Daily* on 28 September 1994 regarding improved public transport—

- (1) When will the level of service as indicated in the advertisement commence?
- (2) How long will it take for this level of service to be fully implemented?
- (3) Will the Government subsidise this indicated level of service even if it is not initially supported by the public?
- (4) Will the Government take a major role in the promotion of public transport usage on the Sunshine Coast?

Answer:

Queensland Transport officers are currently evaluating two bids to run services on the Sunshine Coast under a performance-based contract which specifies minimum levels of service.

These contracts are being introduced across the State to improve the level of service provided by urban bus operators.

Business Plans submitted as part of the contract offer, are being assessed independently by Coopers and Lybrand to determine their legitimacy and viability.

The successful contract holder will be the one who best meets or exceeds the conditions of the contract.

The assessment of the Sunshine Coast contract will be completed next month and a contract can be entered into shortly after that.

Officers of my Department will be negotiating with industry for service levels to be introduced as quickly as possible.

As the Department is currently evaluating competitive contract bids from Sunshine Coast operators, it would be unfair and inappropriate to

discuss these bids as they are commercial in-confidence.

However, as a term of all contracts throughout the State, the successful contract holder will be given five years to introduce all the required services.

What I can say in relation to Sunshine Coast services, is that the Government is confident the successful contractor will exceed the minimum service levels and that there will be tangible improvements this year.

The actual implementation time depends on which bid is accepted.

Quite clearly, the mentality of taxpayers endlessly subsidising poor quality services is no longer appropriate. The Passenger Transport Review (1992-93) found that operators had no incentive under the previous system to improve vehicle standards or service delivery.

However, the Government realises that the increased service levels it is asking from the industry are significant and may take some time for the public to support through higher patronage levels.

The Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994 specifically allows for transitional funding to assist operators in meeting the conditions of their contract, as they are adapting to the new expectations of Government.

Funding assistance comprises a full reimbursement to the operator for all concessional fares, in addition to transitional funding.

Government will also partially cover the cost of interest payments to a maximum of 6% for the purchase of new vehicles to upgrade fleets and encourage greater public patronage.

These financial arrangements aim to provide operators with the incentive to exercise their entrepreneurial skills to generate patronage through better services, rather than relying on Government handouts.

It is important to remember that a mid-point review will be conducted during the term of each contract, to ensure that any difficulties experienced in meeting contract conditions are identified and addressed.

The State Government recognises it has a responsibility to assist operators in marketing the service improvements resulting from the reforms.

This assistance will be provided in a consistent manner across the State, not just on the Sunshine Coast.

To maintain a high level of accountability, Government will be involved in a range of community education activities over coming months, in association with operators, to generate an awareness of new and improved services and the importance of using public transport.

### 36. Fire Service, Vehicles

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Emergency Services and Consumer

Affairs and Minister Assisting the Premier on Rural Affairs—

With reference to the purchase of 17 fire pumper/tankers by the Queensland Fire Service from Victoria—

- (1) Was the number of vehicles in need of modification after purchase 12 or 5?
- (2) Is it correct the Queensland Fire Service insisted the normal Victorian model while based on an Isuzu chassis was altered and fitted to a Mitsubishi chassis?
- (3) Is it correct these specially altered vehicles were overweight and the Department of Transport would not give them a clearance for road use?
- (4) Is it correct the modifications involved buying Isuzu chassis and then fitting the discarded Mitsubishi chassis to Mitsubishi bodies to recoup some of the costs?
- (5) What was the total cost of these modifications?
- (6) Is it correct that in spite of the vehicles not having a clearance for road use they were used in the recent bush fires of South East Queensland?
- (7) Is it correct that these vehicles proved to be dangerous to drive and were then withdrawn from service?

Answer:

- (1) The number of vehicles requiring modification was five (5).
- (2) "No". Queensland Fire Service called for Offer F055 and CFA submitted a design to meet this offer, and it was accepted.

QFS purchased the Mitsubishi FK417SW20 on a standing offer from Purchasing & Sales as it was the only compliant chassis available at the time.

- (3) "No". It is not correct. The Department of Transport only inspected these vehicles for brakes and A.D.R. requirements they were never submitted to the Department for weighing in a fully operational condition.

The Queensland Fire Service identified they were overweight over the front axles when fully laden (including crew) and took immediate action.

- (4) "No". It is not correct. Queensland Fire Service did not purchase Isuzu cab/chassis.

The corrective measure taken was to purchase the heavier Mitsubishi FM 517SW 20 chassis which has a GVMR (Gross Vehicle Mass Registered) of 13.5 tonnes.

- (5) The approved Contract price for the remounting of the CFA bodies is \$13,525.00 each, \$26,476 less than the alleged figure used in the House by the Opposition Spokesperson (Hansard 11130).
- (6) When the Commissioner was made aware of the problem with the five (5) vehicles by one of his own staff, he personally directed they not be

put into service until a solution was found. There was no restriction placed on them by the Department of Transport.

At the start of the very serious bushfires in September, 1994 the Commissioner directed they be used at a reduced water loading to form part of four task forces in south-east Queensland. They were used safely and with great effect during the fires.

It should be noted that the vehicles at no stage even when fully laden were over the GVMR (Gross Vehicle Mass Registered).

- (7) "No". There were no incidents reported that the vehicles were dangerous to drive. The vehicles were withdrawn ready for refit after the fire emergency had ceased.

The Queensland Fire Service purchased five 4x2 pumper/tankers built on Mitsubishi FKW417W20 cab/chassis and seven 4x4 pumper/tankers built on ISUZU.

### 39. Land Tax

Mrs SHELDON asked the Treasurer—

In December 1994, the Lands Department circulated a working paper amongst industry representatives which canvassed an option concerning the charging of Land Tax being moved from the unimproved value of a property to the improved or "site" value of a property.

- (1) Will he categorically rule out any such shift from unimproved value to site value for the charging of Land Tax?
- (2) If not, when will this change take place?
- (3) How much will the average person be paying as a result of this new initiative?
- (4) How will that compare to payments under the previous "unimproved" system?
- (5) How much will the change raise in a full year?

Answer:

- (1) The Department of Lands is responsible for the valuation of land and the methodology to be used. Valuations continue to be provided in accordance with the current Act and it is a matter for the Minister for Lands to decide whether he takes a submission to Cabinet regarding site valuations. The Land Tax implications would have to be fully and satisfactorily addressed in any submission. However, this Government has no plans to change the methodology used.
- (2) The Department of Lands has circulated a Working Paper for the purposes of consultation with industry. I repeat, the Government has no plans to change the methodology used.
- (3-5) Again, as the Government has no plans to change the methodology used, I cannot speculate on the cost of any change. As the Honourable Member would know the Goss Government has a policy of maintaining Queensland's low tax status and should there

ever be any change to methodology, this would be uppermost in our minds. Further, I am surprised that the Deputy Leader of the Coalition is not aware that the "average person" does not pay Land Tax. Land Tax is not payable on a principal place of residence and an individual must own more than \$160,000 of other land before becoming liable to Land Tax.

### 41. Keno

Mr VEIVERS asked the Treasurer—

- (1) Is the Government planning to introduce keno into clubs?
- (2) Is the reason they are keeping silent about the plan that they do not wish to incite religious leaders who are already concerned about the gambling explosion in Queensland since 1989?

Answer:

- (1) The Government has been reviewing the opportunities to extend the game of Keno from Casinos into other outlets, including Clubs and Hotels for some time. This game has proven to be popular in other States and has the potential to provide an additional feature for visitors to Clubs and Hotels as well as providing additional revenue to both sites and the Government.

However, because of the Casino Agreements signed by the previous Government, with Jupiters Broadbeach and Sheraton Breakwater Casinos, they have an effective exclusivity over the game of Keno. Any extension of the game to other venues is predicated on reaching an agreement with these Casino Licencees.

There are on-going discussions towards this end currently taking place. Clearly, many aspects of these discussions involve matters of commercial confidence and it would be entirely inappropriate for them to be conducted in the public arena.

I anticipate that these discussions will evolve into a proposal which will be discussed with the Clubs' and Hotels' Associations in the near future. Discussions with other potentially affected bodies, including charities and welfare agencies will also take place before a formal recommendation is made to Government on the form and scope of any Keno extension and the terms and conditions which would apply.

- (2) No. See the answer to (1).

### 43. Tree-Clearing Guidelines

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Lands—

With reference to the new tree clearing guidelines announced on 22 March 1995—

- (1) What scientific data was used to determine retention percentages that range from 20-90 per cent?
- (2) What methods of maintenance will be acceptable by Government for landholders to control regrowth in areas where tree clearing

permits with 80-90 percent retention is approved?

- (3) What area of Queensland was woodland cover at the time of European settlement and what is it now?
- (4) What percentage of woodland in Queensland is regrowth that has occurred in the last (a) 10 years, (b) 20 years, (c) 30 years, (d) 40 years, (e) 50 years and (f) 100 years?
- (5) Due to the economic conditions endured by landholders in recent years, what impact has this had in percentage terms on the reduction of regrowth control?

Answer:

- (1) The retention percentages were determined having regard to currently available information drawn from a number of sources.
- (2) Should any particular methods of maintenance be required these will be stated on the tree clearing permit. The current legislation as well as the provisions of the Land Act 1994 allow treatment of regrowth for routine management purposes without the need for a permit where the initial clearing was done under a permit granted after 1/1/90.
- (3) Available data indicate that 110M hectares of Queensland supported woody vegetation (forests, woodlands and shrublands) at the time of European settlement. Currently, some 76M hectares of Queensland has tree cover.
- (4) There are no figures available on what percentage of woodland in Queensland is regrowth at present or at any nominated time in the past.
- (5) The impact of economic conditions on regrowth control in recent years is uncertain.

#### 44. Coreen Water Board

Mrs McCauley asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

With reference to the fact that he was advised in July 1993 of the urgent need to establish a new water supply for the Coreen Water Board, and in light of the fact that the Secretary of the Board, in a letter dated 2 March 1995, says that the process has "virtually completely stalled,"—

What steps is he taking to alleviate the situation in which the Board's storage tanks have not had water in them for six weeks, and pumps are pumping only a fraction of their rated capacity and are also pumping a lot of air?

Answer:

To begin, let me point out to members that the Coreen Water Board is a local group of landholders who have come together to arrange their own water supplies mainly for stock watering purposes.

They use the provisions of the Water Resources Act to achieve that and the Government is supportive of such arrangements being in place.

The problems with the Coreen Area at present are two fold:

- i) the supplies from the current bore are diminishing
- ii) the ratepayers cannot agree on their needs

It is the second point that has forced the time delays whilst Government has worked carefully through the processes laid down in legislation before any change is made to the constitution of the Coreen Water Area.

Unfortunately, the drilling of a new bore to replace the one which is slowly running out of water cannot be done within the gazetted Area. Therefore an amendment is required to alter the boundaries of the original water supply area to include land upon which it is proposed to construct a new bore. Proposals to that effect were published in accordance with the legislation.

However, 40 per cent of the ratepayers in the Area have objected to such a change, apparently preferring to have the Area abolished altogether.

The Member for Callide would be aware that the Banana Shire Council had considered entering into an agreement with the Board for a temporary supply, but did not proceed given the level of objections from ratepayers.

Because local landholders in the Area cannot agree amongst themselves on the future of their own water supply scheme, it has been left to the Government to consider a number of options, each of which would attract opposition from a significant number of ratepayers.

In accordance with the legislation I have recently considered the proposals and the objections to extending the water supply area and the construction of a new bore. All that remains is for the approval of the Governor in Council to be granted and the making of a regulation.

The procedures and process in obtaining the necessary approvals are specified in the legislation and the decision of the Governor in Council may not be pre-empted. However, a decision in that respect is anticipated during the month of April.

In relation to the deep seated and on-going problems within the Area, I have asked my Department to consult with the Board with a view to amending the boundaries of the supply Area to exclude landholders from the Area where that is desirable and feasible.

In summary, I reiterate that the Board is a local organisation and the time delays experienced by the Board in having to change its constitution arise from the high level of disagreement within the body of ratepayers.

#### 46. Parking Stickers for Disabled

Mrs Gamin asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to the increasing number of local

authorities which are choosing not to distinguish between the new blue and red disability parking permits—

Will he now abandon this failed scheme which has distressed many disabled people, particularly war veterans?

Answer:

The Member for Burleigh may not be aware that Queensland Transport actively encouraged local authorities to extend full disability parking entitlements to both blue and red permit holders. The suggestion to extend full benefits to all permit holders was made by Queensland Transport because the availability of on-street parking in many regional centres is not a scarce resource and the full implementation of the scheme is not required.

The scheme is a flexible management tool designed to help local authorities cater for the present and future disability parking needs in an environment of ever increasing urban growth and diminishing parking resources, particularly in South East Queensland.

The scheme aims to increase disability parking access to permit holders and alleviate the on-street parking situation in major centres such as Brisbane.

All local authorities throughout Queensland have been consulted and the scheme has been well received by the majority of Councils. It increases flexibility in providing options to Councils to address local issues and this State Government has no intention of imposing any unnecessary restriction on local authorities.

Where the schemes full flexibility is used, Queensland Transport is providing valuable management information, statistics and support about the number of permit holders, their medical condition and any specific needs which they may have. This information is invaluable in assisting Councils to plan for the future provision of services to the local disabled community.

I can assure the Member for Burleigh that the scheme is far from a failure. Whilst I realise that the new changes may have inconvenienced some people, the scheme has the support of major disability organisations and medical associations.

The new scheme is providing access to disability parking bays to those people who genuinely need them. A large number of former permit holders have not reapplied under the new system as they no longer required their lifetime permits. This included people with temporary disabilities, those who are deceased and others for whom the scheme was not originally intended.

A major element in the development of the new policy was to base the assessment on the level of disability or more specifically the level of individual need rather than any particular disease or condition.

With respect to the nature of disabilities, war veterans sustained theirs in war related service. I acknowledge the special role played by our ex service men and women. All present Australians owe a great deal to their unselfish and heroic efforts in the many wars they fought on our behalf. Many veterans have been issued with blue permits due to the

severity of their disability. The availability of temporary permits and the new two tiered arrangement means that more veterans now have access to the scheme.

Queensland Transport has undertaken to review the scheme this year and I can assure the Member for Burleigh that I am fully aware of the particular concerns expressed by war veterans and they will be consulted and their concerns addressed.

## 52. TAFE Staff, Stress Leave

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations—

In the time that has elapsed since I asked him why he has allowed TAFE senior officers to adopt as a changed strategy an outdated and discredited matrix structure characterised by high levels of stress on staff—

- (1) How many Queensland TAFE staff have needed to take stress leave?
- (2) How many of these staff have undergone counselling by the Park Road Group in relation to problems caused by workplace stress?

Answer:

- (1) Workers' Compensation figures for the period 7 September 1994 to 28 February 1995 (the time that has elapsed since the Member's last question on this matter) indicate that 28 employees of TAFE Queensland attributed 'stress' as the reason for claiming compensation.
- (2) I am not aware of how many of the above-mentioned staff have undergone counselling by the Park Road Group as the identity of staff seeking such counselling is confidential and not disclosed to TAFE management; however 33 people have undergone counselling by the Park Road Group in the period 1 September 1994 to 29 March 1995. The service is available to staff at the Southbank Institute of TAFE who are unable to perform their duties to the optimum level due to problems resulting from any causative agent including personal and financial as well as workplace related.

## 57. Department of Primary Industries Project; Mr Daly

Mr PERRETT asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

With reference to the book *Wet as a Shag, Dry as a Bone*, published by the Department of Primary Industries—

- (1) What were the total costs including (a) time devoted to the project by staff and consultants, (b) materials used in preparation, editing and publication and (c) distribution by Department of Primary Industries and other government agencies?
- (2) Was Mr Daly paid in any way by the Government; if so, what was the amount?
- (3) Was Mr Daly provided with any facilities; if so, at what cost?

- (4) At what level was the project approved—Senior Officer, Director-General, Minister or Cabinet?
- (5) What process is in place to ensure that the Australian Labor Party reimburses the public purse for all costs involved?

Answer:

- (1) Over the period 1990 to 1994, the project involved up to seven (7) people for varying parts of their time in editorial, desktop publishing and design. Based on current costs this would have been involved—approximately \$23,000, which includes marketing and promotion costs:

A total of 85 copies have been distributed for review and as complimentary copies.

- (2) The manuscript was written by Mr Daly during his time in the Department.  
Mr Daly was not paid by the Department for any of his input into the project after his retirement.
- (3) No departmental facilities were provided to Mr Daly after his retirement.
- (4) The project was approved by Senior Management of the Department. Mr Daly was an extremely professional officer of the Department who with his experience in the beef industry and drought management was the most suitably qualified person to prepare such a publication given the significance of drought on Queensland primary producers.

#### 58. Maroochy River Bridge, Toll

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to the Goss Government decision to put a \$1.50 toll on the Maroochy River Bridge—

- (1) What was the total toll taken at the bridge toll plaza on 15 February 1995?
- (2) How many vehicles passed through the toll plaza on 15 February 1995 when the alternative route via the David Low Way was flooded?
- (3) How does it compare with the toll taken and traffic through-put on the bridge on 8 February 1995?

Answer:

The Gateway Bridge Company Limited has supplied the following figures with regard to the Maroochy River Bridge toll plaza:

The total toll collected on 15 February 1995 was \$20,949.

The number of vehicles that passed through the toll plaza on 15 February 1995 was 13,697.

The Gateway Bridge Company Limited does not have any record of the period of flooding on the David Low Way. If the Member for Maroochydoore can specify the exact period of the flooding, I will be able to provide the House with details of the tolls collected and the vehicle through-put for that specific period.

The toll taken on 8 February 1995 was \$16,779 and the traffic through-put was 10,244.

#### 59. Toowoomba Range, Road Crossing

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

- (1) Will he outline when a decision will be made on the final announcement of the department's preferred route for the proposed second road crossing of the Toowoomba Range?
- (2) Has the option put forward by the Northern Action Group been given full consideration and assessment?

Answer:

The investigation of the option submitted by the Northern Action Group in December 1994 now has been completed.

The final report on the preferred route is being prepared and an announcement on the preferred route will be made in the near future.

Queensland Transport briefed the consultants, Ove Arup and Partners and Maunsell Pty Ltd, to investigate the option submitted by the Northern Action Group. These consultants addressed the effects from the traffic modelling, economic and regional impacts and the engineering evaluation.

The following sub consultants also were employed:

Farr Evrat and Associates—Land Use, Town Planning

Organisational Consulting Services—Community Consultation, Social Impacts

Envirosciences Pty Ltd—Vegetation, Wildlife

Katestone Scientific—Air Quality

Coffey and Partners—Geology, Geotechnics

Richard Heggie and Associates—Noise

Landscan—Landscaping, Visual Impacts

University of Queensland—Archaeology/Heritage

These consultants and sub consultants have ensured a complete analysis of the NAG route option in a totally objective way. The terms of reference and the methodology for the investigation are the same as for the original investigation.

#### 64. Grantham Railway Station

Mr FITZGERALD asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade development—

With reference to the future of the historic Grantham railway station—

- (1) Is it the Government's intention to retain the station building?
- (2) If not, what inquiries have been made to ascertain public interest in retaining this building?

Answer:

The Grantham station building is currently required by Queensland Rail for operational purposes.

Should the station building become surplus to railway requirements in the future, it would be the intention of Queensland Rail to offer it to the local authority or to a local community group for historical purposes on the basis that it be relocated from its present site and re-established in an appropriate historical context.

### 68. Religious Education in Schools

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) What is the Government's attitude with respect to religious education in State schools?
- (2) What effect will recent legislative amendments have on this activity in Government schools?

Answer:

The Queensland Government continues to support access to state schools by approved and accredited representatives of religious societies and denominations for the purpose of providing religious education to children.

These classes are available to all children. However parents may withdraw their children from these classes if they so desire.

Proposals to amend existing legislation which requires selected Bible lessons to be given by departmental staff in addition to these religious education classes will have no impact on the provision of religious education classes or on the right of entry by representatives of religious groups for the purpose of conducting those classes.

### 71. Mature Age Students, Bus Travel

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to the fact that the Goss Government is very keen for greater numbers of people to access mature education opportunities—

Will he give reasons why these students are disadvantaged by not being allowed access to free school bus travel?

Answer:

The Member for Mirani may be assured that the State Government does indeed consider that access to mature education opportunities is an important issue. However, because the policies governing both eligibility for school transport assistance and mature education facilities are the responsibility of my colleague the Minister for Education, it would have been more appropriate for the honourable Member to address his question to the appropriate Minister.

I would, however, take this opportunity to advise the Member that recent initiatives have been taken to improve access to bus services throughout the State.

In many areas of rural Queensland, contracted

school bus services had previously been restricted to carrying eligible school children only.

This had resulted in buses with spare capacity being unable to transport other passengers who wished to access the buses.

Obviously, this was not a desirable way of encouraging greater use of public transport, which is a priority of the Government.

A review of the operation of these services has been undertaken and, as a result of consultation with community groups, the bus industry and the Department of Education these restrictions on contracted services have now been lifted. Students other than eligible school children are now able to access those services for the payment of a fare, where spare capacity on buses exists.

In addition, adult passengers will be able to access these bus services as from 26 April of this year.

I am sure that the Member will agree that this initiative of maximising access to all available bus services will benefit the public, particularly in rural areas, in accessing public transport services throughout Queensland.

### 72. Palm Beach, Noise Abatement Fencing

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to (a) the duplication of the Pacific Highway between Tallebudgera and Currumbin Creek, (b) traffic noise nuisance being experienced by Palm Beach residents whose properties are close to the Pacific Highway on the eastern side, and (c) concerns that this noise level will increase considerably when the highway is duplicated—

- (1) Will noise abatement fencing be installed?
- (2) What other measures are being planned to alleviate traffic noise nuisance to existing suburban residents?
- (3) What undertakings have been made to the Labor candidate for Burleigh?

Answer:

Queensland Transport recently has completed a report on both existing traffic and expected future noise levels for duplicating the Pacific Highway at Palm Beach.

The report indicates that noise levels on the section of the Pacific Highway are expected to exceed those suggested in Queensland Transport's "Interim Guidelines and Technical Notes for Road Traffic Noise Amelioration".

The Government has agreed to include ameliorative devices as part of the project to duplicate the Pacific Highway between Reedy Creek and Tugun.

No decision has been made on the type of barrier; however, Queensland Transport will consider the type and location of the noise device in the design process for the highway duplication project.

### 73. Schools, Airconditioning

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the air conditioning of schools in western Queensland which was to be progressively installed on Capital Works Programs—

- (a) What stage is this program now at?  
 (b) Will he give an indication when the centres of Capella, Clermont, Moranbah and Charters Towers may come on line in the program?

Answer:

In 1980 the previous Government decided to implement a policy of "air conditioning" schools located west of the Great Dividing Range.

Based on technical investigations by the then Works Department an approved Evaporative Cooling Zone was established.

Schools located in this defined cooling zone have been provided with evaporative type air conditioning.

However a study has been undertaken into ventilation/climatic control in classrooms throughout Queensland. Further extension of air conditioning is subject to consideration of that report.

#### 75. Queensland Facilities Development Scheme

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing—

With reference to the Minor Facilities Program under the Queensland Facilities Development Scheme 1995—

- (1) What amount has been allocated for each region in the State?  
 (2) Which organisations and associations in the State have or will receive grants under this scheme?  
 (3) What is the total amount received by each association and organisation in Queensland?

Answer:

(1)

Region	Number of Applications	Approved Funding
	Funded	\$
Brisbane South/Ipswich	5	109,750
Central	3	197,010
Central West	11	180,173
Far North	11	178,862
Logan/Gold Coast	10	180,000
Near North Coast	4	184,500
Northern	9	173,119
North West	9	169,261
South West	12	176,790
Sunshine Coast	4	177,250
Wide Bay/Burnett	8	177,773
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>1,904,488</b>

(2) and (3)

ASSOCIATION/ORGANISATION	AMOUNT APPROVED
Brisbane South/Ipswich	

Laidley Shire Council	\$20,000
Tarragindi Churches' Tigers Sporting Assn Inc.	\$21,000
Acacia Ridge Community Support Inc.	\$31,000
Gatton Shire Council	\$17,750
Souths United Soccer Club Inc.	\$20,000
<b>Central</b>	
Fitzroy Shire Council	\$78,000
Livingstone Shire Council	\$96,010
Yeppoon United Soccer Club Inc.	\$23,000
<b>Central West</b>	
Emerald Shire Council	\$43,320
Bauhinia Shire Council	\$19,750
Tambo Shire Council	\$15,500
Muttaburra Multi-Purpose Sport and Recreation Inc.	\$5,550
Emerald Shire Council	\$9,345
The Emerald Touch Association Inc.	\$24,931
Emerald Shire Council	\$13,590
Bauhinia Shire Council	\$2,400
Moranbah Community Gymnastics Club	\$11,387
Longreach and District Multi-Purpose Youth Sport and Recreation Group	\$32,000
Dysart Tennis Club Inc.	\$2,400
<b>Far North</b>	
Yorke Island Council	\$35,800
Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Community Council	\$20,000
Carpentaria Shire Council	\$42,000
Herberton Shire Council	\$2,500
Ang-Gnarra Aboriginal Corporation	\$9,237
Einasleigh Sports Club Inc.	\$4,105
Coen Regional Aboriginal Corporation	\$23,320
Georgetown Horse and Pony Club Inc.	\$2,800
Herberton and District Junior Rugby League	\$25,000
Cairns-Mulgrave Baseball League Inc.	\$4,100
Marlin Coast Rangers Soccer Club Inc.	\$10,000
<b>Logan/Gold Coast</b>	
Beenleigh Area Youth Service	\$45,000
Logan City Netball Association Inc.	\$5,000
Logan College of TAFE	\$20,000
Logan City Kings Soccer Club Inc.	\$19,000
Browns Plains Sports and Social Club Inc.	\$25,000
Mudgeeraba District Sporting Association Inc.	\$40,000
Coochiemudlo Recreation Club Inc.	\$10,000
Currumbin Beach Surf Life Saving Club Inc.	\$7,000
Beenleigh and Districts Baseball Club Inc.	\$3,000
Park Ridge Baptist Sporting Association	\$6,000
<b>Near North Coast</b>	
Caboolture Touch Association Inc.	\$22,000
Caboolture Comets Sporting Club Inc.	\$52,500
North Brisbane Australian Football Club Inc.	\$30,000
Caboolture Shire Council	\$80,000
<b>Northern</b>	
Whitsunday Family Support Group	\$2,585
Mackay City Council	\$4,000
Mackay Boys Gymnastics Club	\$2,790
Townsville City Council	\$18,800
Townsville Basketball Inc.	\$78,212



West United Senior Soccer Club Inc. Townsville and District Junior Rugby League Inc.	\$19,178 \$32,500
Mackay Junior Soccer Association Inc.	\$9,270
Woodstock Horse Sports Club Inc.	\$5,784
North West	
Winton Shire Council	\$5,000
Doomadgee Aboriginal Community Council	\$5,000
Flinders Shire Council	\$50,000
Richmond Shire Council	\$30,000
Burketown Rodeo and Sporting Association Inc.	\$19,641
North West Canoe Club Inc.	\$4,500
Copper City Tennis club Inc.	\$29,425
Astronomy Group of Mount Isa Inc.	\$9,400
Mt Isa Judo Club Inc.	\$16,295
South West	
Crows Nest Shire Council	\$25,000
Warwick and District Aquatic Centre Association Inc.	\$25,000
The Lake Recreation Association	\$40,000
Queensland Country Women's Association	\$9,500
Rosalie Shire Council	\$4,500
Stanthorpe YMCA Inc.	\$3,000
Roma and District Combined Recreation Association	\$22,000
Cunnamulla and District Youth Club Inc.	\$16,000
Pittsworth Tennis Club Inc.	\$4,475
Dalby and District Touch Association Inc.	\$16,600
Mulga Tourist Development Board	\$8,750
Toowoomba Softball Association Inc.	\$1,965
Sunshine Coast	
Maroochydore Cricket Club Inc.	\$60,000
Gympie Gymnastics Club Inc.	\$75,000
Cooloolah Shire Council	\$20,000
Glasshouse Mountains Spots Club Inc.	\$22,250
Wide Bay/Burnett	
South Burnett Community Training Centre Inc.	\$50,000
YMCA of Gayndah Inc.	\$1,450
Queensland Blue Light Association Inc.	\$18,250
Kingaroy Soccer Club—Junior Redbacks	\$3,380
Tansey Bowls Club Inc.	\$12,393
Burnett River Pistol Club Inc.	\$2,540
Wide Bay Gymnastics Club Inc.	\$79,885
Hervey Bay Athletics Club Inc.	\$9,875

### 77. Emergency Services, Official Journal

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Emergency Services and Consumer Affairs and Minister Assisting the Premier on Rural Affairs—

With reference to the official journal of Queensland Emergency Services entitled 'Emergency'—

- (1) What firm prints this journal for Queensland Emergency Services?
- (2) Who is the principal of this firm?
- (3) On what basis was this firm chosen?

(4) Who made the decision to allocate this work to this firm?

(5) Is he satisfied with these arrangements?

Answer:

- (1) Interforms Pty Ltd is responsible for the printing and distribution of 'Emergency'.
- (2) The contract for the printing and distribution of 'Emergency' was signed on 7 February 1995 by the Director, Interforms Pty Ltd, Mr T Gilbert.
- (3) In October 1994 tenders were called for the production, printing and distribution of the 'Emergency' newspaper. At that time the Director-General, Dr Keliher, advised me of a potential 'conflict of interest' because his brother, Kevin Keliher, the principal of Glenwood Publishing, would be submitting a tender.

I directed that independent experts from Queensland Purchasing & Sales be called in to oversee and monitor the tender process.

On 30 November tenders closed and were assessed against four criteria: delivery time, price, quality assurance and product quality. Of all tenders received, the highest rating and lowest priced tender was submitted by Glenwood Publishing. A best and final offer was then negotiated with Glenwood Publishing and Interforms Pty Ltd, with Glenwood Publishing agreeing to produce 'Emergency' to 'film' stage (sub-edit, scan photographs, design, layout, typeset and page proofing) and Interforms Pty Ltd agreeing to print and distribute copies throughout Queensland. Because of any potential conflict of interest, all tender documents were submitted to Queensland Purchasing and Sales for independent review and their advice was that selection of the successful tenderer could proceed. For the Queensland Emergency Services these arrangements achieved an annual saving of \$10,439 compared to the lowest and best quote submitted by Glenwood Publishing.

(4) Review of all tender documents was undertaken by the Director, Public Education Unit. This review was endorsed by the Manager, Logistic Management, supported by the Executive Director Statewide Services and approved by the Acting Director-General, Mr Neil Lawson, following independent review by Queensland Purchasing and Sales.

(5) I am satisfied with the production, printing and distribution arrangements. 'Emergency' is developing as the leading monthly corporate publication produced by a State Government Department.

I'm particularly pleased at the approach taken by Dr. Leo Keliher to see that there could be no possibility of Conflict of Interest in relation to his brother.

Kevin Keliher is a highly-respected journalist. He has worked on newspapers in Brisbane, Sydney and London. He was a senior newspaper executive before establishing his own business.

It is wrong to suggest that a person of Mr Keliher's capabilities, or any other individual for that matter, should be disqualified from the public tender process because they are related to some-one who holds a public service position.

Small business operators such as Interforms should not be disqualified from the public tender process because they have combined their skills with those of Mr Keliher to produce a quality product at the lowest possible cost to the Government.

I hope the Honourable Member is not questioning whether Emergency should be produced by the small business sector and is not trying to say that the people of Gympie, where Emergency is printed, should be denied the employment opportunities the tender has created.

### 86. Fruit and Vegetables, Standards

Mr PERRETT asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

With reference to recent complaints from fruit and vegetable growers about breaches of standards—

- (1) How many Standards Inspectors are employed to ensure the quality of produce offered to consumers?
- (2) How many inspectors were employed in 1989 and 1990?

Answer:

- (1) Ten inspectors are currently employed to monitor all agricultural standards throughout Queensland.

Three-quarters of one inspector's time is allocated specifically to monitoring the quality of fruit and vegetables at the Brisbane Market.

This level of surveillance is in keeping with the Public Sector Management Commission recommendation that DPI cease all inspections of fruit and vegetables for quality, and the Government's decision to repeal the Fruit and Vegetables Act. This decision has the full support of the Horticultural Industry Policy Council.

- (2) Twenty-one inspectors were employed in 1989 and 1990 to monitor agricultural standards throughout Queensland.

Seven of these inspectors were employed specifically on fruit and vegetable quality at the Brisbane Market.

### 89. Peak Crossing-Harrisville Road

Mr FITZGERALD asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to the Peak Crossing to Harrisville Road in the new city of Ipswich—

- (1) What is the timetable for the construction of this road?
- (2) What is the estimated cost of the project?

Answer:

The design of improvements and widening of the Peak Crossing to Harrisville Road in the new City of Ipswich is still the subject of discussions between officers of both Council and Queensland Transport.

Current indications are that the process in relation to the finalisation of the design, preparation of an offer by the new Ipswich City Council and authorisation to proceed with the scheme, can be achieved by mid July 1995.

The estimated cost of the project will not be known accurately until design matters are finalised between officers of Queensland Transport and Council within the next 2-3 weeks; however, it is anticipated to be of the order of \$1.1-\$1.2 million.

### 95. Mr D. Barbagallo; Integrated Memory Systems

Mr GRICE asked the Premier and Minister for economic And Trade Development—

With reference to a meeting between his then senior staffer, David Barbagallo and Integrated Memory Systems in 1991—

- (1) Why was the meeting held?
- (2) Did Mr Barbagallo attend with his knowledge and approval?
- (3) What expectations of government assistance and/or co-operation could Integrated Memory Systems have gained from the meeting?
- (4) How does he justify a meeting between his senior adviser and a company now suspected of fraud on the Australian taxpayers and the illicit international trade in weapons technology?

Answer:

- (1) At the time of the meeting, Mr Barbagallo was an Advisor to the Premier on Information Technology issues. In this capacity he met with many people and companies to discuss relevant issues in the IT industry.

He met with Mr Burgess and Mr Rovazzini at their request. The meeting was requested because IMS wanted the State Government to be aware of their business. They did not seek nor were they offered any government assistance.

Because of the nature of these meetings the Premier was not advised of either the content or the occurrence.

### 121. Maroochydore, Ambulance Centre

Miss SIMPSON asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Emergency Services and Consumer Affairs and Minister Assisting the Premier on Rural Affairs—

As the Goss Government failed to build a new \$1.5m ambulance station at Maroochydore in the 1993-94 financial year after it was listed on the 1992 five-Year capital works program—

- (1) will he investigate and authorise the purchase of a new centrally based site for a joint ambulance and fire facility at Maroochydore

before appropriate land near the motorway is lost?

(2) If so, when will this be done?

Answer:

(1) The construction of the ambulance station at Maroochydore did appear as number 34

priority on the 1992 draft Capital Works Program and was considered in relation to other works proposals across the State at that time. The construction of Maroochydore station could not take precedence over higher priority works needs that year.

Maroochydore station is currently listed on the 1996/97 capital works plan and along with all other capital works listings for that year, will be subject to detailed analysis and consideration. The prioritising of capital works proposals is an annual occurrence and takes into consideration many factors such as demographics, workload patterns and response times.

It is now a requirement of the Government's Financial Management Strategy that five year Capital Works Plans be developed by Departments and that each project proposal be validated separately and subjected to rigorous financial and needs analysis. This ensures that Government capital funding is stringently invested.

Queensland Emergency Services has a policy that wherever practicable, joint facilities with fire and ambulance are to be considered. In the case of Maroochydore, the regional Assistant Commissioners of fire and ambulance have held preliminary discussions of the feasibility of a joint facility at Maroochydore. The site for such a facility is critical and will therefore be the subject of joint detailed study and appraisal.

**QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE****3. Prince Charles Hospital**

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) What role will The Prince Charles Hospital have in the proposed Metropolitan Hospitals Plan?
- (2) Will the world renowned cardio-thoracic services be retained at The Prince Charles Hospital?
- (3) Will additional community services be provided at Chermside?

Answer:

- (1) The Prince Charles Hospital will have an expanded role in the provision of general medical and surgical services to the northern growth areas of Brisbane.
- (2) The Prince Charles Hospital will continue to provide cardiology and cardiac surgery services.
- (3) Service development at the Prince Charles Hospital will reflect the hospital's new role as a community hospital and will allow the facility to form close links with private general practitioners and play a major role in the care of older people, those with chronic conditions and those who are terminally ill.

**5. Eastlink**

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

When will Queensland be in a position to trade electricity into New South Wales or the other southern States if the Eastlink National Electricity grid connection proceeds?

Answer:

The Eastlink interconnection would not be completed before 1998.

There would be an ability from the time of interconnection for Queensland to sell electricity into the southern States.

**8. Child Protection Officer, Maroochydore**

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs—

With reference to the high turnover in Queensland of child protection officers which is presently running at about a 10-month average stay per officer—

Will she allocate extra permanent staff to the Maroochydore office; if so, when?

Answer:

In response to the specific questions made by Ms Simpson, I can advise as follows:

I fully recognise the high population growth rates in the Sunshine Coast region and have responded to the need for enhanced services. In February 1993, the Family Services Officer establishment at

Maroochydore Area Office was increased by one to a total of six officers. A new Resource Officer position was also established in April 1993. In March 1994, again in response to increasing needs, an additional Family Services Officer position was provided. In January this year an additional two Family Services Officer positions were provided and the equivalent of eight weeks extra salary provided to backfill staff absent due to recreation or sick leave. The decision to make permanent appointments to these positions will be made after ascertaining that high workload demands are sustained.

Maroochydore Area Office has a stable professional and administrative staff. The seven permanently appointed Family Services Officers have a combined total of 20 years and five months experience in the Department. The longest serving Family Services Officer has four years and five months experience while the least experienced has served one year and four months. There have been no resignations from this office by permanently appointed Family Services Officers since October 1992. Movement through permanent positions has occurred as a result of vacancies arising from transfers and the creation of new positions.

It should be noted that temporary staff are employed to cover legitimate vacancies which occur as a result of staff carrying out other duties and absences arising from staff utilising parental and other leave entitlements. Although temporary staff make up a very small proportion of Family Services Officers (15% in 1993-94) they account for half of all Family Services Officer turnover. As would be expected, they are also make up the vast majority (88% in 1993-94) of Family Services Officers who complete less than 11 months service with the Department. As the experience of Maroochydore Area Office demonstrates, the statement that Family Services Officers have an average 10 month 'stay' in my Department is incorrect.

**9. Education, North West Region**

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the fact that basic core subjects are at risk this year throughout high schools in the North West education region and teaching positions are being cut drastically because of the Government's new staffing formula and the crucial Blackall forum document, which provides recommendations on restructuring, appears to have been stonewalled by his Government—

- (1) What basic core subjects will be provided at high schools such as Blackall, Barcardine, Winton, Cloncurry and Hughenden in 1995?
- (2) Will the Government move urgently to act upon the recommendations of the staff from these schools and not abide solely upon political advisers to set the formula?
- (3) What action will he take to ensure the retention of a full complement of teaching staff at those North West regional schools

targeted for staffing cutbacks as well as a full complement of support staff and guidance officers for the region?

Answer:

(1) Blackall, Barcaldine, Winton, Cloncurry and Hughenden all are offering a core of subjects across the key curriculum areas of English, Mathematics, Science, Social Science and Practical Arts. Many other subjects continue to be accessed through distance education and the Open Learning Institute.

(2 & 3) School staffing numbers are under constant scrutiny as student populations change. Any adjustments to staff numbers owing to reduced student enrolments are negotiated with the school with the aim of minimising any disruption.

#### **10. Workers Compensation Payments to Cotton Growers**

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations—

With reference to the deputation from myself and other Primary Producer representatives regarding the categorisation of many cotton growers into the higher risk classification of cattle producing—

What is the current situation regarding workers compensation payments?

Answer:

The Workers' Compensation Regulation provides that the premium rate for workers' compensation policies be charged according to the industry or business activity of the employer.

The Regulation states that where a number of different activities attracting differing premium rates are carried out and the business activities are conducted in a manner where there is internal access or communication between or among the business activities, all employees are classified for premium assessment purposes at the highest applicable rate.

The Regulation allows separate premium rates to apply to individual business activities where -

- there is no means of internal access or communication between or among the business activities at the employer's place of employment; AND
- the businesses are conducted by the employer as separate businesses.

Primary producers who operate multi-industry farms, i.e. both agricultural and pastoral activities, with internal access and communication between the activities, attract the higher rate.

Arising out of representations from Primary Producer representatives and the Honourable Member, the Workers' Compensation Board undertook an examination of a random sample of 200 workers' compensation claims in the pastoral/agricultural industry. This revealed that for 94% of these claims the injured worker was injured whilst working in an activity related to the highest

industry premium rate classification at the enterprise where injury occurred.

Accordingly, the analysis shows that in the majority of cases claims costs for the pastoral/agricultural industry are being appropriately applied to the premium rate being charged and that there is little distortion occurring in the rating system.

Queensland employers have the benefit of ancillary rated workers such as clerical, gardening and cleaning that are not included under the industry classification. In all other jurisdictions in Australia industry rates are charged for all workers, including clerical and managerial.

The following industry premium rates apply as at 1 July 1994:-

Industry	Rate per \$100 wages
Clerical and managerial	\$0.26
Cotton growers	\$2.43
Pastoralists—cattle	\$7.17

#### **17. Alternative Energy Policy**

Mr GILMORE asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

With reference to his Energy Efficiency and Alternative Energy Policy statement released in February 1995, in which he offered a grant of \$7 500 to individual Queenslanders forced to install stand-alone power systems due to the fact that the cost of connection to the grid would be in excess of \$30 000, and a press statement from his office, issued 2 days later, declaring that all Queenslanders would have access to the grant, even though they could be connected to the grid for less than \$30 000—

- (1) What is his policy? and
- (2) Why did he change his mind?

Answer:

(1) The Government's policy with regard to Energy Efficiency and Alternative Energy was announced on 28 February 1995. It contained a number of initiatives including the Remote Area Power Supply Grant Scheme (RAPS).

The RAPS grant will be a one-off payment designed to encourage remote householders to install stand-alone power systems which incorporate renewable energy sources in accordance with defined guidelines.

Participants will receive up to half the cost of approved systems, to a maximum of \$7,500.

The grant scheme will apply in locations where the cost to the householder of connecting to the nearest practical electricity grid exceeds \$30,000.

Where a special need exists, consideration will be given to a higher grant.

(2) In answer to Mr Gilmore's second question, I have not changed my mind with regard to this policy initiative. I have not released a press statement indicating a change to this policy.

The RAPS Grant Scheme will be introduced within the policy framework outlined in the Government's Energy Efficiency and Alternative Energy Policy Statement. No change to this framework, or the timetable for its introduction, is contemplated.

**18. Public Hospital Budgets**

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Will he provide the actual budgets for all Queensland Public Hospitals for 1993-94 and the budget estimates provided for all Queensland Public Hospitals for 1994-95?
- (2) Will he provide details of all budget over-runs at 31 December 1994 for Queensland Public Hospitals?

Answer:

(1) Details of the 1993-94 budgets and 1994-95 estimated actual expenditure for Queensland's Public Hospitals are detailed in the attached Tables 1-14.

(2) Each year, Queensland's Public Hospitals are issued with budgets to cover expenditure for the 12 months to 30 June. These budgets are continually amended during the course of the year for items such as Awards, Commonwealth Program funding, Superannuation and other items. A Hospital's budget will not be finalised until 30 June each year and an over-run will only occur if its full year expenditure exceeds this budget. No budget is issued to cover the six months to 31 December 1994 and, consequently, there can be no specific overruns as at 31 December 1994.

Details of estimated 1994-95 expenditure for Queensland's Public Hospitals have been detailed in the attached Tables. It is expected that this expenditure will be covered within existing budgets within Queensland Health.

QUEENSLAND HEALTH		
SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HOSPITALS BUDGETS		
REGIONS	1993/94 FULL YEAR BUDGET \$,000	1994/95 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE \$,000
BRISBANE NORTH	388,985	395,816
BRISBANE SOUTH	340,568	366,354
CENTRAL	69,545	73,615
CENTRAL WEST	11,431	11,588
DARLING DOWNS	130,578	136,960
MACKAY	38,622	39,269
NORTHERN	124,879	135,930
PENINSULA	104,834	110,862
SOUTH COAST	87,505	89,267
SOUTH WEST	22,153	22,417
SUNSHINE COAST	108,656	129,377
WEST MORETON	100,052	101,317
WIDE BAY	67,166	71,592
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,594,973</b>	<b>1,684,365</b>
BRISBANE NORTH	1993/94 FULL YEAR BUDGET \$,000	1994/95 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE \$,000
Royal Brisbane Hospital	193,684	198,522
Keperra	4,052	4,106
Queensland Radium Institute	10,401	9,793
Biala	4,529	4,987
Prince Charles Hospital	90,074	90,649
Royal Childrens Hospital	44,163	45,680
Royal Womens Hospital	42,082	42,079
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>388,985</b>	<b>395,816</b>

Notes : 1. Brisbane North Regional Health Authority's 1994/95 Approved Budget as at 28 March 1995 was \$477.2 million. This represents an increase of \$14.8 million over the 1993/94 Final Budget of \$462.3 million, a 3.2% increase.

2. The \$2.475 million budget overrun in the region's hospitals will be offset by available funds elsewhere in the region's budget.

3. The above figures for 1994/95 do not include the region's total Information Management budget of approx \$5 million.

This funding is now held in Regional Office as a region-wide service, but in 1993/94 was reflected in hospital figures as above.

BRISBANE SOUTH	1993/94 FULL YEAR BUDGET \$,000	1994/95 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE \$,000
Princess Alexandra Hospital	177,050	187,909
QEII Hospital	18,957	18,348
Mater Adult	53,038	57,041
Mater Childrens	31,450	33,113
Mater Mothers	28,052	29,725
Logan Hospital	24,853	32,379
Redland Hospital	4,603	5,201
Wynnum Hospital	2,369	2,441
Dunwich Nursing Station	196	197
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>340,568</b>	<b>366,354</b>

Notes : 1 Brisbane South Regional Health Authority's 1994/95 Approved Budget as at 28 March 1995 was \$429.3 million. This represents an increase of \$29.3 million over the 1993/94 Final Budget of \$400.1 million, a 7.3% increase.

2 Hospital expenditure is forecasted to exceed budget by \$536,000 as at 28 February, 1995. However, the region expects this will be absorbed within region by 30 June.

CENTRAL	1993/94 FULL YEAR BUDGET \$,000	1994/95 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE \$,000
Rockhampton Hospital	39,542	42,400
Yeppoon Hospital/Nursing Home	3,585	3,640
Mount Morgan Hospital	1,915	1,940
Emerald Hospital	3,365	3,517
Blackwater Hospital	1,382	1,476
Springsure Hospital	997	1,033
Biloela Hospital	2,987	3,231
Moura Hospital	1,116	1,064
Theodore Hospital	1,019	963
Baralaba Hospital	833	761
Woorabinda Hospital	744	649
Gladstone Hospital	12,060	12,941
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>69,545</b>	<b>73,615</b>

Notes : 1 Central Regional Health Authority's 1994/95 Approved Budget as at 28 March 1995 was \$100.3 million. This represents an increase of \$4.0 million over the 1993/94 Final Budget of \$96.3 million, a 4.2% increase.

CENTRAL WEST	1993/94 FULL YEAR BUDGET \$,000	1994/95 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE \$,000
Longreach Hospital	4,127	4,157
Barcaldine Hospital	2,015	1,968
Alpha Hospital	938	1,073
Aramac Hospital	824	938
Blackall Hospital	1,792	1,780
Winton Hospital	1,736	1,672
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,431</b>	<b>11,588</b>

Notes : 1 Central West Regional Health Authority's 1994/95 Approved Budget as at 28 March 1995 was \$15.5 million. This represents an increase of \$1.1 million over the 1993/94 Final Budget of \$14.4 million, a 7.5% increase.

DARLING DOWNS	1993/94 FULL YEAR BUDGET \$,000	1994/95 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE \$,000
Toowoomba Health Services	63,697	63,403
Baillie Henderson Health Services	24,618	25,793
Oakey Health Services	3,124	3,129
Gatton Health Services	0	1,955
Millmerran Health Services	0	1,080
Dalby/Jandowae Health Services	12,239	12,831
Chinchilla/Tara Health Service	4,119	4,571
Miles/Taroom Health Service	3,183	3,404
Warwick Health Service	8,767	9,164
Stanthorpe Health Service	4,061	4,632
Goondiwindi Health Service	3,973	4,100
Inglewood/Texas Health Service	2,796	2,899
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>130,578</b>	<b>136,960</b>

Notes : 1. Darling Downs Regional Health Authority's 1994/95 Approved Budget as at 28 March 1995 was \$141.3 million. This represents an increase of \$7.4 million over the 1993/94 Final Budget of \$133.9 million, a 5.6% increase.

2. Figures for Gatton Health Services, Millmerran Health Services and the Environmental Health Service were included in Toowoomba Health Services figures in 1993/94. The Environmental Health Service is treated as a region-wide service in 1994/95.

3. The Regional Information Systems Team was established early in 1994/95 with a budget of \$1.157 million, which is not reflected in the above hospital figures for 1994/95 (region-wide service).

MACKAY	1993/94 FULL YEAR BUDGET \$,000	1994/95 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE \$,000
Mackay Base Hospital	29,275	29,866
Proserpine Hospital	3,114	3,167
Sarina Hospital	1,482	1,579
Clermont Hospital	1,792	1,779
Moranbah Hospital	1,857	1,712
Dysart Hospital	1,102	1,166
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>38,622</b>	<b>39,269</b>

Notes : 1. Mackay Regional Health Authority's 1994/95 Approved Budget as at 28 March 1995 was \$49.4 million. This represents an increase of \$3.5 million over the 1993/94 Final Budget of \$45.9 million, a 7.7% increase.

NORTHERN	1993/94 FULL YEAR BUDGET \$,000	1994/95 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE \$,000
Ayr District Hospital	5,542	5,584
Bowen Hospital	2,877	2,895
Burketown Health Centre	198	191
Camooeal Outpatients Centre	354	302
Charters Towers Hospital	3,779	3,889
Cloncurry Hospital	1,757	1,629
Collinsville Hospital	1,322	1,363
Dajarra Outpatients Centre	178	180
Doomadgee Hospital	783	975
Home Hill Hospital	1,189	1,165
Hughenden Hospital	1,390	1,366
Ingham Hospital	4,335	4,418
Julia Creek Hospital	874	889

Karumba Outpatients Centre	252	238
Kirwan Hospital for Woman	9,599	10,001
Magnetic Outpatients' Centre	128	128
Mornington Island Hospital	1,069	1,101
Mosman Hall Hospital	4,767	4,760
Mount Isa Base Hospital	17,131	16,979
Normanton Hospital	1,275	1,261
Palm Island Hospital	2,164	2,230
Richmond Hospital	1,023	979
Townsville General Hospital	62,440	72,309
Kirwan Mental Rehab	452	1,100
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>124,879</b>	<b>135,930</b>

Notes : 1. Northern Regional Health Authority's 1994/95 Approved Budget as at 28 March 1995 was \$164.2 million. This represents an increase of \$9.0 million over the 1993/94 Final Budget of \$155.3 million, a 5.8% increase.

2. The \$0.873 million budget overrun in the region's hospitals will be offset by available funds elsewhere in the region's budget.

PENINSULA	1993/94 FULL YEAR BUDGET \$,000	1994/95 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE \$,000
Cairns Base	56,084	60,524
Mossman	2,521	2,504
Gordonvale	1,386	1,491
Yarrabah	1,162	1,217
Cooktown	1,541	1,715
Innisfail	7,656	7,851
Tully	2,205	2,163
Babinda	1,226	1,222
Weipa	2,542	2,374
Thursday Island	6,429	6,537
Bamaga	1,112	1,202
Atherton	7,097	6,912
Mareeba	5,307	5,529
Herberton	1,549	1,553
Hope Vale	668	699
Laura	149	141
Wujal Wujal	441	464
Chillagoe	157	152
Croydon	169	165
Dimbulah	90	90
Forsayth	118	121
Georgetown	215	208
Malanda	71	74
Millaa Millaa	78	81
Mount Garnet	97	113
Ravenshoe	106	113
Aurukun	817	943
Coen	23	528
Kowanyama	805	964
Lockhart River	719	678
Napranum	395	430
Pormpuraaw	451	504
Island Medical Service	1,450	1,599
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>104,834</b>	<b>110,862</b>

Notes : 1. Peninsula Regional Health Authority's 1994/95 Approved Budget as at 28 March 1995 was \$134.8 million. This represents an increase of \$10.8 million over the 1993/94 Final Budget of \$124.0 million, a 8.7% increase.

2. The Pre MYR figures above are as per the original submission, and as such do not include several technical adjustments and the additional savings strategies approved since. The region was provided with \$910,000 supplementation in the MYR, and is now forecasting to meet budget.

SOUTH COAST	1993/94 FULL YEAR BUDGET \$,000	1994/95 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE \$,000
Gold Coast Hospital	83,579	85,599
Beaudesert Hospital	3,926	3,668
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>87,505</b>	<b>89,267</b>

Notes : 1. South Coast Regional Health Authority's 1994/95 Approved Budget as at 28 March 1995 was \$111.7 million. This represents an increase of \$7.8 million over the 1993/94 Final Budget of \$104.0 million, a 7.5% increase.

2. 1993/94 Gold Coast Hospital budget includes \$1.2 million for Finance & HRM functions costed elsewhere in 1994/95.

SOUTH WEST	1993/94 FULL YEAR BUDGET \$,000	1994/95 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE \$,000
Cunnamulla Hospital	1,904	1,914
Thargomindah Hospital	216	212
Augathella Hospital	887	853
Charleville Hospital	4,272	4,670
Quilpie Hospital	1,125	1,124
Morven Outpatients	186	134
Injune Hospital	839	826
Mitchell Hospital	1,084	1,188
Roma Hospital	6,250	6,005
Surat Hospital	751	837
Wallumbilla Outpatients	143	151
Dirranbandi Hospital	943	942
Mungindi Hospital	1,018	916
St George Hospital	2,535	2,645
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22,153</b>	<b>22,417</b>

Notes : 1. South West Regional Health Authority's 1994/95 Approved Budget as at 28 March 1995 was \$30.5 million. This represents an increase of \$1.9 million over the 1993/94 Final Budget of \$28.6 million, a 6.7% increase.

SUNSHINE COAST	1993/94 FULL YEAR BUDGET \$,000	1994/95 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE \$,000
Gympie Hospital	10,036	10,785
Caloundra Hospital	4,350	4,674
Maleny Hospital	1,012	1,071
Nambour Hospital	46,822	53,730
Redcliffe Hospital	36,223	39,570
Kilcoy Hospital	1,417	1,520
Caboolture Hospital	8,797	18,027
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>108,656</b>	<b>129,377</b>

Notes : 1. Sunshine Coast Regional Health Authority's 1994/95 Approved Budget as at 28 March 1995 was \$149.9 million. This represents an increase of \$21.2 million over the 1993/94 Final Budget of \$128.7 million, a 16.5% increase.

WEST MORETON	1993/94 FULL YEAR BUDGET \$,000	1994/95 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE \$,000
Ipswich Hospital	43,893	48,125
Esk Hospital	1,851	1,266
Boonah Hospital	1,777	1,654
Laidley Hospital	1,467	1,273
Wolston Park Hospital	51,064	48,999
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100,052</b>	<b>101,317</b>

Notes : 1. West Moreton Regional Health Authority's 1994/95 Approved Budget as at 28 March 1995 was

\$118.4 million. This represents an increase of \$7.2 million over the 1993/94 Final Budget of \$111.2 million, a 6.5% increase.

2. A number of services reflected in 1993/94 hospital figures above are incorporated within Community Health Service budgets in 1994/95:

WIDE BAY	1993/94 FULL YEAR BUDGET \$,000	1994/95 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE \$,000
Bundaberg Hospital	21,483	23,446
Childers Hospital	1,326	1,270
Gin Gin Hospital	1,116	1,157
Mt Perry Outpatients Clinic	159	162
Biggenden Hospital	1,309	1,322
Eidsvold Hospital	855	947
Gayndah Hospital	1,369	1,395
Monto Hospital	1,490	1,531
Mundubbera Hospital	1,091	1,135
Hervey Bay Hospital	4,052	4,245
Maryborough Hospital	21,149	23,002
Cherbourg Hospital	1,971	1,714
Kingaroy Hospital	5,806	6,258
Murgon Hospital	1,091	1,110
Nanango Hospital	1,190	1,181
Proston Outpatients Clinic	53	64
Wondai Hospital	1,655	1,653
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>67,166</b>	<b>71,592</b>

Notes : 1. Wide Bay Regional Health Authority's 1994/95 Approved Budget as at 28 March 1995 was \$87.4 million. This represents an increase of \$7.0 million over the 1993/94 Final Budget of \$80.4 million, a 8.7% increase.

## 20. Police Resources, Emu Park

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to the growing population of Emu Park and the surrounding areas and the huge territory required to be covered by the very able police officer based at Emu Park—

Can a second police officer be based at Emu Park to help control the growing incidence of crime in the surrounding area?

Answer:

The Queensland Police Service recognises the growth in the Emu Park township in recent years. However, the current station only provides work and residential accommodation for one officer.

This situation will be overcome when growth gets to a significant enough stage to warrant the construction of larger facilities at some time in the future. Meanwhile, during periods of particularly high need, relief is provided from both Yeppoon and Rockhampton.

## 23. Mr W. Cass

Mr J. N. GOSS asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations—

With reference to the dismissal by legislation of a public sector employee, Mr Wayne Cass, QBSA, which has effectively denied him his rights to natural justice and any hearing in the Industrial Commission which is in conflict with ILO



conventions, including convention no. 158 Termination of Employment—

- (1) Does he endorse the use of Parliament to dismiss a public sector employee denying him natural justice, even after the Minister's assurances in the Industrial Relations Reform Bill 1994?
- (2) What action does he intend to take to rectify this matter?

Answer:

The honourable member's questions are based on false premises. Contrary to the claim of the Member for Aspley, Mr Cass was not denied natural justice. In fact, the termination of Mr Cass' employment followed due process in accordance with Public Sector Management Standard for Staffing Options to Manage Organizational Change in the Queensland Public Sector ("PSMC Standard"). Steps in the process included offers of a transfer at level, offers of a voluntary early retirement package on two separate occasions, redeployment, outplacement service, and a "without prejudice" settlement offer. If Mr Cass had a grievance arising from the process, then he could have lodged an appeal with the Commissioner for Public Sector Equity. He did not exercise that right of appeal. The evidence in this case does not support the unsubstantiated and sweeping claim of the Member for Aspley of conflict with ILO conventions, including convention no. 158 Termination of Employment. ILO Convention 158 expressly recognises valid reasons for termination of employment based on the operational requirements of an undertaking, establishment or service, such as occurred in this case. With regard to the specific questions posed I answer as follows:

- (1) It would be passing strange if Parliament could not properly create and abolish statutory positions.

The member's claim of a denial of natural justice in the instant case is untrue for the reasons set out above.

- (2) See the answer to question 1.

I welcome the new-found interest of the Member for Aspley in the rights of workers to protection against unfair dismissal, and in particular in the operation of ILO Convention 158 Termination of Employment notwithstanding the hysterical resistance by the Opposition industrial relations spokesperson Mr Santoro to the introduction of such protections into Queensland law via the Industrial Relations Reform Act 1994.

## **25. TAFE Colleges, Quality Assurance Programs**

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations—

In response to my questions of 24 November 1994, you indicated that two TAFE colleges have so far outlaid over \$28 000 in payments to external agencies for Third Party accreditation of Quality Assurance Programs—

- (1) If these figures are a guide, is it going to cost TAFE in excess of \$400 000 to achieve accreditation of all colleges by the target date of June 1995?
- (2) How does this accord with Mr Sielaff's assurance to the Estimates Committee that there was no need to allocate monies in the TAFE budget for such QA procedures as they would all be done internally?
- (3) Why are all colleges being allowed to allocate internal resources to develop what will essentially be similar or identical QA procedures?
- (4) Why are colleges dealing independently with accreditation agencies when the Department could obtain a more favourable rate in negotiations and thus save the taxpayers considerable monies?
- (5) If Mr Sielaff's assurance is correct, and Mt Gravatt College of TAFE now has third party accreditation of all college activities, will it be the first occasion that any education and training institution anywhere in the world has achieved such a comprehensive level of Quality Assurance certification?
- (6) What does he plan to do to highlight and publicise this remarkable and commendable achievement, particularly as interstate and overseas educators and agencies involved in Quality Assurance will now be extremely interested in Mt Gravatt TAFE's QA program?

Answer:

- (1) No. The cost to TAFE will be significantly less than this.
- (2) Mr Santoro has confused Mr Sielaff's assurance to the Estimates Committee regarding the implementation process with the certification process. The implementation process is actioned internally by Institutes. Quality Assurance procedures are developed by internal resources to achieve this outcome. The certification process is enacted externally by an accredited Third Party Auditing body for which payment is required.
- (3) Generic Quality Assurance procedures do not recognise the differing characteristics of the TAFE Institutes. If all Institutes were identical in structure and operation then generic procedures may be acceptable but as they are not identical, procedures must be developed which satisfy the quality objectives of each institute.
- (4) TAFE Queensland, through a tender process, has procured the services of the National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) to perform the auditing of all Institutes and State Office Units. Colleges audited prior to this arrangement obtained independent quotes to expedite their certification.
- (5) No. The Mt Gravatt College of TAFE was not the first training institution anywhere in the world to gain certification to the international Quality Assurance standard. It was however the first training institution to gain such certification in Queensland.

(6) Mt Gravatt College of TAFE's achievement as the first training institution in Queensland to gain such certification for its Quality Assurance program has been highlighted by the use of the National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia (NATA) logo on all advertising and handbook publications and via the TAFE News newsletter.

## 28. Capacity of Correctional Centres and Watch-houses

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

- (1) What is the current number of inmates for (a) Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre, (b) Borallon Correctional Centre, (c) Brisbane Womens' Correction Centre, (d) Lotus Glen Correctional Centre, (e) Moreton Correctional Centre, (f) Numinbah Correctional Centre, (g) Palen Creek Correctional Centre, (h) Rockhampton Correctional Centre, (i) Sir David Longland Correctional Centre, (j) Townsville Correctional Centre, (k) Wacol Correctional Centre, and (l) Work Outreach Camps Program?
- (2) What is the design capacity for each of the above centres?
- (3) What is the current inmate population, and what is the design capacity, in each of the following police watch houses: Brisbane, Cairns, Ipswich, Southport, Holland Park, Sandgate and Beenleigh?

Answer:

(1) I am informed that, as at 10.00am on 22 March 1995, the population at each centre was: Arthur Gorrie, 524; Borallon, 329; Brisbane Womens, 72; Lotus Glen secure custody, 269; Lotus Glen open custody, 85; Moreton, 201; Numinbah, 82; Palen Ck, 78; Rockhampton secure custody, 236; Rockhampton open custody, 21; Sir David Longland, 306; Townsville Men's secure custody, 257; Townsville Men's open custody, 66; Townsville Women's, 19; Wacol, 242; WORC, 172.

(2) The design capacity of each centre is as follows: Arthur Gorrie, 458, this includes 78 cells which were opened at Arthur Gorrie last August at a cost of \$2.4 million; Borallon, 335, this includes 95 new cells which were opened on 14 March 1995 at a cost of \$5.2 million; Brisbane Womens, 81; Lotus Glen secure custody, 192; Lotus Glen open custody, 77, this does not include the 48 cells under construction by July 1995 at a cost of \$5 million; Moreton, 150; Numinbah, 84; Palen Creek, 77; Rockhampton secure custody, 240; Rockhampton open custody, 21; Sir David Longland, 228, this does not include 96 cells under construction and which will be opened in December 1995 at a cost of \$11 million; Townsville Men's secure custody, 218, 45 cells will be opened by October 1995 as part of the \$9.3 million redevelopment; Townsville Men's open custody, 60; Townsville Women's, 18, 12 cells will be opened by October 1995 at a cost of \$300, 000; Wacol, 238; 15 new cells will be opened by June 1995 at a cost of \$100,000; WORC, 220.

It should also be noted the QCSC facility at Westbrook will be expanded to take up to 130 prisoners. The Government is spending over \$41 million to expand accommodation by a total of up to 484 new spaces between August 1994 and June 1996.

(3) By "inmate population" it is assumed the Spokesman meant QCSC prisoners. Watchhouses also accommodate Police prisoners who generally stay in the watchhouse for only a few hours. As of 6.00am, 22 March 1995 the number of QCSC prisoners at each watchhouse was: Brisbane, 57; Cairns, 40; Ipswich, 8; Southport, 12; Holland Park, 10; Sandgate, 0; Beenleigh, 7.

Watchhouses include in their design a capability to incorporate shared cells. The number of permanent beds in each watchhouse is therefore the best indication of watchhouse capacity. The number of permanent beds for each watchhouse is: Brisbane, 44; Cairns, 40; Ipswich, 3; Southport, 15; Holland Park, 9; Sandgate, 5; Beenleigh, 16.

## 30. Justice Department; Outstanding Monetary Penalties

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General and Minister for the Arts—

With reference to notes on pages 78 and 79 of his department's Annual Report in which a total of \$88 128 000 is shown as the value of monetary penalties outstanding for the five year period to 30 June 1994—

- (1) What is the sum of (a) fines, (b) orders for restitution, (c) compensation and (d) other penalties for each of the five financial years, and total?
- (2) For what sums of these outstanding amounts have warrants been issued?
- (3) For what sums of these outstanding amounts have Fine Option Orders been issued and those orders been completed?
- (4) What other action is being taken to obtain payment of these outstanding fines and other monetary penalties?

Answer:

	1989/90	1990/91	1991/92	1992/93	1993/94	Total
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Supreme Court						
Fines	0	7	0	11	11	29
Restitution						
Compensation						
Other	0	0	0	1	11	12
Total (Supreme Court)						41
District Court						
Fines	1	6	51	24	163	245
Restitution						
Compensation						
Other	132	171	377	787	1 257	2 724
Total (District Court)						2 969
Magistrates Court (including Police Clerks of the Court and QGAP Agencies)						
*SEE NOTE						
Fines	6 685	5 478	6 062	11 615	21 232	51 072
Restitution	1 393	1 141	1 263	2 420	4 423	10 640
Compensation	279	228	252	484	885	2 128
Other	2 785	2 282	2 526	4 839	8 846	21 278
Total (Magistrates Court *SEE NOTE)						85 118

## GRAND TOTALS (All jurisdictions)

Fines	6 686	5 491	6 113	11 650	21 40651	346
Restitution **	1 525	1 312	1 640	3 208	5 69113	376
Compensation	279	228	252	484	885	2 128
Other	2785	2 282	2 526	4 839	8 84621	278
Total (All jurisdictions)						88 128

## \* NOTE

With reference to the figures for the Magistrates Courts, due to the nature of the manual and computer based systems, the records are being continually updated to reflect changes in the amount outstanding eg by reason of payment, execution of warrant, etc.

The figures provided are an approximation of the amounts which were outstanding as at 30 June 1994 for each of the five financial years using computer based records extrapolated to reflect the balance of records which are maintained manually. (Manual records are maintained in some Magistrates Courts, centres where there is a Police Clerk of the Court and Queensland Government Agencies [under the Queensland Government Agent Program.]

The categorisation for each of the five yearly amounts (in the table above) into fines, restitution, compensation and other is also based on current computer records. It is estimated that overall percentages for each of these categories are: Fines—60%; Restitution—12.5%; Compensation—2.5%; Other—25% (includes all other categories eg costs of court, fees, professional costs, witness expenses). These percentages for the Magistrates Courts have been applied in the above table for each of the five financial years.

\*\* This category includes "restitution, compensation, other" for the superior courts..

(2) Warrants Issued for financial orders made 1 July 1989 to 30 June 1994

Supreme Court	\$120
District Courts	\$263 100
*Magistrates Courts	\$48 800 000
Grand Total	\$49 063 220

\*(based on computer based records and extrapolated to include manual records for Magistrates Courts and Police Clerks of the Court and Queensland Government Agent Program)

(3)

Fine Option Orders made in relation to financial orders made 1 July 1989 to 30 June 1994

	Order made	Completed
Supreme Court	Nil	nil
District Courts	\$7 700	\$1 190
*Magistrates Courts	**\$5 600 000	\$2 600 000
Grand Total	\$5 607 700	\$2 601 190

\*(based on computer based records and extrapolated to include manual records for Magistrates Courts and Police Clerks of the Court and Queensland Government Agent Program)

\*\* (This figure relates to the amount outstanding for orders for the relevant period as at 30 June 1994 where a Fine Option Order was granted and not revoked or completed)

(4) The execution of a warrant for an outstanding fine or other monetary penalty is basically the responsibility of the Queensland Police Service. However I am authorised to advise you as follows: In recognition of the need to ensure that the action is taken on outstanding fines or other monetary penalties in a timely, efficient fashion, the Queensland Police Service has been working since mid-1994 on the computerisation of its warrant bureau and has been in liaison with the Department of Justice and Attorney-General since early 1995. This computerisation, when complete, will ensure central registration of each warrant, but that police officers throughout Queensland will have access to the details of warrants relating to an individual and will use the advantages of modern technology, in that police officers across the State will have electronic access to these warrants. The Police Service advises that the new system will be fully operational this year.

At the same time, officers of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, the Queensland Police Service and the Department of Transport are considering other means, both legislative and administrative, to ensure that efficient and appropriate means of enforcing warrants exist. This will include giving consideration to maximising the use of modern technology in the transfer of information and the degree of cooperation between all agencies involved in the process of fine enforcement. All States and Territories have encountered difficulty in the enforcement of unpaid fines. Various options have been pursued to resolve these commonly experienced problems.

The diverse approaches used in other jurisdictions include:

- seizure and sale of property/motor vehicles to meet the fine (but excluding essential items of property);
- cancellation or suspension of drivers' licence until the fine is paid.

In developing strategies to improve fine enforcement, the officers are aware of the complexity involved in the enforcement of outstanding fines. There are many reasons why a fine may remain unpaid. For instance, a large number of the outstanding fines include fines which are not yet due, fines in which a fine option order has been obtained and for which community service is still being performed, interstate offenders, the limited enforcement options available where the defendant is a company or a juvenile and the death of an offender before payment of the fine. Consideration must therefore be given to the entirety of the problem and its root causes. For example, the issue of enforcing fines imposed on interstate offenders is being addressed with the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department in the context of proposing amendments to the *Service and Execution of Process Act 1992* (Commonwealth).

### 31. Teacher Absenteeism

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to estimates by the Queensland Teachers' Union that the absenteeism rate for

teachers was an alarmingly high 7.6 days per teacher per year—

- (1) What was the average absenteeism rate for teachers in 1994?
- (2) How many days per teacher has the department budgeted to cover absenteeism in 1995?
- (2) How do these figures compare with (a) 1991, (b) 1992 and (c) 1993?

Answer:

1. Absenteeism is an issue that is dealt with on a school by school basis. Individual principals are responsible for recognising and responding to, issues of absenteeism. As a result it is not appropriate nor valid to average absenteeism across a year or across the whole of the teacher population.

It is also worth noting that the figure arrived at by the QTU is one that cannot be substantiated by any application of process that is available. It would seem to incorporate reasons for absence that do not fall into the category of absenteeism.

2. The Department of Education budgeted approximately \$14 million in the Teacher Relief Scheme for the 1994/95 financial year. Management of relief staff is done at a regional level and to date staff leave has not impacted negatively on education service provision.

3. These figures are similar to those budgeted for in the 1992/93, 1993/94 financial years. The figure for 1991/92 is not validly comparable to the figures for more recent years due to different program structures.

### 32. Police Resources, Gold Coast

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to reported statements of Assistant Commissioner Ken Scanlan in relation to the police situation on the gold Coast, that "... it was unlikely police numbers would keep pace" and there are likely to be problems "keeping suitable police officers"—

Is it correct that police numbers on the Gold Coast are at such a low level that all stations are working with much reduced police strength and that many stations are being forced to close for extended periods every day?

Answer:

The current funded strength of police numbers in the Gold Coast Police District is 480. Actual numbers currently stand at 457 and have been at this level for approximately the past six months. Contrary to the suggestion that police numbers on the Gold Coast are at low levels, these numbers compare extremely favourably with the 319 district total inherited by the Goss Government.

The growth in police numbers in the Gold Coast Police District since the election of the Goss Government is almost four times the increase in local population growth over the equivalent period.

In regard to service delivery, no police stations have been closed, or hours of service reduced due to current staffing levels.

### 34. Noosa Heads Police Station

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

- (1) How many police officers were assigned to the Noosa Heads Police Station in November 1989?
- (2) How many police officers were assigned to the Noosa Heads Police Station in September 1992?
- (3) How many police officers are assigned to Noosa Heads Police Station in March 1995?
- (4) How many officers are presently rostered on duty at the Noosa Heads Police Station?
- (5) How many police officers who are assigned to Noosa Heads Police Station are performing duties in other areas?
- (6) What are those duties?

Answer:

- (1) 17.
- (2) 19.
- (3) 27.
- (4) 20.
- (5) Four.
- (6) Two at Maroochydore Communications Centre, one on the Investigative Skills Course in Brisbane, and one in Haiti. The difference between the 27 officers assigned to Noosa Heads Police Station and these four officers and the 20 available for duty is made up of two officers on transfer who are yet to arrive at the Station and one officer on Recreation Leave.

### 35. Runaway Bay Police Station

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to the Runaway Bay Police Station which was designed by the National Party Government for twenty-four hour operation and given the low police to population ratio on the Gold Coast revealed by the Police Service Statistical Review and the high proportion of retirees living on the northern end of the Coast—

When does he plan to allow the necessary twenty-four hour operation of the station?

Answer:

The most significant aspect about 24 hour policing is that there are police on local streets 24 hours a day. It is not about having the front counter of a police station open round the clock for people to call in.

To this end, the Runaway Bay Police Division has a policing presence for 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This policing presence has existed since 1991. The Runaway Bay Station is not physically

staffed between the hours of 4pm to 8am, however patrols work in this division. A call diverter diverts calls from Runaway Bay to the Gold Coast District Communications Centre when the station is not staffed.

The patrol manpower for the 12mn-8 am period for the Coomera and Runaway Bay Divisions is drawn from both divisions to enable a single patrol to be available in these divisions.

Patrol support is also available from the neighbouring divisions of Nerang and Southport during the 12mn-8am period.

The current manpower deployment being exercised in the northern end of the Gold Coast is providing a commensurate level of policing as compared to other areas of the Gold Coast.

When the Runaway Bay Police Station opened in May 1989, it had a strength of 14 officers. Today, in recognition of local growth, that station has a funded strength of 18 officers. This near 30 percent increase in local police numbers shows that the Runaway Bay area is receiving its fair share of the massive increase in police numbers on the Gold Coast.

In regard to the claim that Gold Coast police numbers have not kept up with population, it should be noted that since the election of the Goss Government in 1989, Gold Coast police numbers have increased at almost four times the rate of local population growth.

### **37. Overseas Visits by Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Minister**

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations—

With reference to his overseas trips undertaken on the following dates—

- (i) 5 June 1993-14 June 1993 to Geneva and London
- (ii) 9 July 1994-24 July 1994 to Hong Kong, Vietnam, China, South Korea, Malaysia and Indonesia

For each trip would he provide, separately, the following information—

- (1) Total cost of the trip including Minister and accompanying ministerial, departmental, government and statutory authority staff
- (2) Ministerial expenses—
  - (a) Travel
    - (i) land
    - (ii) sea
    - (iii) air
  - (b) Accommodation and meals (except meals as part of functions)
  - (c) Official functions—including those organised around meals (breakfasts, luncheons and dinners)
  - (d) Other expenses

- (3) Departmental expenses—
  - (a) Travel
    - (i) land
    - (ii) sea
    - (iii) air
  - (b) Accommodation and meals (except meals as part of functions)
  - (c) Official functions—including those organised around meals (breakfasts, luncheons and dinners)
  - (d) Other expenses
- (4) Government expenses—
  - (a) Travel
    - (i) land
    - (ii) sea
    - (iii) air
  - (b) Accommodation and meals (except meals as part of functions)
  - (c) Official functions—including those organised around meals (breakfasts, luncheons and dinners)
  - (d) Other expenses

Answer:

This Government has put in place a set of guidelines for the operations of ministerial offices which are far more onerous than anything ever attempted by previous Queensland Governments. These guidelines cover not only the control and audit requirements for ministerial expenditure but also a reporting framework to ensure that Ministers are accountable to Parliament for the results of all overseas travel.

At the end of each year Ministers are required to table a statement for public disclosure which shows a range of categories of expenditure including expenditure on overseas travel. That statement will be made available to Parliament in accordance with the normal requirements.

In line with the Guidelines for the Financial Management of the Office of the Minister, I have tabled reports in relation to both the overseas travel undertaken from 5 June 1993 to 14 June 1993 and the overseas travel from 9 July to 24 July 1994.

The costs of these two trips charged to my Ministerial Office were \$11,155 and \$29,200 respectively.

The guidelines for Ministerial expenditure are quite clear as to what expenditures can legitimately be charged to the Department and those that are to be charged to the Ministerial Office. All expenditure, whether through the Ministerial Services Branch on behalf of Ministers or by the Department, is fully audited by the Auditor-General.

This accountability regime provides the assurance to Parliament and the people of Queensland that Ministers undertake overseas travel to achieve specific goals and then report on the benefits gained from the travel.

### 38. Health Authority Regional Directors

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Minister for Health—

What is the full salary package made available to the Regional Directors of the following Regional Health Authorities—(a) Wide Bay Regional Health Authority; (b) Peninsula and Torres Strait Regional Health Authority; (c) South Coast Regional Health Authority; (d) South West Regional Health Authority; (e) Sunshine Coast Regional Health Authority; (f) West Moreton Regional Health Authority; (g) Brisbane North Regional Health Authority; (h) Brisbane South Regional Health Authority?

Answer:

The full salary package values are as follows:

Position	Regional Health Authority	*Total Remuneration Package (per annum)
Regional Director	Wide Bay	\$119,601
Regional Director	Peninsula and Torres Strait	\$111,642
Regional Director	South Coast	\$120,704
Regional Director	South West	\$ 89,660
Regional Director	Sunshine Coast	\$124,619
Regional Director	West Moreton	\$119,601
Regional Director	Brisbane North	\$119,957 (acting incumbents)
Regional Director	Brisbane South	\$119,957 (acting incumbents)

\* Total Remuneration Package amount reflects the value of all benefits including employer contributions to superannuation, value of motor vehicle and leave loading amount.

### 40. Nambour Hospital

Mr TURNER asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the Nambour Hospital—

- (1) Is elective surgery to be cut due to budget shortfalls?
- (2) When are staff to be employed to staff the new wing recently opened and, in particular, the new 24 bed psychiatric ward?
- (3) As Nambour is a regional hospital, serving a vast region in one of the fastest growth areas of Queensland, what steps is the Government taking to overcome the acute shortage of parking space?

Answer:

(1) Routine elective surgery will reduce slightly over Easter, as is standard practice in most public hospitals.

The reduction in elective surgery is in no way related to budget shortfalls, but allows the hospital to keep some beds available for the anticipated increase in Emergency admissions that traditionally occur over holiday periods, and in particular over the Easter break.

A planned increase in day surgical procedures will offset this reduction over the Easter holiday period.

(2) In the first instance, there is no net increase in clinical services with the opening of Block Six at Nambour Hospital.

Existing clinical services and the associated staff are currently being transferred over to the new facilities. These services include Medical, Paediatrics, Oncology and Renal Dialysis.

Budget increases will mean new clinical services are progressively developed in 1995/96.

(3) The level of car parking at Nambour General Hospital has recently increased by 40 spaces bringing the total on site parking to 263 spaces.

Currently, Queensland Health and the local council are working to resolve this issue.

### 42. Emu Park High School

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the development of Emu Park and surrounding districts—

Will he initiate moves to establish a High School at Emu Park, taking into account there is a need to boost services for people at the north and south end of the Capricorn Coast?

Answer:

Students from Emu Park and surrounding districts predominantly patronise the Yeppoon State High School.

When Yeppoon state High School is relieved by a further high school in the medium-term future, the location of this further high school will need to address the most strategic location.

Year 8 students patronising Yeppoon State High School and drawn from the primary schools of the wider Emu Park area (Emu Park State School, Cawarral State School and Mount Chalmers State School) currently (1994) number 49.

These primary schools have shown a tendency to remain stable—for example Emu Park State School enrolled 248 in 1994 and 242 this year.

A minimum of 200 Year 8 students is generally required before a new urban high school is considered viable.

### 45. Dr C. Emerson

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

With reference to the Director-General of Environment and Heritage, Dr Craig Emerson's, 2020 Vision venture—

- (1) Is the Director-General still operating a private telephone from his Ministerial Office?
- (2) How much and when were contributions made to the Department of Environment and Heritage by the Director-General for the cost of operating the telephone, and will the Minister table the accounts in relation to the telephone?
- (3) Were any funds sought by the Director-General from any region or regions of the department for the operation of this venture?
- (4) Were any funds provided from any section of the Department of Environment and Heritage

towards the venture; if so, when and how much?

Answer:

(1) The Director-General of the Department of Environment and Heritage does not have and never has had a private phone located in his office. Prior to the current Director-General's appointment an official direct telephone service had been installed. I have been informed that the date of installation of the service was 23 January 1989. This is in addition to the usual PABX Government telephone network. I understand that such an arrangement is common practice in Chief Executive Offices.

(2) I am advised by the Deputy Director-General of the Department of Environment and Heritage that all calls in relation to 2020 Vision from the Director-General's office were reimbursed fully. The reimbursement was based on an analysis of each STD call shown on each account together with an estimation of the cost of local calls. I am advised by the Director-General that the amounts paid by 2020 Vision considerably exceeded the actual cost of the office calls, so as to avoid any possibility of Departmental subsidisation of those calls.

I am further advised that no 2020 Vision forums have been held since 1994 and no telephone calls in relation to 2020 Vision have been made from that telephone since 1993.

I table details relating to the payment of Telecom charges by 2020 Vision.

Further, although the Director-General is not required to make reimbursement for non-Departmental calls at his private residence, he has seen fit to contribute private funds to the cost of such calls.

As you would be aware the Criminal Justice Commission, after receiving a complaint from you at the end of 1993 which you foreshadowed in the media in November 1993, inquired into the use of the official telephone in connection with the operations of 2020 Vision. The Criminal Justice Commission advised the Director-General that "the Commission has formed the view that there is no basis on which to suspect you of engaging in official misconduct within the terms of the Criminal Justice Act 1989 and it therefore intends taking no further action in relation to the matter".

(3) & (4) I am advised by the Director-General as follows:

In mid-1993 membership was invited for the 2020 Vision project in a mail-out to a large number of businesses and individuals in the Brisbane locality. Members of the Department's Brisbane-based Senior Executive Service may have been included in the mailing list, but 2020 Vision records cannot confirm this. In the event, it was decided that 2020 Vision would not proceed with individual memberships from within the public sector. A cheque for \$650 for membership of 2020 Vision was drawn from within the Department's Head Office but was promptly refunded in August 1993. I have been advised that a computer search of

expenditure records in the Department of Environment and Heritage by the Department's Financial Accountant for the Financial Years 1992/93, 1993/94 and 1994/95 has revealed that the only Departmental cheque paid to 2020 Vision and not refunded was for \$20.00. This payment covered the cost of one ticket for one officer to attend one seminar. No other funds have been provided by the Department of Environment and Heritage towards the 2020 Vision project.

The transactions involving 2020 Vision and the Department of Environment and Heritage like other Departmental transactions have been subject to review as part of the internal and external audit of the Department. Neither the Auditor-General nor the Department's Internal Auditor has raised any issue with regard to the procedures adopted or the amounts paid in relation to such transactions.

The Director-General advises that 2020 Vision is a non-profit organisation which has already donated a total of \$2500 of net income to the St Vincent de Paul Society.

Date	Telephones		Rec. No. & Date
	Work	Home	
	229 5724	227 8826	
28.09.93	10.05		15.00 28410 5/10/93
18.11.93			15.00 34584 22/11/93
23.11.93		24.61	34929 24/11/93
15.12.93	8.75		37583 15/12/93
7.1.94			7.50 39432 10/1/94
24.2.94			5.00 44600 24/2/94
29.4.94			12.50 51549 3/5/94
27.5.94			5.00 54304 30/5/94
TOTAL	18.80	24.61	60.00

#### 47. Quality Assurance Standards

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Business, Industry and Regional Development—

With reference to statements made by John Sprouster, Chief Executive of the Australian Quality Council which is recognised by the Federal Government as the top advisory body for quality in Australia, which say "ISO 9000 is inappropriate for small business. Not only is it too expensive, but it is far too sophisticated"—

- (1) What quality assurance standard is presently required by the State Government?
- (2) What action has been taken by the State Government to modify its position in relation to Quality Assurance?
- (3) When is this likely to eventuate?
- (4) What is the likely impact on small business?

Answers:

(1) The Australian Quality Council (AQC) does not speak for the entire quality movement in Australia. In Queensland the Government deals with both the AQC, representing mainly the proponents of Total Quality Management, and the Australian Organisation for Quality which represents the proponents of quality assurance around which the ISO 9000 standards are based.

The application of ISO 9000 series is appropriate if properly applied. TQM systems for small business can be inappropriate if improperly applied.

The State Purchasing Policy states inter alia that—

"Government Agencies shall specify quality assurance systems aligned with or based on internationally recognised Quality Systems Standards except where risk analysis allows the acceptance of informal quality assurance systems".

These standards are AS 9001, AS 9002 and AS 9003 based on the ISO 9000 series.

(2) The substantive position on appropriate quality assurance requirements for suppliers to Government has been the same under this and former governments. Indeed the former government introduced the requirement. The policy is refined if required as its implementation is monitored through regular contact with suppliers, and purchasers.

The latest refinement was to allow one-off purchases under \$1,000 to not require quality assurance if the purchaser so requires, following a basic risk assessment.

(3) Further refinements will be undertaken as appropriate.

(4) My Department of Business, Industry and Regional Development through its Quality Development Unit has provided free-of-charge training in quality assurance awareness and system development implementation since October 1993. Additionally, enquiries on quality assurance are answered on a 008 hot-line.

DBIRD has also provided financial assistance to industry associations to introduce cheap, self-help courses for QA implementation for their members and other industry.

#### **48. Sale of Locomotive to Zig Zag Railway by Rockhampton City Council**

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

- (1) Is she aware of reports that the Rockhampton City Council has sold the preserved C-17 steam locomotive Number 966 to the Zig Zag Railway at Lithgow in New South Wales for \$2,000?
- (2) Does she know that the Zig Zag Railway basically is a commercial undertaking without one item of New South Wales rolling stock—all its large fleet of locomotives and carriages have come from Queensland and South Australia?

(3) As Number 966 would have been given to Rockhampton by the Queensland Railways for display when steam locomotives were phased out, will she take urgent action to place this irreplaceable part of Queensland's rail heritage on the Heritage Register to ensure that it is not lost interstate?

(4) In view of the financial situation of Zig Zag Railway and the intention to use this locomotive to provide spare parts for other locomotives and therefore this piece of heritage will be lost indefinitely, will she place all similar rail heritage items in Queensland on the register to prevent future occurrences of this kind?

Answer:

The Department of Environment and Heritage has been advised that the locomotive to which you refer has been acquired by an interstate private railway organisation. However, it is not possible to place individual locomotives—or other such items—on the Queensland Heritage Register as they are considered to be items of moveable cultural heritage. Only cultural heritage places are eligible for entry on the Register.

#### **49. Eastlink**

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

What is the capacity of Eastlink for continuous interstate trade in electricity?

Answer:

Eastlink is proposed to be a line designed with a firm capacity of 500 megawatts, that is it would be able to carry 500MV in either direction.

#### **50. Electricity Tariffs**

Mr GILMORE asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

What administrative procedures are involved in maintaining tariff equalisation in a competitive electricity market?

Answer:

The Government announced at the time of the passage of the new Electricity Act that it would maintain the system of tariff equalisation in Queensland. In accordance with the principles of corporatisation, the subsidy implied by this commitment is being provided in a transparent and accountable way through a Community Service Obligation paid from consolidated revenue, through the Department of Minerals and Energy. The basis of the CSO is the payment of an amount equal to the shortfall between the revenue from supply and the efficient cost of supply.

#### **51. Overseas Visit by Primary Industries Minister**

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Primary Industries—



With reference to his overseas trips on the following dates—

- (i) 19 September 1993—4 October 1993 to the USA and Europe
- (ii) 7 March 1994—11 March 1994 to Papua New Guinea

For each trip would he provide, separately, the following information—

- (1) Total cost of the trip including Minister and accompanying ministerial, departmental, government and statutory authority staff
- (2) Ministerial expenses—
  - (a) Travel
    - (i) land
    - (ii) sea
    - (iii) air
  - (b) Accommodation and meals (except meals as part of functions)
  - (c) Official functions—including those organised around meals (breakfasts, luncheons and dinners)
  - (d) Other expenses
- (3) Departmental expenses—
  - (a) Travel
    - (i) land
    - (ii) sea
    - (iii) air
  - (b) Accommodation and meals (except meals as part of functions)
  - (c) Official functions—including those organised around meals (breakfasts, luncheons and dinners)
  - (d) Other expenses
- (4) Government expenses—
  - (a) Travel
    - (i) land
    - (ii) sea
    - (iii) air
  - (b) Accommodation and meals (except meals as part of functions)
  - (c) Official functions—including those organised around meals (breakfasts, luncheons and dinners)
  - (d) Other expenses

Answer:

The Honourable Member would be well aware that at the end of each year Ministers are required to table a statement for public disclosure which shows a range of categories of expenditure including expenditure on overseas travel. That statement will be made available to Parliament in accordance with the normal requirements.

In line with the Guidelines for the Financial Management of the Office of the Minister, I have tabled reports in relation to both the overseas travel

undertaken from 19th September 1993 to 4th October 1993, and overseas travel from 7th March 1994 to 11 March 1994.

The costs of these two trips charged to my Ministerial Office were \$59 218.78 and \$7,544.88 respectively.

The guidelines for Ministerial expenditure are quite clear as to what expenditures can legitimately be charged to the Department and those that are to be charged to the Ministerial Office. All expenditure, whether through the Ministerial Services Branch on behalf of Ministers or by the Department, is fully audited by the Auditor-General.

This accountability regime provides the assurance to Parliament and the people of Queensland that Ministers undertake overseas travel to achieve specific goals and then report on the benefits gained from the travel.

Messrs Pitt and Livingstone as members of the Primary Industries Parliamentary Legislative Committee accompanied Mr Casey on the trip to Papua New Guinea and details of their expenses are available from the Clerk of the Parliament's Office.

Mr McManus of Premier's Department also accompanied Mr Casey to Papua New Guinea and details of his expenses are available from Premier's Department.

### 53. Sunshine Coast Regional Health Authority

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to an advertisement placed in *The Courier-Mail* on 19 November 1994 (copy attached) by the Director of Community Health Services at the Sunshine Coast Regional Health Authority, Dr Stephen Ayres and to PSMC Guidelines state that if three months lapses between advertising and interview, the positions should be re-advertised.—

- (1) Have the seven positions advertised for a variety of Health workers have been filled?
- (2) If all seven positions have not been filled, when will they be as the services were supposed to be in place for the 1995 year?

Answer:

(1) Appointments have been made to all seven positions. The positions of Speech Pathologist, Physiotherapist, and two Clinical Nurses all commenced on March 27. The Psychologist and Centre Co-ordinator are expected to begin on May 2. The position of Social Worker has been appointed with a commencement date yet to be negotiated.

(2) All positions have been filled.

### 54. Maroochydore TAFE College

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Administrative Services—

What was the advised or estimated requirement for car parking at the new Maroochydore TAFE facility

and what parking provision will be provided at Newspaper Place?

Answer:

The estimated requirement for car parking at the new Maroochydore TAFE facility is a matter for TAFE Queensland. However, the "Concept Proposal and Design Brief" issued by TAFE advised that "additional parking spaces are required".

The proposal being developed by the Design and Construction Manager under a contract being administered by my Department, makes provision for 43 car parking spaces on the TAFE site.

### 55. Westbrook Youth Detention Centre

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs—

With reference to the cost of damages to the Westbrook Youth Centre in 1994 when the inmates rioted—

Will she table the relevant documentation to dispel the claim in the *Courier-Mail* that the riots cost \$1.4m and to confirm the accuracy of her answer in this House on 27 April 1994 that the final bill will be in the region of \$430 000?

Answer:

In response to the specific question asked by the Member for Western Downs, I can advise as follows:

My earlier answer in this House on 27 April 1994 was in the context of the cost of the upgrading and maintenance work required at Westbrook after the riot.

Information was provided by Administrative Services Department verbally on 26 April 1994 that the likely costs for restoration and upgrading of the Westbrook Youth Centre was \$160,171 for restoration work and \$269,794 for upgrading work, a total cost of \$429,965. These costs were confirmed in writing on the 28 April 1994 although final cost figures for the upgrading works were not then finalised.

On the 20 May 1994 Administrative Services Department advised in writing that the final cost of restoration and upgrading work at Westbrook Youth Centre was \$326,753. A reduction from the April estimate due to the deletion of considerable upgrading work as a result of the decision to close the Centre. I table a copy of that advice provided to my department.

### 56. Westbrook Youth Detention Centre

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Administrative Services—

With reference to the former Westbrook Youth Detention Centre at which your department has completed extensive refurbishments—

(1) What repairs, refurbishments and/or improvements have been completed at the centre subsequent to the riot in March 1994?

(2) What is the precise expenditure on the completed repairs, refurbishments and/or improvements?

Answer:

(1) Restoration work carried out at the Remand and Proserpine Sections of the Centre subsequent to the riot on 21 March 1994 consisted of:

- Repairs/replacement of doors and locks
- Replacement of furniture
- Repairs to security cameras
- Painting
- Replacement of glass
- Replacement of floor coverings
- The provision of hang proof mesh to window and vents.
- Replacement of lights with vandal proof light fittings.
- Provision of additional security cameras
- Upgrading of security to the roof area around the courtyard at the Proserpine Section.
- Upgrading of Amenities Block to the Proserpine Section consisting of:
  - Three additional toilet suites and urinals
  - Removal of handbasins
  - Replacement of external timber doors with metal clad doors.
- Dormitory 4 within the Proserpine Section connected into a single activities area within the storeroom
- Timber screening above partitions in dormitories within the Proserpine Section sheeted with ply
- Clearing block drains
- Repairs to burst water main
- Commissioning of stove and boiler
- Supply of two refrigerators
- Supply and installation of security locks to dormitory doors.
- Electrical upgrade

(2) Cost of completed repairs, refurbishments and/or improvements total \$385,257.

### 60. Criminal Code

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to his letter dated 14 February 1995 to me concerning additional prisoner accommodation—

- (1) Has he advised the Attorney-General that the new 'tough' penalties proposed in the new Criminal Code will not result in a requirement for additional prison cells?
- (2) Will he admit that the propaganda campaign by the Government which has made the

Criminal Code the central plank of its law and order campaign to crack down on crime nothing more than an elaborate confidence trick?

Answer:

(1) Naturally I have advised the Attorney General of no such thing. The Attorney General is well aware the Government has a total of 761 new cells to come on line by January 1997, and that any changes to the prisoner population due to the revised code will be gradual, with the full impact on prisoner numbers not to be felt for several years.

(2) No.

### 61. Tully/Millstream Hydroelectric Project

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

(1) Will he provide a detailed background of the requests he has made to the Federal Government and the Wet Tropics Management Authority for the implementation of the Tully Millstream Hydro Electric Project?

(2) Will he also give a clear indication of the Government's level of commitment to this source of clean energy?

Answer:

(1) The Government initiated a Taskforce review of the Tully Millstream scheme in 1990. The Taskforce reported in April 1991 and the Taskforce report was forwarded to the Prime Minister by the Premier. The Commonwealth subsequently raised a large number of questions in relation to economic, technical and environmental aspects of the proposed project, which were responded to later in 1991. Following further consideration within the Government, the Premier wrote to the Prime Minister on 19 February 1992 about the need to establish a process to resolve the issue. Discussions were then held with the Commonwealth at departmental level. A response was received from the Commonwealth in July 1992, indicating that the Commonwealth would require both a full Environmental Impact Statement in accordance with the Commonwealth Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act and a Social Impact study of the area likely to be affected. By this time, the construction lead time of the project and the time likely to be required for the studies requested called into doubt the capability to build it for the early 2000s, so no further requests have been made to the Commonwealth.

(2) It needs to be recognised that the Tully Millstream Project has major environmental consequences, it is in a world heritage area. It does not form part of the Government's forward electricity supply program.

### 62. Patient Transfer Scheme

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the shortage of specialists in rural Queensland and as many patients are referred to

regional centres such as Townsville for treatment, and to the problem that exists with the different guidelines and regulations within the regional health authorities towards the administering of the Patient Transfer Scheme (PTS)—

(1) Are these guidelines/regulations policy throughout the State of Queensland, or are they administered by the individual regional health authorities for their own regions?

(2) If they are Queensland health policy, will he provide a copy of the relevant documents?

Answer:

(1) The Patient Transfer Scheme is funded by Queensland Health through Regional Health Authority budgets. Prior to regionalisation a series of policy documents in the Manual of Procedure and Instructions regulated the PTS scheme. In March 1994 these policy documents were amalgamated into a single draft Queensland Health Policy Statement, which was sent to all Regional Health Authorities as an interim policy statement. The Statement clearly indicates that it should be implemented until a revised (final) policy statement is issued. The final policy statement will be available by June 1995.

(2) A copy of the draft Patient Transfer Scheme Policy Statement is available in the Bills and Papers Office.

### 63. Kirwan Women's Hospital

Mr STONEMAN asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to continuing reports of the downgrading of the Kirwan Womens Hospital in Townsville and numerous expressions of concern to me from people across the community, particularly concerned mothers and mothers to be—

(1) What is the medium and long term plan for the hospital?

(2) Is it a fact that the Intensive and Special Care Nursery may be closed down and/or relocated out of Townsville?

(3) What is the situation in respect of the hospital's neo-natologist position following the departure of Dr Reynolds?

(4) Does the unit have a permanent Clinical Nurse Consultant (Charge Nurse); if so, how was the position filled?

(5) Under what circumstances did some fourteen staff leave the hospital over the recent Christmas holiday period?

(6) Were nine of these resignations from within the Special Care Nursery?

(7) How many mothers and special care babies have had to be transferred to other units recently because of the absence of a neo-natologist or nursing staff?

(8) Is there a conflict within the hospital involving the management hierarchy?

(9) What assurance can be given that residents of Townsville and the surrounding area will

have the continuing presence of the special facilities provided by the hospital?

Answer:

(1) Consistent with the Selected Tertiary Referral Services Plans to 2001, in the medium term Kirwan Women's Hospital's Intensive and Special Care Nursery will be progressively upgraded to a minimum size unit (10-12 beds) by 1996. Currently the region is undertaking a process of long term planning, part of which will be planning for the provision of these services in the Northern Region.

(2) All of these services will be retained in Townsville. The Regional Health Authority in consultation with medical staff and the general community are currently undertaking a planning process for the future development of health services in the Northern Region.

(3) Following the resignation of Dr Reynolds, the position of neonatologist has now been approved for advertisement. A locum neonatologist from Sydney is providing temporary cover.

(4) There is currently no permanent Clinical Nurse Consultant at Kirwan Women's Hospital as the Australian Industrial Relations Commission decided that there should be local agreement about which level 3 positions should be filled prior to making permanent appointments at this level.

(5) Fourteen staff left Kirwan Women's Hospital over the two month period of December/January, for a variety of reasons. These figures are not unusual for the Townsville area which includes an army base.

(6) Yes, including two neonatologists.

(7) A total of five expectant mothers and six babies have been transferred to other units recently.

(8) I am confident that the management and staff at Kirwan Women's Hospital continue to provide a quality professional service to all patients.

(9) I can assure the people of Townsville that they will continue to receive at least the level of obstetric and neonatal intensive care services currently provided.

#### **65. Sand and Gravel Extraction, Tin Can Bay Area**

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

With reference to the closure of the sand and gravel extraction operation from Mt Bilewilam in the Rainbow Beach, Tan Can Bay area and in view of the very limited deposits available for extraction operations in this area and the demand for access to this material for construction purposes—

What action is being taken to ensure alternative supplies of sand and gravel will be available at competitive prices to meet the future demands of residents, home owners and business interests in this locality?

Answer:

(1) The issue of the sand and gravel operation at Mt Bilewilam was canvassed in the Great Sandy Region Management Plan undertaken by the Department of Environment and Heritage.

Sand and gravel quarrying for construction and road fill purposes in this area is the responsibility of the Department of Primary Industries Forest Service.

The issue of further working at Mt Bilewilam and the possible replacement supplies of sand and gravel will continue to be the responsibility of the Department of Environment and Heritage and the Department of Primary Industries.

#### **66. Regional Health Authorities, Payrolls and Stocktakes**

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the 1995 Queensland Second Report of the Auditor-General on audits performed 1993-94—

(1) Has the Regional Director of Brisbane South taken action to ensure reconciliation of total staff employed has been achieved between the two systems (PRISM and CASPAY); if not, what alternative controls have been implemented to ensure only staff entitled to be paid have been included on payrolls processed to date?

(2) What stock control systems are in place at each of the hospitals, or regional health authorities?

(3) How frequently are stocktakes performed and reconciled?

(4) What action has been implemented to overcome the criticisms such as access available to staff other than those responsible for supplies and inadequate reporting to senior management regarding use of certain stocks?

Answer:

(1) A complete reconciliation of the two systems (PRISM and CASPAY) will be performed on 30 June 1995.

The Queensland Audit Office have been advised when the reconciliation will be performed.

(2) Both manual and computerised stock control systems are being used in hospitals and Regional Health Authorities. The majority of inventory locations are controlled through perpetual inventory systems.

Procedures for stock control are detailed in the Financial Management Practice Manual and the Financial Procedure Manual.

(3) A physical inventory (stocktake) of material stores is performed at least annually, either in total or by cyclical count.

(4) Appropriate senior officers of stores have been advised that stocks are to be kept in a secure area with only authorised staff being permitted to have access to the stocks.

#### **67. Bundaberg Police Headquarters**

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to the construction of a replacement District Headquarters at Bundaberg—

- (1) When is it expected to call tenders for the new Bundaberg Police Station and watchhouse?
- (2) When is it expected that construction will commence?
- (3) What is the expected cost and completion date?

Answers:

(1) Q-Build Project Services have advised that tenders are expected to be called for the replacement Bundaberg District Headquarters on 15 April 1995.

(2) Construction is anticipated to commence on 2 June 1995.

(3) The anticipated total project cost is \$7,512,000. Anticipated completion date is June 1996.

#### **69. Senior Citizens' Accommodation, Emu Park**

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Rural Communities—

What can be done to provide further much needed senior citizen unit type accommodation, in view of the increasing number of people needing this accommodation at Emu Park?

Answer:

The Government has responded to demonstrated need for senior's accommodation in Emu Park with the construction of 10 senior units under the 1993/94 Capital Works Program. The Goss Government was the first to provide senior units at Emu Park. The units were completed on 18 January 1994 and were occupied soon after this date. The Department also owns five three-bedroom detached houses at Emu Park.

A further 26 senior units are planned for construction in nearby Yeppoon.

#### **70. Sunshine Motorway Tolls**

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development —

With reference to the Goss Labor Government's failure to keep its promise to scrap Sunshine Motorway tolls—

Will he give Maroochy North Shore residents and workers discounts on the toll bridge over the Maroochy River?

Answer:

The decision to proceed with Stage II followed a lengthy planning process with comprehensive public consultation confirming majority support for the extension as a toll facility. My predecessor, the Honourable David Hamill MLA, met with the Maroochy North Shore Progress Association on 1

September 1993, to hear the concerns of local residents in relation to the \$1.50 toll proposed for the Maroochy River Bridge. Consideration was given to a proposal to provide discounted tolls for local areas. However, such a proposal was not adopted. The important thing is that alternative toll-free routes are available and nobody is compelled to pay the toll. Current toll levels were established after detailed analysis of projected usage figures to assist repayment of the loan within twenty years and to reflect a fair price for the benefits derived.

#### **74. Eastlink**

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

What will the contractual arrangements for the ownership of the Eastlink Electricity connection be?

Answer:

A range of options is being considered at present in negotiations between Queensland and New South Wales Authorities. No firm arrangements have been agreed as yet. I can assure the Member that these will be commercial arrangements which will be to Queensland's economic benefit.

#### **76. Contaminated Land, Toowoomba**

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

Will she outline the procedures currently in place to ease the distress of residents in Toowoomba who have received notices under the *Contaminated Land Act*, that their land and homes (built on a former Toowoomba City Council dump site) are now registered on the Contaminated Land Register as either possible or probable contaminated sites, given the fact that some residents have found it almost impossible to sell their property?

Answer:

Following earlier discussions with Toowoomba City Council and some preliminary site investigations by Council, the Department of Environment and Heritage wrote on 31 January 1995 to the Toowoomba City Council requesting that the Council engage an environmental consultant to investigate and delineate the former landfill site. The Department also recommended that the consultant assess any hazards that the former landfill might cause to the residents. The Department has provided technical advice to the Toowoomba City Council to assist in the tendering process.

Toowoomba City Council has recently engaged the environmental consultant and it is expected that the results of the investigations will be forwarded to the Department by early June 1995. Strategies for managing any hazards caused by the contamination will be developed once the results are available.

The Department will continue to consult with the local community and the Toowoomba City Council to resolve this issue.

## 78. Computerised Hospitals Systems

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the 1995 Queensland Second Report of the Auditor-General on audits performed 1993-94—

- (1) What progress has been made by the working group with respect to the computerised pharmacy inventory system (HOMER)?
- (2) What cost has been associated with the establishment of this group to date, including salaries and support staff and ancillary costs?
- (3) What are all the computerised systems currently in use in each of the hospitals and regional centres?
- (4) Has an IT strategic plan been prepared?
- (5) If so, does it contain details of timing and full estimated cost of components, including staff training and systems replacement and verification, and will he table this plan?
- (6) What action has been implemented to reconcile the Occupied Bed Days Report with the Inpatient Debtors module which is used for patient billing?
- (7) How frequently is this reconciliation performed at each hospital?

Answer:

(1) The computerised pharmacy inventory system (HOMER) is functioning satisfactorily.

(2) Any costs were absorbed by the vendor as part of their obligation for software maintenance.

(3) Hospitals: Hospital Based Corporate Information Systems (HBCIS) have been or will be installed in 70 hospitals by June 1995.

Community: PC based community health information software developed by Queensland Health has been installed in over 60 centres.

Regional Offices: PC based support systems functioning on a network are installed in most regional offices.

(4) In February 1994 the Government endorsed a \$50 million Capital Works Information Support Program for Queensland Health for three years starting in 1993/94, as part of the overall Capital Works program.

The current Information Strategic Plan and annual IT operational plan have been endorsed by the Information Policy Board. Senior management are currently leading the annual renewal of these plans.

(5) The details sought by the question are stated in the IT Operational Plan and the supporting project plans. These detailed plans contain information which is commercial in confidence and relates to existing and planned vendor commitments which may be damaged by public release. Consequently, I am not willing to table these plans.

The base 1993 Information Strategic Plan was updated by the 1994 Information Strategic Plan. The 1995 update will be available in June/July.

(6) Systems have been successfully reconciled at small and medium hospitals and the matter is being addressed in the larger hospitals and will be complete within the month.

(7) Reconciliation is an internal control procedure performed in accordance with the policy of each hospital and may vary across the State.

## 79. Innisfail Hospital

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the urgent need for maintenance work and the upgrading of equipment at the Innisfail Hospital and in view of the consistent shortfall in the level of funds required by the Southern Sector of Peninsula and Torres Strait Health Authority—

Will he give an undertaking that the finances for the Southern Sector will be increased substantially to enable health providers to improve the level of service to the communities in this region?

Answer:

The question is based on a false premise. The Regional Director has advised that Innisfail Hospital currently does not have any significant maintenance problems. Maintenance is progressively attended to as and when required by Executive Management of the Sector.

Maintenance currently being undertaken at Innisfail Hospital includes: repainting of Ward 3, which is contracted to a local painter; and repairs to the incinerator which have been contracted and will be carried out in May 1995.

Equipment upgrading requirements are also kept under review. The X Ray unit, whilst still operating satisfactorily, is considered to be the only item of major equipment that is in need of upgrading and has been listed for replacement within the Region and Queensland Health. This item is to be considered in the context of overall requirements for specialist equipment upgrades across the State under the 10 year Capital Works Program.

The final stage of the Innisfail Hospital redevelopment is to be considered in the context of the balance of the 10 year Capital Works Program of Queensland Health.

Budget allocations to the Southern Sector since regionalisation are as follows:

YEAR	BUDGET
1991/92	\$ 10,693,000
1992/93	\$ 11,022,000
1993/94	\$ 11,474,988
1994/95	\$ 11,865,800 *

\*Projected budget at 30 June 1995.

At present, the Southern Sector of which Innisfail Hospital is the major facility is on budget and there has been no request to Regional Office for additional funds to meet expenditure in excess of the 1994/95 budget allocation.

The Southern Sector continues to provide a high standard of service to the community of Innisfail, Tully and Babinda.

### 80. Maroochydhore TAFE College

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Administrative Services—

What was the Government's official valuation of the Newspaper Place TAFE site and building at Maroochydhore and what was the price eventually paid for it?

Answer:

This is a matter for TAFE Queensland.

Administrative Services Department had no involvement in the valuation or acquisition of the Newspaper Place TAFE site and building at Maroochydhore.

### 81. Regional Development Groups

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Business, Industry and Regional Development—

- (1) How many regional development groups in Queensland are recognised by the Department of Business, Industry and Regional Development?
- (2) What regions do they cover?
- (3) What are their names, their contact names and addresses?
- (4) What funding has been supplied to each of these groups for the last three financial years, broken up by region?

Answer:

(1) The Department currently has a listing of 41 regional development groups.

(2 & 3)

Atherton Tableland Enterprise House Ltd  
Ms Sue Attwood  
Economic Development Officer  
PO Box 713  
Atherton Q 4883

Regions covered: Atherton Shire, Herberton Shire, Eacham Shire

Atherton Tableland Promotion Bureau Ltd  
Mr Brian Robinson  
Chairman  
PO Box 257

Atherton Q 4883

Regions covered: Mareeba Shire, Atherton Shire, Eacham Shire, Herberton Shire

The Beaudesert Development Association Inc  
Mr Donald J Franklin  
President  
PO Box 440  
Beaudesert Q 4285

Regions covered: Beaudesert Shire

Bowen Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Inc  
Mr Mike Brooks  
Chairman  
PO Box 214  
Bowen Q 4805

Regions covered: Bowen Shire

Bundaberg District Tourism and Development Board Ltd  
Dr Lou Muller  
Chairman  
PO Box 930  
Bundaberg Q 4670

BARA: Mr Bob Hockey  
c/- Mundubbera Shire Council  
Lyons Street  
Mundubbera Q 4626

Regions covered: Isis Shire, Burnett Shire, Bundaberg City, Miriam Vale Shire, Kolan Shire, Perry Shire, Biggenden Shire, Gayndah Shire, Mundubbera Shire, Eidsvold Shire, Monto Shire

Cape York Peninsula Development Association Inc  
Mr David Hurse  
President  
PO Box 187  
Mareeba Q 4880

BARA: Mr Paul Coker  
PO Box 560  
Malanda Q 4885

Regions covered: Cook Shire, Aurukun Shire, Weipa Shire, Mainland part of Torres only

Capricorn Tourism and Development Organisation Inc  
Cr Hubert Murray  
Chairman  
PO Box 1313  
Rockhampton Q 4700

Regions covered: Rockhampton City, Fitzroy Shire, Livingstone Shire, Mount Morgan Shire, Banana Shire, Bauhinia Shire, Emerald Shire, Jericho Shire

Cassowary Coast Development Bureau Ltd  
Mr Ian Thompson  
Chairman  
PO Box 779  
Innisfail Q 4860

BARA: Mr Colin Morrison  
Dev Bureau of Hinchinbrook and Cardwell Shires inc and the Cassowary Coast Dev Bureau Ltd  
PO Box 738  
Tully Q 4854

Regions covered: Johnstone Shire, Cardwell Shire  
Central Highlands Promotions and Development Organisation Inc  
Cr Peter McGuire  
Chairman  
PO Box 1425  
Emerald Q 4720

BARA: Ms Jean McRuvie

Regions covered: Peak Downs Shire, Jericho Shire, Bauhinia Shire, Emerald Shire

Central Western Queensland Remote Area Planning and Development Board Ltd  
Dr Tom Murphy  
Chairman  
PO Box 592  
Longreach Q 4730

BARA: Mr David Loch

Regions covered: Boulia Shire, Winton Shire, Aramac Shire

Charters Towers/Dalrymple Development Association Inc  
Mr Peter Strid  
President  
15-17 Gill Street  
Charters Towers Q 4820

BARA: Mr Stuart Lovell

Regions covered: Charters Towers, Dalrymple Shire, Flinders Shire, Richmond Shire, Hughenden Shire

Chinchilla Economic and Tourism Development Association Inc  
Mr Lester Plant  
Chairman  
PO Box 42  
Chinchilla Q 4413

Regions covered: Chinchilla Shire, Dalby Shire, Tara Shire

Collinsville District Development Bureau  
Mr Bruce Helmsbright  
Chairman  
PO Box 197  
Collinsville Q 4804

Regions covered: Collinsville (Bowen Shire)

Cooloola Regional Development Bureau  
Mr John Falkinder  
Chairman  
PO Box 415  
Gympie Q 4570

Regions covered: Cooloola Shire, Kilkivan Shire

Dalby Wambo Tourism and Development Board  
Mr Bob Holden  
Chairman  
PO Box 293  
Dalby Q 4405

Regions covered: Dalby, Wambo

Development Bureau of Hinchinbrook and Cardwell Shires Inc  
Mr Pino Giandomenico  
Chairman  
PO Box 840  
Ingham Q 4850

BARA: Mr Colin Morrison

Development Bureau of Hinchinbrook and Cardwell Shires Inc and the Cassowary Coast Development Bureau Ltd  
PO Box 738  
Tully Q 4854

Regions covered: Hinchinbrook Shire, Cardwell Shire

Far North Queensland Promotion Bureau Ltd  
Mr Mike Burgess  
Chairman  
PO Box 865  
Cairns Q 4870

Regions covered: Burke Shire, Carpentaria Shire, Croydon Shire, Etheridge Shire, Cook Shire, Mareeba Shire, Mulgrave Shire, Cairns City, Atherton Shire, Eacham Shire, Douglas Shire, Johnstone Shire, Cardwell Shire, Herberton Shire, Torres, Aurukun Shire, Yarrabah

Gladstone Area Promotion and Development Ltd  
Mrs Trudy Habner  
Chairman  
56 Goonoon Street  
Gladstone Q 4680

Regions covered: Miriam Vale, Calliope Shire, Gladstone City,

Gold Coast/Albert Regional Development Association Inc  
Cr Alan Rickard  
Chairman  
PO Box 717  
Palm Beach Q 4221

Regions covered: Gold Coast/Albert

Goondiwindi District Promotions Inc  
Ms Faye Busch  
President  
PO Box 527  
Goondiwindi Q 4390

BARA: Mr Tim Dufton

PO Box 527  
Goondiwindi Q 4390

Regions covered: Waggamba Shire, Goondiwindi

Gulf Local Authorities Development Association  
Mr John Smith  
Chairman  
PO Box 2312  
Cairns Q 4870

Regions covered: Etheridge Shire, Croydon Shire, Carpentaria Shire, Burke Shire

Ipswich Region Development Corporation Ltd  
Mr Paul Pisasale  
Chairman  
PO Box 225  
Ipswich Q 4305

Regions covered: Ipswich City, Moreton Shire, Boonah Shire, Esk Shire, Laidley Shire, Gatton Shire

Kingaroy District Development Board  
Mrs Ellen Casswell  
Chairperson  
PO Box 272  
Kingaroy Q 4610

Regions covered: Kingaroy Shire

Logan City Economic Development Board  
Mr Huan Fraser  
Chairman  
PO Box 822  
Springwood Q 4127

Regions covered: Logan City



Lower Burdekin Development Council Inc  
Mr Dan Mulcahy  
Secretary  
PO Box 974  
Ayr Q 4807

Regions covered: Burdekin Shire

Mackay Regional Development Bureau  
Mr Greg Chappell  
President  
PO Box 487  
Mackay Q 4740

Regions covered: Mackay City, Belyando Shire, Broadsound, Mirani Shire, Nebo Shire, Sarina Shire, Whitsunday Shire

Maranoa Economic and Tourism Development Association Inc  
Mr Barry Braithwaite  
Chairman  
PO Box 116  
Roma Q 4455

BARA: Tony Klein

Regions covered: Roma Town, Bungil Shire, Bendemere Shire, Waroo Shire, Booringa Shire

Mareeba Regional Development Organisation  
Mr Tim Nevard  
Secretary  
c/- Mareeba Shire Council  
PO Box 154  
Mareeba Q 4880

Regions covered: Mareeba Shire

Maryborough Promotions Bureau Inc  
Mr Bevan Brown  
Chairman  
PO Box 235  
Maryborough Q 4650

Regions covered: Maryborough, Woocoo Shire

Mission Beach Tourism and Regional Development Authority Inc  
Mr Ross Moir  
President  
PO Box 266  
Mission Beach Q 4854

Regions covered: Johnstone Shire, Cardwell Shire

Mount Isa-Townsville Economic Development Zone  
Mr Darcy Redman  
Secretary  
PO Box 815  
Mount Isa Q 4825

Regions covered: Mount Isa City, Townsville City, Cloncurry Shire, McKinlay Shire, Richmond Shire, Flinders Shire, Charters Towers City, Dalrymple Shire, Thuringowa City

Murgon and District Development Bureau Inc  
Mr Neil Perkins  
Chairman  
PO Box 166  
Murgon Q 4605

BARA: Mr Geoff Milgate

Regions covered: Murgon Shire

Outback Queensland Tourism Authority  
Mr Peter Evert  
Chairman  
PO Box 356  
Mount Isa Q 4825

Regions covered: Aramac Shire, Longreach, Booringa, Ilfracombe, Tambo, Barcoo, Paroo, Boulia, Quilpie, Barcaldine, Murweh, Bulloo, Isisford, Diamantina, Blackall, Flinders, Mt Isa, Winton, Cloncurry

Redcliffe Economic Development Board  
Mr Des Purcell  
Chairman  
PO Box 66  
Redcliffe Q 4020

Regions covered: Redcliffe City

Rockhampton and District Promotion and Development Association  
Mr Merv O'Neill  
Chairman  
PO Box 63  
Rockhampton Q 4700

Regions covered: Mount Morgan, Fitzroy Shire, Rockhampton City

Southern Downs Regional Development Group Inc  
Mr Pat Fogarty  
Chairman  
PO Box 115  
Warwick Q 4370  
BARA: Mr Ron Smith

Regions covered: Warwick, Stanthorpe Shire

South West Regional Development Association Inc  
Mr Darby Land  
Chairman  
PO Box 75  
Cunnamulla Q 4490

Regions covered: Paroo Shire, Murweh Shire, Bulloo Shire, Quilpie

Sunshine Coast Economic Development Board Ltd  
Mr Lester Mallet  
Chairman  
PO Box 512  
Mooloolaba Q 4557

Regions covered: Caloundra, Maroochy Shire, Noosa Shire

Toowoomba Regional Development Corporation Ltd  
Mr John Griffiths  
President  
PO Box 3037  
Toowoomba Village Fair

Toowoomba Q 4350

Regions covered: Toowoomba City, Gatton Shire, Crows Nest, Rosalie, Jondaryan, Millmerran, Pittsworth, Cambooya, Clifton

Townsville Enterprise Limited  
Emeritus Professor Edward Scott  
Chairman  
PO Box 1043  
Townsville Q 4810

Regions covered: Hinchinbrook Shire, Cardwell Shire, Townsville City, Thuringowa, Charters Towers, Dalrymple Shire, Burdekin Shire, Bowen Shire

Whitsunday Visitors Bureau  
Mr David Hutchen  
Chairman  
PO Box 83  
Airlie Beach Q 4802

Regions covered: Whitsunday Shire

(4)

Region & Organisation	Total
Cairns	
Atherton Tablelands Promotion Bureau	28,200
Cape York Peninsula Development Corporation	21,000
Cassowary Coast Development Bureau	85,400
Gulf Local Authorities Development Association	16,850
North Queensland REDO	45,500
Mackay	
Mackay Regional Development Bureau	117,500
Whitsunday Coast Development Association	5,000
Mount Isa	
N/A	
Townsville	
Charters Towers/Dalrymple Development Association	42,500
Development Bureau of Hinchinbrook and Cardwell Shires	26,400
Lower Burdekin Development Council	17,550
Townsville Enterprise Ltd	100,760
Region & Organisation Total	
Bundaberg	
Bundaberg District Tourism Development Board Ltd	57,770
Gladstone	
Gladstone Area Promotion and Development Ltd	103,475
Maryborough	
Cooloola Regional Development Bureau Inc	48,851
Kingaroy District Development Bureau	1,250
Maryborough Promotions Bureau	2,900
Murgon and District Development Bureau	24,750
Rockhampton	
Capricorn Tourism and Development Organisation	117,725
Central Highlands Promotion and Development Organisation	78,768
Remote Area Planning and Development Board/Central Western Queensland Remote Area Planning and Development Board	500,700
Rockhampton and District Promotion and Development Association	21,000
Central Queensland REDO	50,000

Gold Coast	
Beaudesert Development Association	20,000
Gold Coast Albert Regional Development Corporation	76,818
Ipswich	
Ipswich Region Development Corporation Ltd	106,025
Southern Area	
Logan City Economic Development Board	25,201
Redcliffe Office of Economic Development	26,000
Southern Regional Organisation of Councils	20,000
Sunshine Coast	
Caboolture Shire Development Association	21,500
Sunshine Coast Economic Development Board	47,500
Toowoomba	
Goondiwindi District Promotions Committee	30,562
Maranoa Economic and Tourism Development Association	28,150
Southern Downs Regional Development Group Inc	39,725
Toowoomba Regional Development Association	60,250
South West Development Association	265,000

## 82. Termination of Teachers' Contracts

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the fact that Coolum State High School and Sunshine Beach High School in the Noosa Electorate failed to reach their forecast student enrolments for the 1995 school year and to schools at Kawana, Bribie Island and Maleny which also failed to reach their forecast enrolment numbers

- (1) How many contract teachers in the Noosa electorate have had their contracts terminated as at 23 March 1995?
- (2) How many teachers in the Sunshine Coast region have had their contracts terminated as at 23 March 1995?
- (3) How many contract teachers have had their contracts terminated in the State as at 23 March 1995?

Answer:

### QUESTION 1

1. Six temporary appointments have been terminated due to lower than expected enrolments in schools in the Noosa electorate.
2. These occurred at:  
Sunshine Beach State High School.....4  
Coolum Beach State High School.....2  
TOTAL 6
3. Of those terminated, 2 were redeployed immediately to other schools.
4. Of the remaining 4 teacher applicants, 3 have since received employment contracts within the Sunshine Coast Region at other schools.

## QUESTION 2

1. Nine teachers have had their temporary appointments terminated.
2. The reduction in teacher positions at some schools other than those in the Noosa electorate has also been necessary because of lower than expected enrolments.
3. These reductions have been achieved in the following ways:
 

Transfers.....	3
Redeployment to relieving duties .....	4
Retirements.....	2
Extended leave.....	2
Termination of temporary appointments .....	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13</b>
4. Reductions at particular schools mentioned are as follows:
 

<b>Kawana Waters State High School</b>	
Redeployed to relieving duties .....	1
Teacher on extended leave .....	1
Impending relocation of Deputy Principal .....	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Maleny State High School</b>	
Transfer to another school.....	1
Leave absences .....	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Bribie Island State High School</b>	
No net reductions have been carried out.	

## QUESTION 3

We have contacted all regions regarding the number of teaching contracts terminated from 1 January to 23 March 1995.

The total equals 16 as detailed below.

South Coast	- 5
Wide Bay	- 2
Capricornia	- 1
Sunshine Coast	- 8

It appears that the majority of these have been as a result of enrolments not coming up to expectations and hence the termination of contracts.

**83. Closure of Courthouses**

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General and Minister for the Arts—

- (1) What was the savings per annum made from the closure of each of the Court Houses in Queensland by his Government since coming to office?
- (2) Will he provide details of which specific area and purpose upon which these savings have been expended?

Answer:

1. Commencing in the 1991/92 financial year the budget of the then Department of Justice was reduced by \$1.282 million as a result of the closure of the Court Houses.

2. The amount of \$1.282 million was not specifically appropriated back to the Department of Justice but was retained in the Consolidated Fund and formed part of the monies allocated as a result of the Cabinet Budget Review process.

In 1991/92, the government provided extra commitment to improvements to services in regional areas. The then Department of Justice received \$794,000 for the reform of the Magistrates Courts Service throughout the State (including restructuring of positions, increased training of staff and enhanced computerisation).

**84. State Government Land, Stafford Heights**

Mr J. N. GOSS asked the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Rural Communities—

With reference to bushland adjacent to the Raven Street Reserve and the Downfall Creek Bushland Centre located on Rode Road, Stafford Heights which is now owned by State Housing and as this is the last remaining bushland in Stafford Heights and is part of the "Mangroves to the Mountains" chain of bushland—

Will he give an assurance that the bushland be retained and declared a reserve to preserve the wildlife in the area and general environment of the area?

Answer:

The land in question is located at 818 Rode Road, Stafford Heights and comprises some 5.993 hectares.

The Department of Education controlled the site for many years as a future school site. It has been declared surplus to Department of Education requirements and interdepartmental negotiations have recently concluded whereby the Department of Housing, Local Government and Planning will acquire the site.

It is the Department's intention to develop the site in a way that is sensitive to environmental, physical and social influences.

Preliminary discussions with Brisbane City Council suggest a range of housing types under a mixture of residential zones would be possible.

Although there is no Vegetation Protection Order (VPO) in place, the Department will be sympathetic to environmental issues in developing an integrated project.

Once the Department completes the transaction and takes possession of the site, a comprehensive consultation phase will be entered into with the community and other interested parties in formulating appropriate land usage and a plan of subdivision. Negotiations will occur with the Brisbane City Council regarding dedicated open space for the site as part of the subdivision process.

There will be a component of public housing in this integrated plan. Up to 20% of the site will be utilised for public housing, with the balance of the site to be

sold. This is consistent with the Government's Public Housing Policy which is now well accepted by the community at large.

### 85. Cannon Hill Sale Yards

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Rural Communities—

With reference to arsenic contamination and to the presence of chemical residue from products such as dieldrin, heptachlor and DDT at the old Cannon Hill Saleyards which are being redeveloped for housing by his department—

- (1) How many dips were located at the site?
- (2) How many years did they operate?
- (3) What chemicals were used there?
- (4) What steps will be taken to alert future homebuyers to the location of the sites and the resulting danger to health?
- (5) Will the Government be responsible for decontaminating the site?
- (6) What will be the cost involved?

Answer:

- (1) One dip for cattle and sheep.
- (2) The Cannon Hill Sale Yards opened in 1931 and closed in 1991 and the cattle and sheep dip would have been operational during this period.
- (3) The chemicals used within the dip area would have included:

Phenol Carbolic  
 Arsenic  
 DDT  
 Chlorpyrifos  
 Cypermethrin  
 Chlorfenvinphos  
 Acetylated Carbamate  
 Aldrin  
 Dieldrin

Tests have revealed that the main residual chemicals around the dip are:

Arsenic  
 DDT

Some Dieldrin

(4) Contaminated earth in the dip area has been removed from the site. After validating that no contaminated materials remain, the Director of the Chemical Hazards and Emergency Management (CHEM) Unit is expected to issue a site contamination report indicating that the site is suitable for rezoning for residential purposes under the Local Government (Planning and Environment Act) 1990. The CHEM Unit will not give clearance for rezoning of the site for residential purposes until it is satisfied that the contamination has been removed and there is no risk to health.

(5) Yes.

(6) The total cost of decontaminating the Cannon Hill Sale Yards is estimated to be between \$250,000 and \$500,000.

### 87. Orchid Beach Resort, Fraser Island

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

With reference to the purchase of the Orchid Beach Resort on Fraser Island—

- (1) Was any contribution made by another party towards the purchase price of the resort?
- (2) If so (a) what was the nature of the contribution, (b) what level of funding was involved, (c) when was it paid, and (d) why was it made?

Answer:

The purchase price of the Orchid Beach Resort on Fraser Island of \$6 million was met from the Great Sandy Region Growth and Development Package.

An amount of \$1 million is being provided as a contribution towards this cost by Queensland Resort and Residential Projects Pty Ltd on a pro rata basis from the sale of land from their sub-division at Orchid Beach. Payments totalling \$738,480 have been received to date. The \$1 million contribution is being made to reduce the overall call on public funds.

### 88. Ms V. Beck; Mr B. Watts

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to the Corrective Services Commission inmates, Valmae Fay Beck and Barrie John Watts, who were convicted in 1987 of the brutal murder of Noosa schoolgirl Sian Kingi—

- (1) What are the whereabouts and current classification status of both of these inmates, what changes have been made to their classifications and locations since their incarceration and when did these take place?
- (2) What likely or possible projected timetables are there for their release from secure custody to any form of early release and when will they be entitled to apply for parole?

Answer:

(1) Fay Cramb is Valmae Fay Beck's legal name. She was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment on 20 October 1988. She was incarcerated in Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre until March 1993 when she was transferred to Townsville. In accordance with QCSC classification guidelines, Cramb was classified medium security on 22 July 1992, but is nevertheless accommodated in a high security facility.

Watts was placed on remand at Boggo Road on 15 December 1987. On 7 February 1990 he was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment. Watts' is currently classified as a high security prisoner. He has been classified high security

continually since incarceration, except for a period between 5 January 1994 and 17 November 1994 when he was granted medium security classification. At all times he has been accommodated in a high security facility. At present he is accommodated at Rockhampton. He has previously served time in the Sir David Longland, Arthur Gorrie, Moreton and Rockhampton Correctional Centres.

(2) The Member for Crow's Nest introduced the Corrective Services Act (1988) during his term as Minister. This legislation made decisions on release to work, home detention or parole the responsibility of community based boards. In the case of life-sentenced prisoners the decision is made by the Queensland Community Corrections Board. Prior to 1988 Cabinet Ministers made recommendations to the Governor as to the granting of parole to life sentenced prisoners. In 1990, through an amendment to section 166 of the Corrective Services Act, a minimum non-parole period of 13 years was established for prisoners sentenced to mandatory life. Under Coalition Governments no minimum eligibility period for parole had been set. Under the former Coalition and National Party Governments between 1959 and 1989, almost one-third of all life sentenced prisoners released to parole served less than 13 years. Out of a total of 104 lifers granted parole, former National and Liberal Cabinets released 32 lifers onto parole in under 13 years. One lifer served only seven years and one month. Another served seven years and three months. Another two served less than nine years. Another five served less than 10 years. Presently there are approximately 180 life sentenced prisoners in Queensland. The average term served by life sentenced prisoners prior to release on parole is currently about 17 and one half years. This figure is higher than any other state in Australia, and is higher than the average time served by a lifer in 1989, which was 15 years 9 months.

#### 90. Overseas Visits by Former Transport Minister

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to the overseas trips taken by the then Minister for Transport on the following dates:

- (i) 20 October 1993—27 October 1993 to Vietnam
- (ii) 1 March 1994—5 March 1994 to Papua New Guinea
- (iii) 30 June 1994 to 10 July 1994 to Indonesia, Singapore and Thailand—

For each trip will he provide, separately, the following information:

- (1) Total cost of the trip including Minister and accompanying ministerial, departmental, government and statutory authority staff
- (2) Ministerial expenses

- (a) Travel (i) land  
(ii) sea  
(iii) air
- (b) Accommodation and Meals (except meals as part of functions)
- (c) Official Functions—including those organised around meals (breakfasts, luncheons and dinners)
- (d) Other expenses
- (3) Departmental Expenses
  - (a) Travel (i) land  
(ii) sea  
(iii) air
  - (b) Accommodation and Meals (except meals as part of functions)
  - (c) Official Functions—including those organised around meals (breakfasts, luncheons and dinners)
  - (d) Other expenses
- (4) Government Expenses
  - (a) Travel (i) land  
(ii) sea  
(iii) air
  - (b) Accommodation and Meals (except meals as part of functions)
  - (c) Official Functions—including those organised around meals (breakfasts, luncheons and dinners)
  - (d) Other expenses

Answer:

This question refers to three trips undertaken by the Honourable David Hamill as Minister for Transport between 1993 and 1994.

As the Honourable Member would know, this Government has put in place a set of guidelines for the operations of ministerial offices which are far more onerous than anything ever attempted by previous Queensland Governments. These Guidelines cover not only the control and audit requirements for ministerial expenditure but also a reporting framework to ensure that Ministers are accountable to Parliament for the results of all overseas travel.

At the end of each year Ministers are required to table a statement for public disclosure which shows a range of categories of expenditure including expenditure on overseas travel. That statement will be made available to Parliament in accordance with the normal requirements.

In line with the Guidelines for the Financial Management of the Office of the Minister, Mr Hamill tabled reports in relation to the three trips concerned.

The costs of these trips, as charged to his ministerial office, were \$24,914.83, \$15,470.70 and \$20,978.23 respectively.

The Guidelines for Ministerial expenditure are quite clear as to what expenditures can legitimately be charged to the Department and those that are to be charged to the Ministerial Office. All expenditure, whether through the Ministerial Services Branch on behalf of Ministers or by the Department, is fully audited by the Auditor-General.

This accountability regime provides the assurance to Parliament and the people of Queensland that Ministers undertake overseas travel to achieve specific goals and then report on the benefits gained from the travel.

In relation to each of the three trips referred to by the Honourable Member, Mr Hamill undertook duties not only as Minister for Transport but also as Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development. I would refer the Honourable Member to the detailed reports tabled by Mr Hamill on 9 November 1993, 27 April 1994 and 4 August 1994 respectively which show considerable benefits gained from the travel concerned by a number of areas of the transport portfolio, specifically rail, marine and ports and roads, and for Queensland's economic and business profile in the region.

#### 91. Beerwah Police Station

Mr TURNER asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to the high and increasing level of crime—

When will a police station be constructed at Beerwah?

Answer:

While the need for a new police station and residence at Beerwah is recognised by the North Coast Police Region, commencement of this project is dependent on service-wide needs across Queensland.

In the interim, the policing needs of Beerwah are being serviced by the Landsborough Police Station. The commitment of the Goss Labor Government to residents of this area is seen in the increase from two to five officers at the Landsborough Police Station.

There have also been two Criminal Investigation Branch personnel operating from Landsborough since November 1994. To date, investigations involving these officers have resulted in 77 offenders being charged with 177 criminal offences.

#### 92. SEQEB Electricity Disconnection Fees

Mr GILMORE asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

With reference to the fact that SEQEB has admitted to illegally charging disconnection fees since 1984, and as he has dismissed this matter as being of little consequence—

Will he now instruct SEQEB to search its records to identify all persons who had money who have been charged these fees over this 10 year period and have these millions of dollars refunded?

Answer:

The Honourable Member is not correct in asserting that I have dismissed the issue of wrongful collection of fees as "of little consequence". This is in fact another case of this Government cleaning up a mess left by the National Party. As the Member should realise the new Electricity Act fixes up the confusion created by the poor drafting of the previous Act. Nonetheless I understand that legal advice to SEQEB is that the fees were charged incorrectly. Immediately this became known to me I requested that SEQEB follow up the matter and also referred the issue to the Regulator established under the Electricity Act for investigation. The investigation is now under way. SEQEB has already undertaken publicly to refund incorrectly charged fees and is preparing software to process its records to identify as many of the consumers concerned as possible. It has also agreed to make refunds to any customers not identified in this process, provided the facts can be reasonably established.

#### 93. Southbank Institute of TAFE

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations—

- (1) What was the total expenditure of the Southbank Institute on taxi fares for staff during the past 12 months?
- (2) What was the total expenditure on kilometre allowance for staff during the same period?

Answer:

(1) The total expenditure on taxi fares from 1 March 1994 to 28 February 1995 was \$93 679 out of a total budget for the Institute of \$46, 766, 822 for the same period.

The Southbank Institute of TAFE delivers approximately 15% of the total activity (student contact hours) of the Queensland TAFE system.

The overall vehicle costs (taxi fleet leasing and Motor Vehicle Allowance) for the Institute, at 14.2% of the TAFE Queensland total, are comparable to the Institute's scale of operation as a proportion of the TAFE Queensland system.

Taxi fare costs are higher (31% of TAFE Queensland total taxi expenditure). However, Qfleet costs and motor vehicle allowance are correspondingly low (9% and 8.2% of TAFE Queensland total respectively).

Recently, strategies have been introduced to moderate the costs of taxis including: the leasing of an additional Qfleet vehicle, reducing the number of taxi books available for use at any time, rescheduling of the Institute courier runs to allow greater access by staff to internal transport, provision of driver service to maximise the utilisation of the Institute's vehicle pool.

(2) The total kilometre allowance for staff during the same period, 1 March 1994 to 28 February 1995, was \$7 585.

#### 94. Neurosurgery Patients, Gold Coast Hospital

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to neurosurgery patients at the Gold Coast Hospital—

- (1) What percentage of such patients have been provided with Occupational Therapy services by the hospital since 1 January?
- (2) What was the percentage for the same period in 1990 and 1994?
- (3) Is the level of occupational therapy provision for such patients determined by surgeons or by the Health Department?

Answer:

(1) A total of 11% of neurosurgery patients (12 of 110 patients admitted) has been provided with Occupational Therapy Services in the period 1 January 1995—31 March 1995.

(2) The percentage for the same period in 1990 is unknown as data was not maintained at that time.

The percentage for the same period in 1994 was 17% (15 of 88 neurosurgery patients admitted).

(3) The level of occupational therapy services for neurosurgery patients is not determined by Queensland Health. It is determined by both surgeons and the numbers of staff available to provide the service. The surgeons refer the patients for occupational therapy assessment, and the number treated is determined by the availability of occupational therapy staff. The South Coast Regional Health Authority closely monitors these services. When demand for Occupational Therapy services exceeds local capacity, patients are referred to alternative services in Brisbane.

#### 96. Farm Dams, Mackay Area

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

With reference to the Water Resources Mackay Branch which has a backlog of around eighty plans for farm dams in the Mackay district—

When will this problem be addressed?

Answer:

Requests for assistance have increased since the start of the drought in the Mackay District in 1991, and particularly so in the last 12 months. Because of the drought, DPI staff resources are heavily committed, not only in Mackay, but also right across the State.

To improve the turn around time in providing assistance to producers, Mackay Office has already changed its advisory service procedures. Instead of preparing full office designs and detailed plans, advisory staff now provide an on-site field design and pegging out service. This practice, while still providing a quality service, has achieved a reduction in design time of at least 3 to 4 weeks. Local feedback shows that producers requiring assistance have been more than satisfied with these new arrangements.

There are also a number of private consulting firms who have the credentials and experience to provide such a design service to producers. Wherever possible, producers who need to progress their irrigation dams and schemes should avail themselves of the services provided by these consultants.

DPI staff are also working with local sugar industry representatives on a number of initiatives aimed at strengthening the industry, ensuring it remains focussed and self-reliant now and in the future. One such initiative has been an application for National Landcare Program funding to provide a service to producers for the design of on-farm irrigation dams.

Unfortunately, while the drought continues and demand is high, delays will occur.

#### 97. Woorabinda Shire Council; Woorabinda Pastoral Company

Mrs McCAULEY asked the Minister for Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs—

- (1) What action is being taken to ensure that business people who are owed money by the Woorabinda Shire Council and the Woorabinda Pastoral Company will be fully paid?
- (2) What action has she taken to ensure that this situation does not reoccur, where hard-working, honest people are forced to pay for the incompetence and dishonesty of others?

Answer:

(1) Responsibility for ensuring that the business people who are owed money by the Woorabinda Shire Council and the Woorabinda Pastoral Company are paid, rests with the Woorabinda Community Council and the Woorabinda Pastoral Company. My expectation is that all creditors will be paid but that will not occur until the Woorabinda Council has taken action to re-structure its financial affairs through the development of an overall financial management plan for the council. While the State Government is prepared to assist the council, this assistance will not take the form of a grant to the council which enables the council to pay its creditors and then continue with its current arrangements. I have written to the council setting out my expectations in this regard and have informed the council that I will be reviewing the situation in three months time when I will be seeking further legal advice on what further action should be taken against the council in the event of it being unable to satisfy me that it is capable of responsibly managing the financial affairs of this community.

(2) In October 1994, the Government approved a Financial Accountability Improvement Program to assist councils to more effectively monitor their financial performance. Under the program, all councils will be the subject of internal audit processes which will identify, and provide the opportunity to correct, financial problems at an early stage. As part of the process to oversight the implementation of this program for Aboriginal

Councils, there will be regular reports to a steering committee comprising officers of the Department of Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs, the Aboriginal Co-ordinating Council and an observer from the Queensland Audit Office. Through this process, there will be an opportunity for both councils and Government to receive early warning of any financial problems that occur within councils. In addition, the changes to the Community Services Acts which will be introduced later this year, will assist in the introduction of a much more satisfactory regime of financial administration for councils.

#### 98. Mount Archer State School

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Administrative Services—

What plans are in hand to provide more shade areas at the Mt Archer State School where temperatures exceed 40° plus during summer?

Answer:

Projects for the provision of shade structures are categorised as Minor Works items, the Program for which is administered by the Department of Education.

#### 99. Brisbane Exhibition and Convention Centre

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Administrative Services—

With reference to the cost overruns on the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre—

Will he (a) detail the total cost to date of the project, (b) list each of the elements that have contributed to the cost overrun, (c) itemise the additional costs incurred by these elements and (d) give the reason behind the additional costs incurred by each of these individual items?

Answer:

(a) Details of the total cost to date are:

Expenditure to Date ..... \$168M

(b) and (c) and (d)

The primary reason for the cost adjustments was the late appointment of the Operator/Manager and their subsequent late input into the design process which resulted in:

- a large number of variations to the original specification for the facility; and
- the cost impact of these improvements as the building industry came out of the recession and prices increased.

The second of these reasons, cost impact, is best explained by an example. LCPL budgeted for a certain cost for each tender package involved in the overall project. Using steel work as an example, if there had been no variations to roof design or other building areas affecting the timing of the awarding of the package for supply of roof steel, LCPL could have expected to pay the budgeted cost for the steel.

However, several major variations that impacted on roof design and structural strength requirements did occur at the request of the State Government as a result of Operator input. The price of steel increased while delays caused by these variations were occurring, and the State is rightly liable for the additional costs incurred. For example, the price of structural steel increased from \$3519 p.tonne in May 1993, to \$4946 p.tonne in October 1993—an increase of \$1427 p.tonne. The BCEC is a massive structure requiring approximately 3700 tonnes of structural steel.

Major Operator introduced improvements included:

- Increased gallery space in the ballroom
- Car and goods lift to ballroom gallery level
- Improvements to and additional lift services
- Increased acoustic rating of operable walls in great hall
- Acoustic treatment to plaza, ballroom, exhibition halls and meeting rooms
- Increased capacity of roof to support greater suspended loads
- Catwalk/fly floors to great hall
- Modified exhibition stores for multipurpose use
- Lowered meeting rooms 2 and 3 to give greater room height
- Service pit changes
- Additional bar area on mezzanine level
- Fitout of administration area
- Additional kitchen and coolroom equipment
- Additional electrical items
- Additional architectural items.

There are also a very large number of minor variations, all of which have improved the flexibility and overall standard of the facility, but which, when considered in total, have had a consequential disruptive effect.

The introduction of improvements such as these were progressive, as various innovations were identified or detailed analysis and research brought them to light; each change being assessed as being essential to the future efficient operation of the Centre. While the initial refinements were potentially able to be accommodated within the design and construction program, as further refinements were introduced, the design process became more complicated and began collectively to affect the procurement, and subsequently the construction process.

To avoid unnecessary delays, commitments to the improvements were necessarily based on general assessments of the flow-on effects at the time. At all times it was obvious that although some consequential cost effects would be incurred, it was more economical to undertake the changes as part of the initial design and construct process rather than try to change later or miss the opportunity altogether.



Other reasons for cost adjustments include:

1. Building Act Compliance

This relates to a change in expected use of the facility as opposed to the concept envisaged by the original consultant's report of some years back and subsequently included in the tender documents.

Basically, the original concept for the operation of the Centre envisaged use by some 20,000 people maximum at any one time. LCPL tendered to build a facility that would accommodate that number of people as regards fire, safety, evacuation, etc.

However, with operator advice, it was apparent that the modern use of such facilities, aided by the flexibility built into the design, allows for multiple and varied simultaneous use of all areas, such that a theoretical population of some 30,000 could be accommodated in the BCEC. It would be nonsensical not to provide for the maximum advantage that can be taken of the facility and accordingly Building Act Compliance was assessed on the higher population figures. Consistent with the application of the Building Act, larger and more smoke exhaust fans, larger fire tunnels, safety doors, etc, were required.

In essence, the BCEC is now bigger and better than originally envisaged. It is confidently anticipated that returns for Government will be correspondingly greater.

2. South Bank and the Railway

The impacts of South Bank and the railway were twofold.

The first impact on the BCEC budget was for the provision of better access to the Convention Centre from these areas. In the case of South Bank, this involved squaring off the plaza to allow ready access from the proposed hotel, and assorted ramps and steps. In the case of the railway, it involved lifts on both platforms of the South Bank Railway Station (a heritage building to complicate matters), ramps, cameras, etc. All in all, some \$2.3M additional costs were incurred.

The second (and major) impact from the Railway was a need for additional acoustic treatment required because of the continued presence of diesel trains on the South Brisbane line. The additional requirement was a result of Operator input. Possible train noise, particularly from diesels, was a major concern to the Operator who pointed out that given the extremely competitive nature of the industry, particularly against centres in Sydney and Melbourne, the Brisbane Centre must not—under any circumstances—be "labelled" as the "Convention Centre with railway noise". Extensive (and expensive) research was

undertaken in an attempt to identify the extent of the problem and possible solutions.

3. Building Complexity

The massive size of the facility itself has introduced complexities in that with what was a tight program to start with, any delays in design of roof, walls or floors meant a major push back of not just one construction path but the construction paths of very many activities as the Convention Centre and the four Exhibition Halls were being built in parallel. This multi-flow-on effect is the major reason why it is impossible to detail individual cost adjustments.

4. Other Matters

The Anti-Discrimination Tribunal decision regarding the installation of a lift for disabled persons at the front of the BCEC is readily quantified and will cost some \$500,000.

Cost of enhancements total \$30M.

### 100. Management of National Parks

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

With reference to the management of National Parks—

- (1) How many, and which, National Parks in each region currently have resident rangers?
- (2) How many National Parks in each region do not have resident rangers?
- (3) How many permanent rangers are actively on the ground in each region?
- (4) What funds have been allocated for the operation of each National Park within each region?
- (5) In respect to these allocations (a) have they been available to each park and (b) how many National Parks have had difficulty operating within the allocation and have already used their allocation?
- (6) Does she consider the allocations to be adequate?

Answer:

- (1) The following table lists the number of National Parks and National Parks (Scientific) which currently have resident rangers, plus the total number of parks in each DEH region:

Region	Parks with resident rangers	Total parks
Far Northern (FNR)	10	68
Northern (NR)	9	43
Central Coast (CC)	7	39
Southeastern (SR)	13	30
Southwestern (WR)	13	35
TOTAL:	52	215

The 52 parks are as follows:

Far Northern Region: Undarra Volcanic, Bulleringa, Iron Range, Cape Melville, Lakefield, Mungkan Kanju, Daintree, Wooroonooran, Clump Mountain, Crater Lakes.

Northern Region: Edmund Kennedy, Bowling Green Bay, Paluma Range, Cape Hillsborough, Eungella, Magnetic Island, Lawn Hill, Moorinya, Lumholtz.

Central Coast Region: Blackdown Tableland, Taunton, Byfield, Curtis Island, Capricornia Cays, Great Sandy, Burrum Coast.

Southeastern Region: Koala Bushland, Fort Lytton, D'Aguilar, St Helena, Lamington, Main Range, Tamborine, Springbrook, Moreton Island, Bribie Island, Kondalilla, Noosa, Burleigh Heads.

Southwestern Region: Currawinya, Chesterton Range, Bladensburg, Diamantina Gates, Idalia, Culgoa Floodplain, Carnarvon, Thrushton, Girraween, Bunya Mountains, Crows Nest, Sundown, Welford.

(2) 163 National Parks and National Parks (Scientific) do not have resident rangers.

It would be impractical to have permanent staff on all of these parks—several are offshore islands. Also, it is often more convenient and appropriate for rangers to be based in the nearest town.

The management of National Parks, National Parks (Scientific), other protected areas, and wildlife in Queensland is undertaken from 122 bases, of which 78 are located on the protected area estate.

(3) The following table details the number of permanent and temporary rangers (FTEs—full time equivalents) in each region:

	FNR	NR	CC	SR	WR	HOTOTAL
Permanent rangers/FTEs	66	86	99	87	61	0 399
Temporary rangers/FTEs	35	3	31	16	2	1 88

These rangers are involved in the management of all protected areas, marine parks and wildlife. While the majority are supported by consolidated revenue base funding, nearly a third are currently reliant on revenue retention and special funding.

Questions (4),(5) and (6)

Funding for wildlife management and protected area management is allocated on a District basis. The accompanying table details the funding levels across all Management Districts under both the Parks and Wildlife and Coastal Management (Marine Park management) sub programs. Only permanent funding sources involved in wildlife and park management are included. Special funding such as the Great Sandy Growth & Development package, Wet Tropics Management Authority funding, present mid year review packages, and other special grants are not included.

The present funding provides the basis for sound wildlife and protected area management throughout the State.

Revenue retention arrangements will help towards providing greater cost recovery of services and infrastructure provided for visitors, as well as administration of the system regulating those people involved in keeping native wildlife.

Protected Area Management & Wildlife Management in Queensland  
1994/95 — Funding Allocations

Region	Parks & Wildlife		Coastal Management		Con. Rev.	Revenue Retention	
	Con. Rev.	Revenue Retention	Cap Wks	Con. Rev.		Revenue Retention	
District	Base	user pays	GRAM	funding	base	user pays	GRAM
<b>Far Northern*</b>							
Tablelands	81,000	44,500		177,078			
Wet Tropics	88,000	50,000		76,000			
Cape York	111,000	68,890		165,000			
Cairns Coastal				50,000		32,000	265,000
Regional Centre	2,021,641	3,063		59,000	293,582		
Total	2,301,641	166,453	0	527,078	293,582	32,000	265,000
<b>Northern</b>							
Burdekin	708,016	40,000		21,081			
Cumberland	399,389	55,000		15,665			
Hinchinbrook Coastal	32,002			35,000		12,000	
North West	357,760	25,000		262,000			
Whitsunday	2,617			5,826		12,000	
Regional Centre	1,034,918	68,217			299,871		
Total	2,534,702	188,217	0	339,572	299,871	24,000	0
<b>Central Coast</b>							
Capricorn	702,050	25,000		245,000			
Capricorn Reef				35,000		45,000	
Great Sandy	336,359	80,000	1,800,000	20,000			
Wide Bay Burnett	659,461	30,000		165,000			
Regional Centre	643,800	10,283		45,000	264,051		
Total	2,341,670	145,283	1,800,000	510,000	264,051	45,000	0

Southeastern							
Central Moreton	755,532	20,600		21,500			
South Coast	1,058,835	32,400		383,500			
Moreton Bay				71,000	427,465	22,000	250,000
Sunshine Coast	445,248	14,900		49,000			
Regional Centre	832,208	94,745			569,150		
Total	3,091,823	162,645	0	525,000	996,615	22,000	250,000
Southwestern*							
Charleville	111,000	13,000		127,500			
Longreach	111,000	11,500		210,500			
Roma	137,000	66,000		141,300			
Toowoomba	86,000	63,250		73,500			
Regional Centre	2,537,010	31,000		56,893			
Total	2,982,010	184,750	0	609,693			
Head Office							
Directorate	344,689						
Park Mgt	622,047	102,652		55,000			
Wildlife Mgt	604,383						
Total	1,571,119	102,652	0	55,000	0		
TOTAL	14,822,965	950,000	1,800,000	2,566,343	1,854,119	123,000	515,000

Note: Special funding not included in funding allocations.

GRAM—Queensland Recreation Areas Management

\* These regions allocate salaries & wages at a regional level.

### 101. Wages Growth

Mrs SHELDON asked the Treasurer—

- (1) Does his department still stand by the forecast contained in the 1994-95 Budget papers that AWE growth in Queensland will match that of the rest of Australia for the foreseeable future?
- (2) At what stage will Queensland's nominal AWOTE match that of the rest of Australia?
- (3) At what stage will Queensland's real wages growth match that of the rest of Australia?
- (4) What will be the long term impact of (a) failing to match the national average AWOTE growth, (b) matching the national average AWOTE growth and (c) exceeding the national average AWOTE growth on Queensland's unemployment rate, inflation rate and level of general economic activity?

Answer:

(1) Treasury does stand by the projections contained in the 1994-95 Budget papers that average earnings growth in Queensland will match that in Australia generally for the foreseeable future. This is largely because Queensland is part of a national labour market in which wages outcomes can be expected to be broadly similar and because it is anticipated by Treasury that Queensland's economic growth differential will tend to bid up wages to compensate for a historical downward bias to average wages caused in part by the State's industrial structure.

However, there are reasons why actual earnings often differ between Queensland and Australia. These include differences in the timing of enterprise bargaining agreements and other factors that may be specific to State labour markets.

It should be noted that Treasury is currently in the process of reviewing all economic forecasts and projections for the 1995-96 Budget. Changes to estimated actual average earnings for 1994-95 will be outlined in the forthcoming Budget papers.

It should also be noted that the forecasts beyond 1994-95 are clearly described in the Budget papers as projections, which are intended to provide a broad outline of the likely path of economic conditions, and which are consistent with the economic parameters agreed for the National Fiscal Outlook.

(2) In fact, Queensland's AWOTE may at no stage match that of the rest of Australia, even if all job-specific wages and earnings were identical across the nation. Compositional or structural differences in employment between States (industry and occupation) will ensure that the average AWOTE figure for the States will be equal only coincidentally.

Caution should be exercised concerning the quality of the sample currently used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics to estimate earnings in Queensland. Queensland Treasury has shown that earnings in the State appear to have been consistently underestimated since the June quarter 1993 (this is outlined in the June quarter 1994 *Queensland State Accounts* and the September quarter *Queensland Economic Review*). The matter has been brought to the attention of the ABS. Treasury is still waiting for an ABS explanation.

(3) At present, Queensland's real wages growth is consistent with and in some cases exceeds that of the Australian total. For example in 1992-93 and 1993-94, when AWOTE is adjusted for inflation using the CPI, growth in real wages was higher in Queensland than Australia. Real wages grew by 1.6% and 2.1% respectively in Queensland in these two years, and by 0.7% and 1.2% in Australia. Queensland real wage growth obviously more than matches that of the rest of Australia.

(4) Using the latest figures, over the last five calendar years, Queensland's average annual nominal AWOTE growth rate has been 4.3%, compared with 4.2% in Australia. In the last five years of the previous Government, Queensland's average annual AWOTE growth was only 5.8%, compared with Australia's 6.7%.

During the term of the Goss Government, in contrast to that of the previous Government, Queensland's average annual AWOTE growth rate has exceeded that of Australia.

(a), (b) and (c) In the long term, allowing for differences caused by industrial and occupational structure, average AWOTE growth should be similar for Queensland and Australia generally. Given the free movement of factors of production between States in Australia, it is unlikely that job-specific wage growth differentials would exist in the long run.

The main reason for long run interstate differentials to exist in AWOTE is differences in industry/occupation structure. There is therefore no reason to believe that there is any impact on Queensland's unemployment rate, inflation rate and general level of economic activity caused by differences in average AWOTE, other than impacts or effects generated by different industrial structure.

Nevertheless, it is important that Queensland wages, in comparable situations, match wages elsewhere in Australia, so that Queensland's living standards and incomes are maintained.

#### **102. Auditor-General's Report on Aboriginal and Island Councils**

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs—

With reference to her press statement, on 4 October 1994 in which she stated she will fine community councils that fail to be financially accountable up to \$12,000, and to the Auditor-General's report for 1993-94 on Aboriginal Councils and Island Councils tabled on 24 March 1995 which again named most of the councils not performing in 1992—

- (1) Does she intend to fine any of these councils?
- (2) Will she detail what monitoring was done of community councils between 1992 and 1993 to ensure they were being financially accountable?
- (3) If there was monitoring, how can she explain the enormous number of qualifications in this respect?

Answer:

(1) No. The legislative regime for imposing fines upon councils for failure to comply with the various requirements of the *Community Services (Aborigines) Act* and the *Community Services (Torres Strait) Act* will be created by amendments to those Acts which will be introduced in Parliament later this year. Following the passage of that legislation, I will be able to consider the imposition of fines as a means of ensuring compliance with the requirements of the Acts.

(2) As with all local governments, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Councils are responsible for ensuring the maintenance of satisfactory accountability standards. This Government recognised that there were problems in ensuring that adequate monitoring of financial performance was being undertaken by councils and this has

since been addressed by the Financial Accountability Improvement Program which was approved by Government in October 1994. Under this program, a comprehensive system of internal audits for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Councils will enable more effective ongoing monitoring to be undertaken. The implementation of the Financial Accountability Improvement Program is being oversighted by steering committees comprising representatives of my Department, the Aboriginal and Island Co-ordinating Councils with assistance from the Queensland Audit Office in an observer capacity.

(3) The reasons for the qualifications of various councils, as detailed in the Auditor-General's report, arise from a number of different factors, including:

- The absence of suitably qualified finance personnel in remote communities.
- The complexity associated with the administration of Commonwealth funded projects, most particularly the Community Development Employment Program.
- The administration of business enterprises and bank agencies which are not normally the province of local governments.

As described in (2) above, it is expected that the Financial Accountability Improvement Program will assist councils to overcome the problems identified in the Auditor-General's report.

#### **103. Cabinet Vacancy**

Mr COOPER asked the Premier and Minister for Economic and Trade Development—

- (1) Why didn't he take advantage of the Cabinet vacancy to promote the Honourable Member for Mt Ommaney (Mr Pyke) who announced on the front page of his local newspaper earlier this month that he intended to ask the Premier to make him Minister for crime prevention?
- (2) Did the Honourable Member for Mt Ommaney (Mr Pyke) approach him on the matter as he informed his constituents he would?
- (3) If so, what advice did he convey to the Honourable Member?

Answer:

- (1) Cabinet vacancies are determined by Caucus.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Should Mr Pyke become a Cabinet Minister I am confident that he would make a better Minister than the Member for Crows Nest.

#### **104. Queensland Health Financial Statements**

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the 1995 Queensland Second Report of the Auditor-General on audits performed 1993-94—

- (1) What is the form of the financial statements specified by him and which are required to be

presented to him under the Health Services Act?

- (2) Will he table a copy?
- (3) Are financial statements prepared monthly for management control purposes?
- (4) Is a copy of the monthly financial statements forwarded for his information?
- (5) If so, will he table a copy?
- (6) Who reviews the performance indicated in the financial statements, particularly compared with the approved budget?
- (7) How often is this review undertaken?
- (8) Will he table a copy of the February financial statements showing clearly the full year, monthly and year to date actual and budget figures for each of the hospitals, regional areas and total for the Health Service?

Answer:

(1) The form of the annual financial statements is specified by the Minister for Health under section 3.33 subsection (b) of the Health Services Act 1991. This was done in 1993/94 through the Queensland Health Regional Annual Financial Statements Guidelines issued on 11 July 1994.

The 1993/94 annual financial statements form part of the Queensland Health 1993/94 Annual Report which is required to be presented to the Minister for Health under section 3.33 subsection (b) of the Health Services Act 1991.

(2) The Queensland Health 1993/94 financial statements are included in the 1993/94 Queensland Health Annual Report which was tabled on 25 November 1994 in accordance with section 46N of the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1977 and section 2.3 of the Health Services Act 1991.

(3) No. Financial Statements are not budget monitoring tools. The financial statement contain information which gives a consolidated view of the financial position of Queensland Health, and are only required to be produced on an annual basis.

(4) Not applicable in view of my answer to (3).

(5) Not applicable in view of my answer to (3).

(6) The annual financial statements are reviewed annually by the Regional Health Authorities and Queensland Health.

(7) The review on annual financial statements is undertaken annually.

(8) Not applicable in view of my answer to (3).

#### **105. Mr M. Shearer; Palm Beach Police Station**

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to the offer by Gold Coast developer and property owner, Mr Maxwell Shearer, to make property available for a much-needed police station on the Gold Coast Highway at Palm Beach and Mr Maxwell's offer to construct a building to Police

Department requirements and lease it to the department, thus saving the department the outlay of capital—

Will he give early and serious consideration to this genuine offer?

Answer:

On 7 March 1995, a letter was received by the Queensland Police Service from Mr Tony Burn, Principal of Sixth Avenue Real Estate, Palm Beach, stating that he had a client who was prepared to build a police station on land which he owned at Palm Beach and lease the station to the Queensland Police Service.

Inspector Hackett of the Gold Coast Police District consequently contacted Mr Burn and requested full details of his proposal. The Service later received another letter, dated 22 March 1995, together with a map showing where Mr Burn's client proposed to build a police station.

Mr Burn, in his discussions with Inspector Hackett, appeared to be genuinely endeavouring to make a commercial investment proposal on behalf of his client, Mr Maxwell Shearer, who is a local developer.

Mr Burn's proposal did not contain any information relating to costs to the Queensland Police Service.

Mr Burn has been provided with information as to the Service's requirements for a police station.

While the matter currently rests with Mr Burn and Mr Shearer, it should be noted that the 2,413 square metre site that is the subject of the proposal is a deal smaller than the 4,000 square metres minimum usually required for permanent police stations.

It is also pointed out that the mere speculation of a commercial developer wishing to create a structure for government use through a lease facility, does not necessarily equate to a good business/policing decision.

The policing needs of the Palm Beach area are currently being met by patrols from Coolangatta and Burleigh Heads. Aggregate police numbers at these two stations have increased over 40 percent from 36 to 51 under the Goss Labor Government.

While there are no immediate to medium term plans to establish a police station in the Palm Beach area, regional police management will continue to monitor the situation there.

#### **106. Mourilyan Harbour Road**

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to the Ports Corporation draft document on the Mourilyan Harbour Port plan—

(1) Who will pay for the upgrading of the Mourilyan Harbour road?

(2) Will the Ports Corporation be solely responsible for ensuring that this road has adequate safety measures, including overtaking lanes and set down areas for school buses, included as part of the upgrading?

- (3) Will the Port Authority be responsible for all costs associated with providing these safety measures?

Answer:

The member for Hinchinbrook may be assured that the upgrading and maintenance of the Mourilyan Harbour Road is the responsibility of the State Government and will be funded accordingly. The road in question is a declared road and, as such, the issues of safety, traffic management, and all other related matters will be handled under the transport portfolio in conjunction with road users, local communities, and the local government. The Draft Mourilyan Port Plan is one element of a long term strategic approach being undertaken not only by the Ports Corporation, but by all port authorities to identify possible infrastructure requirements in the maritime, road, and rail transport areas. Community consultation is a key factor in this process and, the very fact that the Member is asking questions about specific elements of the Plan signifies that the consultation process is achieving its goal.

#### **107. Housing Commission Rent Calculations**

Mr FITZGERALD asked the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning—

With reference to housing commission rent calculations on income received—

- (1) Are veterans' repatriation disability pensions deemed to be income?
- (2) If so, is Queensland the only State or Territory in Australia that does not recognise disability pensions as compensatory payments?
- (3) If so, is the Government going to review the method of calculating rents for housing commission houses for veterans receiving a disability pension?

Answer:

(1) Yes. The Queensland Department of Housing, Local Government and Planning does regard the War Disability Pension and the Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Pension as income for rent setting purposes.

(2) No. South Australia and Western Australia assess the Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Pension as income. The Northern Territory assesses the War Disability Pension as income. The Queensland Department of Housing, Local Government and Planning regards these payments as basic income support in much the same way Workers' Compensation is basic income support.

(3) The rent policy was reviewed in 1994 and one of the principles established is that all basic incomes, regardless of source, should be assessed for rent setting purposes. Where a payment can be shown to be for a specific purpose, such as telephone allowance or meal allowances, then those payments will not be assessed. This is the only way to ensure fairness and equity between tenants.

There is no reason to suggest the disability pensions are anything other than income, even though they are paid as compensation for the

reduced ability to earn an income due to war injury. Unemployment benefits can be considered as compensation for an inability to enter the workforce and Workers' Compensation payments are compensation for injury sustained at work. There is no doubt these payments should be assessed for rent setting purposes so any move to arbitrarily exempt payments from the Department of Veteran's Affairs would be inconsistent and unfair.

#### **108. Driver Training**

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to his statement in a letter to Roadcraft Driver Training Centre in Gympie, where he stated there is evidence which suggests that driver training may even increase the crash rate of younger novice drivers by instilling a sense of over confidence in their abilities—

- (1) What evidence is available to support his claim that practical driver training will increase the crash rate in younger novice drivers?
- (2) What practical action is he taking to correct this over confidence in young drivers?

Answer:

There is a lack of conclusive evidence that practical driver training courses for novice drivers can reduce the crash rates of participants, compared to drivers who receive training from other sources. This is supported by numerous overseas and Australian studies which have concluded that any positive effects of practical driver training, are not large or lasting in terms of reducing crashes.

A large study of high school driver education in the United States, involving 16,000 students, found some short term benefits. However, these effects were negated by the tendency for course participants to get their licences earlier, increasing their potential to be involved in crashes. The students who were exposed to comprehensive training were found to be more likely to get their licences, to be involved in crashes and to receive more traffic violations than students who received no formal training.

An evaluation of compulsory driver training in Quebec, Canada also indicated that novice driver training can encourage earlier licensing amongst participants, increasing their exposure and crash involvement.

There is also some evidence that more advanced driver training may contribute to an increase in traffic offences and crashes among participants. For example, an evaluation of a Norwegian Government novice driver training program which included an off-road skid control component found a significant increase in the crash involvement of young male participants. Researchers have suggested that this training may have instilled a false sense of overconfidence among these drivers.

In contrast, the results are more positive for specialist post-licence driver training conducted with heavy vehicle and fleet drivers.

Queensland Transport is currently developing a Driver Management Strategy which will provide a comprehensive plan for improving the safety of all drivers. It is addressing methods of improving the preparation of drivers, driver licensing practices and the on-road management of drivers. Special attention is being given to ways of improving the safety of novice drivers through education, enforcement and encouragement. In particular, strategies are being developed to encourage novice and experienced drivers to take more responsibility for their driving behaviour.

For example Queensland Transport is soon to trial the "Road Safety for Young People" program. This innovative program is designed to improve the safety of young people aged 12-18 years, by fostering road safety activities within the school, the community and the home environments. The aim is to target the attitudinal and motivational factors which contribute to the high crash risk of young drivers and other road users.

#### 109. Eastlink

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

What are the likely pricing arrangements for electricity transported into Queensland via the Eastlink Electricity connection?

Answer:

Negotiations are proceeding with the New South Wales authorities on a range of commercial matters, including price. The proposal from NSW is for provision of 500MW of capacity to provide for peak and intermediate supply to Queensland. Based on prices quoted, Eastlink would be an economic addition to Queensland's supply capacity. It is more cost effective than any of the other available options.

#### 110. Melbourne-Port of Brisbane Rail Link

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

- (1) Is he aware of a proposal submitted to Queensland Rail by Transport Consultant Dr Ken Davidson to construct a standard gauge rail link between Melbourne and the Port of Brisbane?
- (2) Will he give an undertaking to include in the 1995/96 Budget, sufficient funding so that a comprehensive feasibility study can be carried out into the Queensland component of the proposal?

Answer:

Queensland Rail is in receipt of a study conducted by Dr Ken Davidson to construct a standard gauge rail link between Melbourne and the Port of Brisbane. This study was not sponsored or funded by Queensland Rail or the Queensland Government.

It would be inappropriate for the Queensland Government to sponsor such a project in its own right as its implications extend far beyond Queensland's borders. In effect this proposal is an example of possible Nation Building infrastructure.

As such I am pleased to advise that the Federal Government is sponsoring a preliminary feasibility study into this link. This study will be carried out by the Bureau of Transport and Communications Economics and will be part of a study to develop a nationally consistent framework for assessing Australia's infrastructure needs. This work follows on from the recent report of the National Transport Planning Taskforce.

Queensland Rail and the Queensland Government will cooperate with this initiative and will assess the implications of the study when it is finalised.

#### 111. Policing, South Burnett Area

Mr PERRETT asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to the need for a boost in law and order facilities in South Burnett—

- (1) When will he heed calls from the Cherbourg community for the re-opening of the watchhouse there and a boost in policing capacity at the community?
- (2) When will Kingaroy station be upgraded to 24-hour capacity?
- (3) Will he reassure locals that there is no truth in rumours that the Nanango station will be downgraded?
- (4) Will all current one-man police stations in South Burnett remain open in the foreseeable future?

Answer:

(1) The current staffing levels at the Cherbourg Station are:

- two full time police officers,
- seven full time Aboriginal Community Police Officers, and
- eleven part time Aboriginal Community Police Officers.

There are no plans to alter these numbers.

The Cherbourg Watchhouse currently has the capacity to accommodate 12 inmates at any one time (8 males, 4 females). While this capacity could be increased to 20 inmates with some alterations, to re-open the Cherbourg Watchhouse would require major work. This includes the elimination of "suicide points", the installation of surveillance equipment and general repairs, painting, etc. The estimated cost would be approximately \$100,000. Extra staff would also have to be employed at the Watchhouse on a 24 hour basis. Given these upgrade and staff requirements, there are no plans to re-open the Cherbourg Watchhouse.

(2) There are no plans to increase the staff numbers at the Kingaroy Station to provide a 24 hour service. The staff level at the Kingaroy Station is in

accordance with the Police Service Staff Model. This model ensures an equitable distribution of police throughout Queensland considering, amongst other factors, local crime, traffic movements and population growth.

The present general duties staff allocation at the Station is eight officers, including the Officer in Charge. The staff level would have to be increased to a minimum of 15 officers (with an optimum level of 19 officers) for the Station to operate on a 24 hour basis. All after hours telephone calls to the Kingaroy Station are presently diverted to Gympie. In the event of urgent calls for assistance, Gympie police contact on-call staff in Kingaroy, who then respond accordingly.

(3) There are no plans to reduce the staff numbers at Nanango.

(4) There are no plans to close down any single officer police stations in the Gympie Police District.

### 112. Regional Health Plans

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to a discussion paper entitled "Planning for Future Health Services" which was issued in November 1994 by departmental officers of North Queensland Regional Health, and as Mosman Hall Hospital in Charters Towers was muted for closure in this discussion paper—

What is the current situation in regard to the review of regional health plans and when will a firm decision on the outcome of this discussion paper be made by the Northern Regional Health Authority and Queensland Health?

Answer:

The current situation with regard to the review of regional services plans is that a number of draft plans have been produced including a plan for the Northern Regional Health Authority. The discussion paper referred to was a consultation document designed to elicit community comment and submissions on the future planning of regional health services.

Following on from the release of the discussion paper seven submissions were received on the future of Charters Towers health services. The results of local consultation regarding the Charters Towers health services will be incorporated in further drafts of the regional services plan and no timeframe for the public release of the plan has been identified.

### 113. Tourist Industry, Bed Tax

Mr TURNER asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing—

With reference to a proposal before the Federal Government to impose a bed tax on the tourist industry—

(1) Is he aware of the catastrophic effect that this will have on the tourist industry in general and the Sunshine Coast area in particular?

(2) What action has he taken or does he intend to take to see that this proposed tax is not imposed on the struggling tourist industry?

Answer:

In response to the specific questions made by Mr Turner

(1) I am aware of the catastrophic effect that a bed tax would have on Queensland's tourist industry, including the Sunshine Coast region.

Tourism is one of this State's largest and most important industries, contributing over \$6 billion to the Queensland economy in the 1993-4 financial year. Over 120,000 people are directly employed in the tourism industry in Queensland.

(2) I made direct representations to my Federal counterpart, the Honourable Michael Lee, M.P., Minister for Communications and the Arts and Minister for Tourism on 16 March 1995, expressing this Government's total and unequivocal opposition to the introduction of an accommodation or bed tax. I pointed out that such a tax would impact considerably on the Queensland tourist industry, decreasing demand and the future rate of growth of the industry, as well as negatively affecting the profitability of tourist facilities. Further, I opposed the introduction of any new taxes on the tourism industry in general and argued that the tourism industry already contributes more than its fair share of total taxation revenues.

The Inquiry into the Impact of Australia's Taxation Regime on the Tourism Industry conducted by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Banking, Finance and Public Administration has just released its report.

I am pleased to advise that the Inquiry recommends that the accommodation sector not be singled out for taxation. Reforms to sales tax, fringe benefits tax, and the diesel fuel rebate are also recommended in the Report.

### 114. Queensland Rail Staffing

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to a question in the Budget Estimates 1994, the former Minister for Transport (Mr Hamill) said Queensland Rail could operate with a staff level of 6 000 employees and anticipated a level of 15 400 by June 1995—

(1) Will he give an assurance that these staff cuts will not be in the area of maintenance for both rolling stock and track personnel?

(2) How will Queensland Rail compensate these personnel for the loss of other jobs?

Answer:

Queensland Rail has been undergoing large scale restructuring for some time to ensure it will continue to meet the challenges of a highly competitive transport industry and to ensure that as a public enterprise it provides a positive return for investment. This restructuring program commenced



in 1990 and since that time staff numbers have reduced in the order of 6,000 to the current level of 15,650. Queensland Rail currently anticipates that it will have a staff level of approximately 15,500 by the end of June 1995.

Queensland Rail staff levels have been steadily declining for a number of years and this trend is expected to continue. Unlike other Australian rail systems, these reductions have not been as a result of service reductions and line closures. They have all occurred because of the vast improvements in Queensland Rail's labour productivity in recent years.

Five years ago Queensland Rail's labour productivity was pathetic by Australian let alone international standards. By instituting a comprehensive process of workplace reforms in close consultation with unions and staff coupled with an unprecedented capital investment program in new and upgraded facilities, workshops, depots and infrastructure, enormous productivity gains have been achieved. There is, however, considerable scope for further productivity gains in the future. In order to ensure Queensland Rail's long term competitiveness, this process will necessarily continue for several years to come.

In response to Mr Johnson's specific questions, I advise the House that:

- (1) Staff adjustments will continue to occur in Queensland Rail. These adjustments will continue to be carefully planned and implemented in line with ongoing workplace reforms and capital investment programs. Examples of current such programs include:
  - Main Line Upgrade (Brisbane-Cairns)—\$580 million
  - Mt Isa Line Upgrade —\$ 50 million
  - Freight Rollingstock Maintenance Facilities—\$70 million
  - Workshops Redevelopment (Centres of Excellence)—\$55 million
  - Mayne Electric Train Servicing Facilities—\$21 million
  - Major coal lines relay and Upgrading—\$40-50 million per annum
- (2) Queensland Rail personnel are already adequately compensated by guarantees of no forced redundancy or compulsory relocation coupled with a generous voluntary early retirement scheme which will operate until the end of 1998. Productivity improvement contributions by Queensland Rail staff are also recognised through payments made under Queensland Rail's second Enterprise

### 117. DBIRD and QSBC Offices

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Business, Industry and Regional Development—

- (1) What was the total number of DBIRD and QSBC offices in Queensland in each of the years between 1989 and 1995?
- (2) Where were or are they located in each of the years and what were their staffing levels and budgets

Agreement (EA2) which will operate for two years from 1 November 1994 and under Subsidiary Agreements covering specific functions or locations which can be made under certain conditions pursuant to the provisions of EA2.

### 115. Drayton State School

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Administrative Services—

- (1) Is he aware of the state of the Drayton State School toilet block?
- (2) If so, when can we expect to see action to ensure that this rapidly developing school is adequately catered for?

Answer:

I am advised by my Department that general repairs, external and internal painting were carried out in September 1994 by my Department.

There is no current backlog or outstanding preventative maintenance in relation to this block as the facility, although old, is operating satisfactorily.

The Principal has submitted the replacement of the toilet block on his 1995 Minor Works Needs Survey as the Number 1 priority.

Works of this nature are categorised as Minor Works projects, the Program for which is administered by the Department of Education.

### 116. Guidance Officers in Schools

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Education—

How many hours per week, for guidance officers, are assigned to the following schools in my electorate:

- (a) Cooroy State School, (b) Eumundi State School, (c) Tewantin State School, (d) Sunshine Beach State School, (e) Coolool State School, (f) Noosa District High School, (g) Sunshine Beach High School and (h) Coolool State High School?

Answer:

1. Guidance officers are allocated to schools in the Noosa electorate on the basis of days rather than hours.

2. School allocations are as follows:

SCHOOL	GUIDANCE OFFICER ALLOCATION
Cooroy State School	2 days per week
Eumundi State School	1 day per week
Tewantin State School	3 days per week
Sunshine Beach State School	1 day per week
Coolool State School	2 days per week
Noosa District State High School	Equivalent of 6 days per week
Sunshine Beach State High School	4 days per week
Coolool State High School	4 days per week

- (3) What were their main achievements and performance indicators in each year?  
 (4) What was the total number of grants, the total value of each grant and type of grant each office handled over the period?

Answer:

- (1) In 1989/90, DBIRD had 7 offices and QSBC had 6. In 1990/91, DBIRD had 9 offices and QSBC had 8. From 1991/92 to 1994/95\*, DBIRD had 13 offices. From 1991/92 to 1992/93, the QSBC had 8 offices. In 1993/94, the QSBC had 10 offices. In 1994/95\*, the QSBC has 11 offices. (\*Period ending 31/3/95)

(2)

Years	DBIRD			QSBC			
	Location	Staffing	Budget	Location	Staffing	Budget	
1989/90	Head Office	307	99,143,158	Head Office	36	2,959,000	
	Cairns	2	9,296	North Qld	3	189,000	
	Townsville	2	16,084	Cairns	3	180,000	
	Mackay	2	14,960	Mackay	3	43,000	
	Rockhampton	2	8,402	Gold Coast	3	173,000	
	Maryborough	2	10,882	Sunshine Coast	3	47,000	
	Toowoomba	2	8,478				
1990/91	Head Office	287	65,152,306	Head Office	43	3,801,000	
	Cairns	7	272,818	North Qld	3	226,000	
	Townsville	12	214,479	Cairns	3	192,000	
	Mackay	5	127,614	Mackay	3	195,000	
	Rockhampton	5	Included in HO allocations	Gold Coast	3	199,000	
	Maryborough	4	"	Sunshine Coast	3	197,000	
	Toowoomba	4	"	Brisbane Sth	3	Nil	
	Mt Isa	1	"	Brisbane Nth	3	Nil	
	Ipswich	1	"				
	Bundaberg	2	"				
	Sunshine Coast	1	"				
	Gold Coast	1	"				
	1991/92	Head Office	293	60,296,257	Head Office	43	3,247,000
Cairns		9	455,626	North Qld	3	180,000	
Townsville		12	657,628	Cairns	3	162,000	
Mackay		6	246,321	Mackay	3	173,000	
Rockhampton		9	428,323	Gold Coast	3	178,000	
Maryborough		4	192,268	Sunshine Coast	3	187,000	
Toowoomba		5	209,077	Brisbane Sth	3	168,000	
Mt Isa		2	133,290	Brisbane Nth	3	162,000	
Gladstone		4	220,873				
Ipswich		4	165,401				
Bundaberg		2	222,410				
1991/92	Sunshine Coast	5	226,768				
	Gold Coast	4	158,088				
	1992/93	Head Office	300	70,815,629	Head Office	43	3,213,000
		Cairns	9	547,895	North Qld	3	201,000
Townsville		11	1,039,854	Cairns	3	211,000	
Mackay		6	387,533	Mackay	3	189,000	
Rockhampton		8	732,144	Gold Coast	3	188,000	
Maryborough		4	226,811	Sunshine Coast	3	207,000	
Toowoomba		5	369,258	Brisbane Sth	3	182,000	
Mt Isa		2	133,849	Brisbane Nth	3	186,000	
Gladstone		5	184,518				
Ipswich		4	200,710				
Bundaberg		3	169,121				
1992/93	Sunshine Coast	5	254,446				
	Gold Coast	4	357,884				
	1993/94	Head Office	304	65,766,732	Head Office	35	2,859,000
		Cairns	8	683,612	North Qld	4	206,000
Townsville		12	936,550	Cairns	3	252,000	
Mackay		5	396,654	Mackay	3	200,000	
Rockhampton		8	652,407	Gold Coast	4	247,000	
Maryborough		4	191,598	Sunshine Coast	3	238,000	
Toowoomba		5	290,748	Brisbane Sth	3	211,000	
Mt Isa		2	127,492	Brisbane Nth	3	196,000	

	Gladstone	5	244,055	Toowoomba	1	62,000
	Ipswich	4.5	211,485	Rockhampton	2	50,000
	Bundaberg	3	214,710			
	Sunshine Coast	4.5	268,595			
	Gold Coast	4	262,954			
1994/95	Head Office	316.5	87,735,220	Head Office	35	2,692,000
(Period	Cairns	10	706,563	North Qld	0	185,000
to	Townsville	13	1,010,763	Cairns	3	261,000
31/3/95)	Mackay	5	311,785	Mackay	3	190,000
	Rockhampton	7	693,186	Gold Coast	4	261,000
	Maryborough	4	223,773	Sunshine Coast	4	265,000
	Toowoomba	5.5	268,105	Brisbane Sth	4	198,000
	Mt Isa	2	150,552	Brisbane Nth	4	244,000
	Gladstone	4	222,480	Toowoomba	2	103,000
	Ipswich	5.5	215,330	Rockhampton	2	101,000
	Bundaberg	3	210,521			
	Sunshine Coast	4.5	235,825			
	Gold Coast	5	237,750			

- (3) DBIRD's Head Office and Regional Offices are collectively responsible for performance of the four Departmental Programs, namely Business Development, Industry and Technology, Regional and Project Development, and Organisational Development and Services.

Achievements are as set out in the Program Statements. This information, which includes QSBC, is provided every year in the Budget Papers.

Individual units of the portfolio are aggregated into Programs in accordance with the Government's Program Management system.

Performance indicators are established against each of the Department's four Programs and are set out in the Department's annual Strategic Plans for each of the years in question. Similarly, performance indicators for the QSBC are set out in its Strategic Plan.

- (4) In the period 1989/90 to 1994/95 (period ending 31/3/95), the total number of grants provided by DBIRD was 3,638 and the total number of grants provided by QSBC was 432.

Grant	Location	Total No	Total Value
Industrial Supplies Office	Brisbane	6	4,270,000
QUT Chair in Quality	Brisbane	4	400,000
Meet the Buyers	Brisbane	2	110,000
Aust Quality Awards	Brisbane	3	75,000
Foundation Standards Australia	Brisbane	3	65,000
Quality Grants to Industry Associations	Brisbane	9	383,895
Other Grants to Industry Associations	Brisbane	7	228,250
Grants to Govt Depts	Brisbane	7	133,538
Grants to Industry	Townsville	1	25,000
	Brisbane	6	178,500
	Ipswich	1	1,649
	National	1	30,000
Grants to Regional Development Organisations	Toowoomba	1	5,000
	Townsville	1	2,000
Grants to Others	Brisbane	6	43,949
National Industry Extension Service	Brisbane	1,465	10,142,581
	Bundaberg	80	742,803
	Cairns	216	1,379,483
	Gold Coast	203	1,146,346
	Gladstone	79	595,283
	Ipswich	149	922,680
	Maryborough	145	1,318,047
	Mackay	80	588,697
	Mt Isa	19	175,050
	Rockhampton	42	317,228
	Sunshine Coast	116	691,394
	Toowoomba	143	1,234,998
	Townsville	145	1,088,349
Space Industry Development Centre	Brisbane	2	400,000
Collaborative Research Centres	Brisbane	7	3,930,000
	Brisbane/Townsville	2	80,000
	Townsville	1	125,000
QUESTnet	Brisbane/Gold Coast	1	160,000

	Brisbane/Townsville/ Toowoomba	1	906,000
	Townsville	5	300,000
	Rockhampton	1	10,000
	Toowoomba	1	10,000
National Procurement Development Program	Brisbane	6	679,800
	Ipswich	2	201,950
	Gold Coast	1	50,000
	Western Sydney	1	40,000
	Bundaberg	1	118,120
National Teaching Company Scheme	Brisbane	6	300,000
	Toowoomba	3	150,000
	Gold Coast	2	100,000
Qld Grants for Research and Development	Brisbane	29	4,703,897
	Townsville	4	409,969
	Gold Coast	4	271,654
	Maryborough	2	411,440
	Sunshine Coast	3	198,633
	Toowoomba	1	171,100
	Ipswich	1	14,946
IIB Industry	Brisbane	17	115,738
IT&T Industry Assoc Establishment	Brisbane	2	2,800
	Brisbane	2	110,000
Industry Relocation	Brisbane	2	150,000
IT&T Project	Brisbane	1	75,000
Remote Area	Toowoomba	2	17,466
Language Skills	Brisbane	1	10,288
	Cairns	1	
R&D	Gold Coast	2	9,800
Main Street	Maryborough	3	145,000
	Redcliffe	3	52,500
	Goondiwindi	3	30,000
	Ipswich	3	52,500
	Coolangatta	3	45,000
	Proserpine	1	20,000
	Hervey Bay	1	20,000
	Gordonvale	1	20,000
	St George	1	10,000
	South Burnett Region	1	40,000
Planning & Information Services	Qld	4	55,000
	SE Qld	1	35,000
	W Moreton	1	30,000
	Yatala	1	46,200
	Parkhurst	1	20,000
Regional Economic Development	Redcliffe	4	51,000
	Logan City	5	57,701
	Pine Rivers	5	23,550
	Redlands	6	45,645
	Brisbane	7	70,571
	Gold Coast	27	174,651
	Toowoomba	53	522,427
	Ipswich	23	235,541
	Sunshine Coast	30	290,462
	Rockhampton	62	549,683
	Gladstone	22	146,725
	Bundaberg	20	186,825
	Maryborough	36	258,087
	Townsville	78	783,041
	Cairns	59	705,125
	Mt Isa	12	97,130
	Mackay	28	287,920
Small Business Research	Townsville	3	34,710
	Brisbane	5	63,242
	Toowoomba	2	33,300
	Head Office	2	32,500
Peak Bodies Liaison Scheme	Brisbane	8	384,192
Women in Business and Industry	Cairns	1	19,900

	Brisbane	6	84,202
	Head Office	1	13,900
Management Skills Development Scheme	Brisbane	21	156,540
	Gold Coast	1	
	Sunshine Coast	1	
Major Project Incentives Scheme	Brisbane	16	17,748,818
	Cairns	2	4,000,602
	Gladstone	4	2,571,441
	Gold Coast	2	970,000
	Toowoomba	1	2,033,326
Business Plus (QSBC)	Brisbane	87	89,998
	Brisbane Sth	62	61,500
	Brisbane Nth	71	79,375
	Gold Coast	37	35,900
	Sunshine Coast	25	23,375
	Mackay	14	13,600
	Townsville	33	33,000
	Cairns	82	79,125
	Rockhampton	20	18,400
	Toowoomba	1	1,000

### 118. Maroochydore TAFE College

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Administrative Services—

On what grounds was the building known as Newspaper Place selected as the future premises for the TAFE facility at Maroochydore?

Answer:

This is a matter for TAFE Queensland.

Administrative Services Department had no involvement in the selection of the Building known as Newspaper Place.

### 119. Overseas Visits by Business, Industry and Regional Development Minister

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Business, Industry and Regional Development—

With reference to overseas trips taken by the then Minister on the following dates—

- (i) 20-26 November 1993 to New Caledonia
- (ii) 5-12 September 1993 to Korea
- (iii) 19-24 March 1994 to Papua New Guinea

For each trip will he provide, separately, the following information—

- (1) Total cost of the trip including Minister and accompanying ministerial, departmental, government and statutory authority staff
- (2) Ministerial expenses—
  - (a) Travel
    - (i) land
    - (ii) sea
    - (iii) air
  - (b) Accommodation and meals (except meals as part of functions)
  - (c) Official functions—including those organised around meals (breakfasts, luncheons and dinners)

(d) Other expenses

(3) Departmental expenses—

(a) Travel

- (i) land
- (ii) sea
- (iii) air

(b) Accommodation and meals (except meals as part of functions)

(c) Official functions—including those organised around meals (breakfasts, luncheons and dinners)

(d) Other expenses

(4) Government expenses—

(a) Travel

- (i) land
- (ii) sea
- (iii) air

(b) Accommodation and meals (except meals as part of functions)

(c) Official functions—including those organised around meals (breakfasts, luncheons and dinners)

(d) Other expenses

Answer:

This Government has put in place a set of guidelines for the operations of ministerial offices which are far more onerous than anything ever attempted by previous Queensland Governments. These guidelines cover not only the control and audit requirements for ministerial expenditure but also a reporting framework to ensure that Ministers are accountable to Parliament for the results of all overseas travel.

At the end of each year Ministers are required to table a statement for public disclosure which shows a range of categories of expenditure including expenditure on overseas travel. That statement will be made available to Parliament in accordance with

the normal requirements. In line with the Guidelines for the Financial Management of the Minister, I have tabled reports in relation the overseas travel undertaken from 21 November to 27 November 1993, 4 September to 12 September 1993 and 19 to 24 March 1994.

The costs of these trips charges to my Ministerial Office were \$10,858.18, \$23,729.57 and \$10,395.66 respectively.

The guidelines for Ministerial expenditure are quite clear as to what expenditure can be legitimately be charged to the Department and those that are to be charged to the Ministerial Office. All expenditure, whether through the Ministerial Services Branch on behalf of Ministers or by the Department, is fully audited by the Auditor-General.

This accountability regime provides the assurance to Parliament and the people of Queensland that Ministers undertake overseas travel to achieve specific goals and then report on the benefits gained from the travel.

## 120. Tarong Power Station

Mr GILMORE asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

- (1) How much coal was in the bunker at the Tarong Power Station on each Monday for the past four months?
- (2) What was the lowest tonnage available in the bunker over that period and on what day was that figure reached?
- (3) How much coal is consumed by the power station on each normal operating day?
- (4) How much coal is consumed by the power station on each normal operating day?

Answer:

- (1) The power station bunkers are kept full to supply the mills which pulverise coal for feeding the boilers. The coal stockpile is the power station's on site source of coal for the bunkers and the total stocks are shown below:

Midnight Sunday	Stock (t)	Midnight Monday	Stock (t)
04 Dec 1994	118,080	05 Dec 1994	124,833
11 Dec 1994	100,690	12 Dec 1994	112,746
18 Dec 1994	103,770	19 Dec 1994	106,816
25 Dec 1994	104,539	26 Dec 1994	90,839
01 Jan 1995	88,120	02 Jan 1995	73,285
08 Jan 1995	83,126	09 Jan 1995	86,494
15 Jan 1995	84,998	16 Jan 1995	92,385
22 Jan 1995	65,436	23 Jan 1995	78,177
29 Jan 1995	56,803	30 Jan 1995	67,642
05 Feb 1995	44,921	06 Feb 1995	53,627
12 Feb 1995	37,833	13 Feb 1995	42,136
19 Feb 1995	62,088	20 Feb 1995	71,399
26 Feb 1995	63,690	27 Feb 1995	65,519
05 Mar 1995	81,279	06 Mar 1995	81,772
12 Mar 1995	86,709	13 Mar 1995	86,346
19 Mar 1995	58,327	20 Mar 1995	53,669
26 Mar 1995	72,150	27 Mar 1995	73,309
02 Apr 1995	91,325	03 Apr 1995	91,492
09 Apr 1995	98,942	10 Apr 1995	101,759

- (2) Total stocks reached 37,833 tonnes at midnight on 12 February 1995.

- (3) Average January 14,950 tonnes  
Average February 13,610 tonnes  
Average March 12,114 tonnes

## 122. Alligator Creek/Mount Elliot School Facilities

Mr STONEMAN asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the purchase of land by the Ahern Government in 1988-89 at Alligator Creek just south of Townsville for the location of school facilities and to Mr Elliott Pre-School—

- (1) Is the proposal to construct a pre-school facility on the site still supported by the Regional Education Office, departmental planners and the community?
- (2) Is he aware that the Goss Government removed the classroom supplies that had been delivered to the Mt Elliot site, as well as pre-fabricated buildings that were at the Stuart rail siding, immediately after coming to power in December 1989?
- (3) What was the rationale for this complete turnaround in advice?
- (4) Is the Government aware of the enormous and continuing residential growth in the area that makes such construction even more urgent?
- (5) What are the latest survey figures that are being used to preclude construction at Mt Elliot and when were they taken?
- (6) Is he aware of the problems confronting parents who have to deliver their children to another pre-school using Highway 1 and the major inconvenience this creates when other younger children cannot be left alone at home while transportation takes place?
- (7) What is the present construction plan for this facility, if any?

Answer:

The need for a primary and pre-school facility at Mt Elliot was investigated in detail in 1989. Construction of a primary school was not considered to be justified at that time.

The Department of Education would anticipate that provision of a primary school would be justified for an urban community of approximately 2,000 residential allotments.

Neither the base number of residences or the annual rates of development are indicative of the need for a Mt Elliot primary school at this time.

The indicators of education demand from the Alligator Creek/Mt Elliot area are the enrolment trends of the closest primary schools of Stuart State School, Oonoonba State School and Townsville South State School.

Of these three schools, Stuart State School, is the only school to have experienced an enrolment growth and this growth has occurred in the 1994 to 1995 year only. The other two schools of Oonoonba

and Townsville South experienced an enrolment decline over the last 4 years.

The Department of Education is aware of the many students who reside at significant distances from state school facilities. The Department of Education operates the School Bus Subsidy Scheme which funds the total cost of transportation when students reside greater than 3.2 km from a primary school and 4.8 km from a secondary school. There are many other rural and semi rural areas with students who travel to school.

There are presently no plans to construct a new school at Mt Elliot. This position is supported by the levels of demand at the nearest state school facilities.

### 123. Mangrove Planting

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

As it can cost \$535 to legally plant a mangrove in Queensland under the anti-green, anti-mangrove Goss Government, what is he going to do to cut these licensing fees and red tape of the Department of Primary Industries?

Answer:

The Goss Government is not anti-green or anti-mangrove. We are taking a very responsible approach to the protection of the marine environment. For example, the new Fisheries Act 1994 provides:

- Increased penalties for marine plant destruction.
- More fish habitat areas and extension of fish habitat areas to freshwater.
- Compulsory permits for mangrove removal or destruction.
- Ongoing research and monitoring of fisheries habitats.

Any planting of mangroves requires the collection of seeds or seedlings from mature mangrove communities and hence the requirement for authorisation under the Act.

The statutory fees associated with community regeneration projects would generally not exceed \$135. DPI would provide technical support and other services in such cases.

To date there have been no exemptions made to the fee for marine plant permits.

All statutory fees collected via marine plant permits are deposited to the Fisheries Research Fund. These monies are used to support research projects into fisheries resources, and in particular to provide information for proper management of these important nature resources.

### 124. Policing, Fortitude Valley/New Farm

Mr BEATTIE asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

- (1) Have the latest police initiatives in Fortitude Valley been successful?
- (2) If so, have they led to a reduction in crime in the Fortitude Valley and New Farm areas?

Answers:

(1) Police initiatives in Fortitude Valley have been extremely successful. During the first three months of this year, operational strategies were implemented to target street offences and offences against the person in Fortitude Valley, and the incidence of break and enter offences in the New Farm area.

(2) A significant reduction in the offences targeted has been achieved when compared to the corresponding period in 1994 as follows:

	Jan-Mar 94	Jan-Mar 95	Variance
Good Order Offences	278	103	-62.95%
Offences Against the Person	159	90	-43.40%
Break and Enter	258	147	-43.02%

Factors contributing to the achievement of these results have included active coordinated patrols and beats, intelligence driven activities, the deployment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Liaison Officers, community support and the Fortitude Valley security camera system.

### 125. Mackay Police Station

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to the promise of a new police station at Mackay and as police still have to work in cramped and difficult accommodation—

- (1) When will the new station be completed?
- (2) Will it house all of the departments?

Answer:

(1) Current advice from the Administrative Services Department is that the new station is anticipated to be completed in September 1996.

(2) The new Police Headquarters will not house all sections working in the current Mackay Police Station. However, the sections not housed in the new headquarters will be accommodated in a totally refurbished and air-conditioned version of the current building. This work will commence upon completion of the construction of the new station.

Sections to be housed in the refurbished existing police station will be the Traffic Branch, Uniform Inquiry Section, Police Prosecutors, Training Officer. There will also be a Training Area, Gymnasium and an area to be used as a District Disaster Coordination Centre in the event of a major disaster, such as a cyclone or flooding.

### 126. Wages Growth

Mrs SHELDON asked the Treasurer—

With reference to his forecast in the 1994-95 budget papers that AWE growth in Queensland will match that of the rest of Australia for the

forecastable future and to the Queensland Treasury Weekly Economic Report that shows Queenslanders are the lowest paid workers in Australia and given that in the same budget papers referred to above, he stated that average earnings in Queensland are projected to increase by 2.9% in 1994-95 compared to 3.5 percent for Australia—

- (1) Does this mean that in the current financial year Queensland wages will grow at a slower rate than the rest of the country?
- (2) What growth in (a) Queensland and (b) national earnings does his department forecast for 1995-96?
- (3) (a) is Queensland's forecast rate of wages growth more or less than the national and state rates of inflation and the CPI in these two financial years and (b) is the national AWE growth rate more or less than inflation or the CPI?
- (4) (a) For how many years has Queensland's rates of wages growth trailed the national figure and (b) what is the total percentage AWE loss of Queenslanders over that period compared to figures for Australia as a whole?

Answer:

(1) Yes, the Budget time forecasts of average earnings growth of 2.9% in 1994-95 for Queensland, compared with 3.5% in Australia, do mean that, in the 1994-95 year, Queensland average wages are expected to grow at a slower rate than the rest of Australia.

Growth in average earnings in Queensland has exceeded national earnings growth (when measured on a State accounts basis) for the previous three years. It was therefore to be anticipated that as the economy in the rest of Australia improved during 1994-95, that there would be stronger pressure for 'catch-up' wage increases than would be the case in Queensland.

(2) Treasury is currently in the process of reviewing all economic forecasts for the 1995-96 Budget, which will not be released until the Budget is brought down in May. However, the forecasts for 1995-96 made last year are for growth of about 3.5% for both Queensland and Australia.

(3) (a) More than. (b) More than.

(4) (a) In terms of AWOTE, annual growth in Queensland's earnings exceeded the national growth rate on only one occasion over the period 1985-86 to 1988-89. Over the period 1989-90 to 1993-94, growth in AWOTE in Queensland exceeded the national growth rate on three out of the five years. (b) In Queensland, AWOTE increased by 27% from the level in 1984-85 to the level in 1988-89 (nationally 30%). Over the period from 1989-90 to 1993-94, AWOTE in Queensland rose by 19% compared with 17% national. Total growth over this period was 58.3% in Queensland and 61.9% nationally.

### 127. Eastern Corridor

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to the Eastern Corridor—

- (1) Has he finalised the corridor for this freeway?
- (2) Have the people on this route been fully consulted and given an opportunity to exhaust all appeal avenues open to them?

Answer:

The Government decided on the general alignment of the corridor in 1992 for the southern section and by adopting modified Option B for the northern section in August 1994.

The Impact Assessment Study draft reports for the northern and southern sections of the South Coast Motorway have been available for public comment. The two consultant's for the respective sections of the Motorway are now finalising their reports taking into account comments received.

The Government will not be making a decision on the detailed alignment of the corridor until the final reports are received and have been considered.

Extensive consultation with the community generally, and in particular with people along the route has occurred both before, and since the appointment of the Consultants to undertake the studies in October 1994. Opportunity has been provided at all stages for the community to have input into the studies.

As I have advised no decision has been made by the Government concerning the contents of the Impact Assessment Study's Reports.

### 128. Yeppoon TAFE Facilities

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations—

With reference to the inadequate TAFE Annexe facilities in Yeppoon and as the population of the Capricorn Coast is increasing substantially—

Will new facilities be provided in the near future?

Answer:

In terms of service provision and equity, the TAFE Queensland participation rate for the Yeppoon area is approximately 23, 000 contact hours per 1000 persons aged 15 and over. This is higher than the State average of approximately 19, 000 and indicates that the area is well serviced at this stage.

The Institute leases Housden Place in Yeppoon. The lease on this property is currently being renegotiated to secure a four-year lease with a further 12 month option.

The Goss Government's commitment to vocational training in the Rockhampton area has come after years of shameful neglect by previous National and Liberal party governments. Funding for TAFE in this area has increased by approximately 43% since 1989, with an increase of 53% in student contact hours since that time. Matters in relation to TAFE capital works funding for the coming financial period are still being considered and I will be in a position to answer your question after the release of the State Budget.



### 129. Single Operator Signwriters

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations—

With reference to the Workplace Health & Safety Act and the requirement for business and industries to be registered under the Act—

- (1) Why does a single operator signwriter operating out of his own garage have to be registered under the Act, when consideration is given to the fact that he sees clients in his own home?
- (2) What conceivable benefit is there to the operator or clients from being registered under the Act?
- (3) How many single operator signwriters pay a levy within the State of Queensland?
- (4) Is there any constitutional problem with this levy in light of the High Court decision in the Capital Duplicators case?
- (5) Given that a single operator signwriter operating from his own home is unlikely to hurt or affect anyone else, is it reasonable that he has to pay the levy?

Answer:

(1) The Workplace Health and Safety Act 1989 imposes obligations on employers and self-employed persons to protect the health and safety of themselves, employees and members of the public, during workplace activities.

The Workplace Health and Safety Regulation provides that a person must not occupy or use premises as an industrial workplace unless those premises are registered. An industrial workplace is defined as one on which certain designated activities are carried on. These are outlined in Schedule 5 of the Regulation.

The Workplace Health and Safety Act 1989 defines a workplace as any premises where work is or is to be or is likely to be performed by employees or self-employed persons. For the purpose of the Act a self-employed person means a person who works for gain or reward otherwise than under a contract of employment or apprenticeship whether or not that person employs 1 or more other persons. By virtue of both the Act and the Regulation a single operator signwriter operating out of his own garage is required to register these premises as an industrial workplace.

(2) The operator should benefit by an increased awareness of workplace health and safety issues through the availability from the Workplace Health and Safety Division of advice and information products, codes of practice and guidance notices relevant to the specific industry. Through registration, the operator facilitates the random audit program carried out by the Workplace Health and Safety Division. This mechanism promotes compliance with workplace health and safety requirements. Failure to comply with these requirements could result in prosecution. The benefits to the operator's clients are obvious. They should be able to enter a business premises with the confidence that these premises are safe and free from danger and risk to health and safety.

(3) At present there are 53 single operator signwriters required to pay a registration fee in Queensland.

(4) No, the facts of the Capital Duplicators case are distinguishable from the requirement to pay a fee upon registration of a workplace.

(5) As the operator's home is considered a workplace, the objects of the Act are to protect all persons who may be present at that workplace or other parts of the premises from danger to health and safety in respect of any undertaking conducted, work performed or substance manufactured, stored, kept, supplied, used or produced at or from that workplace and to protect persons performing work from risk to health and to safety. This would include the operator himself, any members of the public or clients who may visit the place of work, any suppliers or anyone else at the workplace who may be affected by unsafe work practices—for example neighbours or passers-by.

### 130. Family Services Department, Woodridge

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs—

With reference to the fact that in February, some personal files of clients of the Department of Family Services were found in the carpark of the Woodridge offices of the Department of Family Services—

- (1) Will she explain how security and concern for confidentiality can be so lacking that this should have happened?
- (2) What have her inquiries into this disgraceful incident revealed?
- (3) Have all files been recovered?

Answer:

(1) The confidential documents found in the car park of the Logan City Area Office of my Department were not files. They were drafts of letters and copies of documents which were intended for disposal. Documents of this nature are required to be placed in a security disposal bin. In this instance some staff wrongly placed documents in the general rubbish disposal system. From there, they were placed in an industrial rubbish bin in the carpark for collection. It appears that one of the plastic bags containing this rubbish was removed from and placed beside the large industrial bin by a person or persons unknown.

(2) My Director-General has received a detailed report on the incident. It has revealed that an error in procedures occurred in relation to disposal of these papers. Procedures within the office have already been reviewed and improved. In addition, staff have been counselled about their accountability and responsibility to dispose of rubbish correctly.

(3) It is not possible to categorically state that all papers have been recovered. Officers have retrieved all papers they could find on the day in question.

**131. Clifford Park Racecourse; Toowoomba Turf Club**

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing—

- (1) Why, on two occasions, have the lights at the Clifford Park Race Track in Toowoomba failed despite them having a generator which is designed to start automatically when there is a power failure?
- (2) How much money was lost to the Toowoomba Turf Club as a result of these two major breakdowns?

Answer:

In response to the specific questions made by Mr Veivers, I can advise the following:

(1) On 11th February, 1995 the area around Clifford Park Racecourse suffered a power blackout. The emergency generator did not commence operating automatically due to a faulty cable. This problem was rectified promptly.

On 18th March, 1995 further power failures were encountered in the area. On this occasion the emergency generator started automatically.

It should be noted that this generator is only a precautionary safety measure for the public and jockeys in the event of a power failure. The generator has the capacity to ensure the working of the racecourse security lights and one in four racetrack lights. In the event of a power blackout occurring mid-race there would be adequate lighting to avoid any potentially disastrous accidents to horse and jockey.

(2) The Toowoomba Turf Club has advised that an estimated maximum of \$6 415 was lost to the Club as a result of both incidents. The break-up is as follows:

Loss of off-course TAB commission	\$3 850
Loss of on-course tote commission	\$900
Refund nominations and acceptances	\$1575
Bookmakers' turnover levy	\$90

**132. Landsat; Tree-clearing Guidelines**

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Lands—

With reference to his department's new tree clearing guidelines and the \$7.7m allocation to establish a vegetation monitoring system using Landsat satellite imagery—

- (1) What data and equipment will be purchased for this purpose and at what cost?
- (2) What resources are needed to interpret the data and what is the form and estimated cost of these?
- (3) What will be the direct cost of using the satellite source?
- (4) Will the satellite imagery be able to determine the difference between old and new regrowth?
- (5) Will increased woody weed coverage be capable of being identified from existing timber?

- (6) Will landholders whose land shows a distinct increase or decrease in timber cover, as a result of satellite imagery, be advised by his department?

Answer:

(1) At present it is envisaged that satellite data which will benefit a range of vegetation and Land Use programs will be obtained statewide for 1988, 1990, 1995, 1996 and 1997. The direct cost of the satellite data is \$1,802,000. Equipment is required for the processing, integration, analysis, storage, transfer and field verification of satellite and ancillary data. The total cost of equipment will be approximately \$3,010,200.

(2) Approximately 17 staff are required for the processing, analysis and field verification of the selected satellite and ancillary data within a 3-4 year timeframe and the associated Greenhouse calculations. Staff and operating expenses for the monitoring system total \$2,909,750. As outlined in the previous answer equipment is also required for the monitoring system. The digital format of the monitoring system will enable the calculation of statistics about the increases and decreases in vegetation cover in addition to integration of this information with other data sets.

(3) The direct cost of the satellite data over Queensland will be approximately \$1,802,000, as already detailed in Answer One.

(4) Old and new regrowth may be identified on the majority of satellite imagery where we have acquired the imagery over a number of years. The extent and density of regrowth will also determine its visibility on the satellite imagery.

(5) Discrimination of increased woody weed coverage from existing timber on satellite imagery will depend on the extent, density and age of the weed infestation.

(6) This statewide project is not primarily concerned with increases and decreases in vegetation cover over individual land parcels. However, where significant decreases or increases are evident further information will be sought.

**133. Diesel Locomotive Provisioning Shed, Whyte Island**

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

With reference to the current development of a diesel locomotive provisioning shed site at Whyte Island on the Brisbane River within Moreton Bay Marine Park—

- (1) On what date did her department issue a permit to allow mangroves to be cut from an area East of the railway line to facilitate this project, and was this date shown on the permit?
- (2) If the permit was left undated, what was the reason for this?
- (3) Was her department aware at that time that the Department of Primary Industries had issued a permit to Queensland Rail to cut mangroves on the site?

- (4) On what date did her department peruse and approve Queensland Rail's draft environment management plan for this project?
- (5) Does she regard the discharge of "treated water" from fuel spillages and washdown activities on this site into Moreton Bay as an acceptable environmental practice?
- (6) As both the Deputy Premier and Member for Lytton and the Chairman of the Port of Brisbane Authority had referred to this site as being free of industrial development (as late as 18 January), why was there no inter-departmental co-ordination of the site assessment?
- (7) Does she consider that a site located in a mangrove forest at the edge of tidal flats in the Moreton Bay Marine Park is ideal for the purposes of storage of 255,000 litres of diesel fuel and 15,000 litres of oil?

Answer:

(1) As provided for under the *Marine Parks Act 1982*, a marine park permit was issued to David Bywater of Queensland Railways on 30 November 1994, for the period 1 December 1994 to 1 December 1995, to enable construction of a locomotive provisioning shed in Port Drive, Lytton. The permit does not authorise the cutting of mangroves, as this is the responsibility of the Department of Primary Industries under the *Fisheries Act 1976*.

(2) The permit covered the period 1 December 1994 to 1 December 1995 and it was forwarded to Queensland Railways with a covering letter dated 30 November 1994.

(3) As is normal practice, the Department of Primary Industries was consulted in relation to this application and advice obtained that that Department intended to issue a permit for the removal of mangroves as provided for under the *Fisheries Act 1976*. I am advised a permit was subsequently issued by that Department on 6 December 1994.

(4) A draft environmental management plan (EMP) was submitted to the Department of Environment and Heritage with the marine park permit application, which was received on 13 October 1994. The EMP was examined during assessment of the application and found to be adequate to ensure that the risk of pollution or adverse impact on the marine park will be minimal.

(5) The EMP incorporates bunding around storage tanks to contain fuel and oil spillages, and a pollution management system to divert potentially contaminated water to oil/water separators. Such facilities will be installed in all fuelling and fuel storage areas. The EMP also provides for treatment of contaminated stormwater. I understand effluent from the oil/water separators plus any other wastewaters generated will be disposed of to Brisbane City Council's sewerage system. On the basis of these commitments by Queensland Railways, it was concluded that the marine park would be adequately protected from any spillages or wastes generated on the site.

(6) With regard to comments apparently made by the Deputy Premier and Member for Lytton and the Chairman of the Port of Brisbane Corporation, suggesting the site was to remain free of industrial development, I and my Department were unaware of any such commitments.

(7) The site of the provisioning shed covers an area of 3380 m<sup>2</sup> and is located partly on the existing rail corridor and partly on vacant Crown land. The entire site is situated above Mean High Water Spring Tides and as such, the reclamation works do not require approval under the *Harbours Act 1955*. However, approximately 200 m<sup>2</sup> of the site is below Highest Astronomical Tide and thus within the marine park.

Most of the site had a ground cover dominated by introduced grasses and is located above the mangrove line. The impact on mangroves should be minimal. The works involve the direct removal of a small number of mangrove trees (7 or 8).

In assessing the proposal, the issue of alternative sites was examined. This aspect had been investigated by Queensland Rail, which concluded that Whyte Island was the only site which satisfied the selection criteria. Siting the facility at Fisherman Islands, for example, was rejected as it does not meet the criterion of a minimum 900 metre length of rail line which does not disrupt other services. I understand that existing refuelling operations, which occur at various locations throughout the metropolitan area, cause significant disruption to road and rail traffic through the need for continual shunting, due to this criterion not being met. Also, excessive noise caused by shunting near residential areas adversely affects the local community and this was another reason a new site was required.

### 134. Music Teachers, Goondiwindi

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Education—

(1) Will he follow in the footsteps of his predecessor with regard to music teachers for the Goondiwindi education area by seeking teachers for this area?

(2) Can the community look forward to having music teachers with the full range of musical skills that will ensure that students of this area will not be disadvantaged compared to their city counterparts?

Answer:

The instrumental music program began in Queensland schools in 1972.

It expanded to include Darling Downs region in 1974, however this was confined to the Toowoomba area.

In 1985 it expanded to include Warwick and Stanthorpe and in 1989 to include Dalby.

Since 1989 the Goondiwindi schools and community have funded a private instrumental music program. This privately funded program has grown to be very large.

Both Goondiwindi State High School and Goondiwindi State School have classroom music programs and have had for a number of years.

In 1994 a Darling Downs Instrumental Music Reference Group was formed to make recommendations on the management and expansion of Instrumental Music in the region.

The reference group recommended in November 1994 that an expansion occur in instrumental music in Darling Downs and that this expansion should include Goondiwindi.

The primary music teacher from Goondiwindi State School has been granted special leave on compassionate grounds for term 2 1995.

While every effort at the regional and central office level is being made to replace her, as yet nobody has indicated a willingness to accept this contract.

It is expected that the primary music teacher concerned will resume duty in term 3 1995.

At the beginning of 1995 the Department of Education was able to appoint a strings instructor for 2.5 days per week to take over the strings programs at Goondiwindi State School and Goondiwindi State High School. The schools and community continue to fund a woodwind, brass and percussion program.

Staffing constraints and the availability of suitable staff have been the two factors limiting further expansion in the area.

The Goondiwindi program will be considered for expansion in the light of the total staffing needs of the region.

### **135. Police and Corrective Services Officers, Custodial Responsibility**

Mr TURNER asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to a letter dated 2 August 1994 to the Coalition Spokesman for Police and Corrective Services on the matter of the "Duty of Care" section 285 of the Criminal Code wherein he stated that he had Police Service advice that "... in a 'worst case instance', a police or corrective services officer with custodial responsibility for a prisoner who dies, could be charged with manslaughter or even murder"—

- (1) If any such officer was charged under section 285 of the Criminal Code with manslaughter or murder, what assistance would the Government provide for his or her defence?
- (2) Given your admission to Mr Cooper in a letter dated 25 May 1994 that a Corrective Services Commission inmate has contracted the HIV/AIDS virus while in custody, has any investigation of this matter included any consideration of a possible breach of section 285 of the Criminal Code by any officer or will such consideration be given?

Answer:

(1) The Government would not provide any assistance to an officer charged with manslaughter or murder under section 285 of the Criminal Code. Officers in this situation may expect to receive assistance from their Union. Additionally, they may be eligible to receive Legal Aid. Where an officer is

found to be innocent of such charges, and assistance has been forthcoming from the Union, the Government may choose to reimburse the Union part or all of the legal costs incurred. Decisions to make such reimbursements, however, will be based on the merits of each case individually.

(2) An Inspector was appointed pursuant to section 27 of the Corrective Services Act to investigate the matter of an inmate contracting the HIV virus. The terms of reference for the investigation required the Inspector to address the issue of negligence and of duty of care by relevant staff. The investigation concluded there was no evidence of neglect or breach of the duty of care by any Corrective Services officer.

### **136. State Purchasing Council**

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Administrative Services—

With reference to the regionalisation of the State purchasing function and the devolution of purchasing power into regional offices—

- (1) What was the total dollar value of purchases made from rural and regional businesses in Queensland in each of the financial years (a) 1990-91, (b) 1991-92, (c) 1992-93, (d) 1993-94 and (e) 1994-95 to date?
- (2) What was the total dollar value of purchases made from Queensland companies in each of the financial years (a) 1990-91, (b) 1991-92, (c) 1992-93, (d) 1993-94 and (e) 1994-95?

Answer:

No consolidated figures are maintained on a whole of Government basis to indicate total dollar values of purchases made from rural and regional businesses or Queensland companies.

Within the State Purchasing Policy, each Department is responsible for its own purchasing. The collection of consolidated statistics would require sophisticated cataloguing and data gathering information systems. To date, the development of such systems has been cost prohibitive, as witnessed by the efforts of the Commonwealth and other State Governments in this regard.

With this Government's regionalisation program, more purchasing is being undertaken in regional centres. Purchasing has moved from "lowest price" to "best value for money" purchasing and "whole of life" costing. This has increased opportunities for Queensland and regional businesses as it takes full account of local conditions, servicing, maintenance and costs other than the direct purchase price.

The State Purchasing Council meets regularly in regional areas to assist local business and industry to exploit opportunities for dealing with Government. This has been supported by the "Meet the Buyers" and "Buy Local" campaigns with some 10 000 suppliers attending Meet the Buyers activities.

Recent standing offer arrangements, such as those for office machines and photocopiers, have

included specific requirements for local servicing or the use of local agents in regional and rural areas.

Under the various national and international agreements, the Queensland Government is also seeking to ensure maximum opportunities for Queensland companies to secure Government business in other states and overseas.

As a Government, we have been actively working to ensure businesses in Regional and Rural Queensland are provided the opportunity to maximise their access to the \$3.6 billion spent by the Government each year on goods and services. And we will continue to do so.

### 137. Palm Beach Police Station

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to Burleigh Heads Police Station being closed at night and the inability of police from Broadbeach and Coolangatta stations to respond promptly to calls for help from residents in the 15 kilometre stretch of the Gold Coast from Miami to the border and to the high level of crimes against persons and property in the Palm Beach area—

Will he now give serious consideration to the need for greater police presence in the area and the establishment of a police station at Palm Beach?

Answer:

The Burleigh Heads Police Station provides a counter service between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:00 pm. All calls for assistance outside of these hours are diverted to the Gold Coast Communications Centre who then task patrols operating from Burleigh Heads on a 24 hour basis to attend. All calls for assistance are attended to as promptly as possible, in accordance with priorities allocated to them by the Communications Centre.

The Palm Beach area is covered by both the Coolangatta and Burleigh Heads Police Divisions. A number of initiatives have been set in place to address crime in these areas, including the establishment of a dedicated "crime car" in the Coolangatta Division in February 1995. This two person unit performs regular patrols, targeting specific crime areas. This patrol is supplemented from time to time by a second unit, which is dedicated to performing duties in the north of the Division, including the Palm Beach area.

An arrangement is in place, whereby the resources of the Burleigh Heads and Coolangatta Police Divisions may be combined to provide additional patrols in Palm Beach area.

The Goss Government's commitment to policing the southern end of the Gold Coast is seen in the over 40 percent increase in police numbers at the Burleigh Heads and Coolangatta stations from 36 in 1989 under the National Party to 51 under Labor.

In addition to the existing personnel and material resources in the Burleigh Heads and Coolangatta Divisions, additional police resources are drawn from such areas as the Gold Coast Traffic Branch, Criminal Investigation Branch, Juvenile Aid Bureau,

Traffic Accident Investigation Squad and the Scenes of Crime Unit.

The Police Service believes the establishment of a police station at Palm Beach would not address current crime trends in that area. Rather that such trends are better addressed by the optimum use of existing police resources, well developed policing strategies and ongoing community support.

The policing service provided to Palm Beach currently meets the needs of that community. While there are no immediate plans to establish a police station in Palm Beach, the situation there will continue to be monitored by regional police management.

### 138. Maroochydore TAFE College

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Administrative Services—

- (1) What advertising was conducted to seek expressions of interest in the provision of a site or building to provide the new TAFE facility at Maroochydore?
- (2) What were the details of the responses received?

Answer:

This is a matter for TAFE Queensland.

Administrative Services Department had no involvement in the acquisition of the site and building for the new TAFE facility at Maroochydore, and therefore has no knowledge of the extent of advertising.

### 139. Ipswich TAFE College

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations—

- (1) Does the TAFE college director have the legal authority to order a staff member who is fit and healthy to take sick leave for an indefinite period?
- (2) Will he outline the events which recently occurred at Ipswich TAFE College after a teacher restrained a student who was throwing concrete at other students?

Answer:

(1) Common sense indicates such an order would be improper.

The Public Sector Management Commission has advised that no TAFE College Director covered by the *Public Service Management and Employment Act 1988* has the legal authority to order a staff member who is fit and healthy to take sick leave for an indefinite period.

(2) On 15 February 1995 during a bricklaying course, a student threw mortar at another student. I am advised by the department that the teacher, who was behind the first student at the time, slapped the student on the shoulder to obtain his attention.

That student's father formally complained to the Administrator of the Bremer Institute, (previously

Ipswich College) on 16 February 1995. Following this, the matter was investigated. The Administrator subsequently met with the teacher about this matter. During this meeting the teacher advised he was under stress from external sources and that he was going to take time off on stress leave.

Institute records show that the teacher took sick leave from 20 February to 10 March 1995 inclusive and from 15 March to 31 March 1995 inclusive.

I am advised by the department that no staff member at the Bremer Institute of TAFE has been asked to take sick leave.

The teacher in question has furnished medical certificates certifying that he was unfit for duty for the period of his sick leave.

#### **140. Overseas Visits by Premier and Minister for Economic and Trade Development**

Dr WATSON asked the Premier and Minister for Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to his overseas trips on the following dates—

- (i) October 1993 to Japan and Malaysia
- (ii) March 1994 to USA
- (iii) 18-20 April 1994 to Papua New Guinea
- (iv) 2-16 March 1995 to Germany and the United Kingdom

For each trip will he provide, separately, the following information—

- (1) Total cost of the trip including Minister and accompanying ministerial, departmental, government and statutory authority staff
- (2) Ministerial expenses—
  - (a) Travel
    - (i) land
    - (ii) sea
    - (iii) air
  - (b) Accommodation and meals (except meals as part of functions)
  - (c) Official functions—including those organised around meals (breakfasts, luncheons and dinners)
  - (d) Other expenses
- (3) Departmental expenses—
  - (a) Travel
    - (i) land
    - (ii) sea
    - (iii) air
  - (b) Accommodation and meals (except meals as part of functions)
  - (c) Official functions—including those organised around meals (breakfasts, luncheons and dinners)
  - (d) Other expenses

- (4) Government expenses—
  - (a) Travel
    - (i) land
    - (ii) sea
    - (iii) air
  - (b) Accommodation and meals (except meals as part of functions)
  - (c) Official functions—including those organised around meals (breakfasts, luncheons and dinners)
  - (d) Other expenses

Answer:

This Government has put in place a set of guidelines for the operations of Ministerial offices which are far more onerous than anything ever attempted by previous Queensland Governments. These guidelines cover not only the control and audit requirements for Ministerial expenditure but also a reporting framework to ensure that Ministers are accountable to Parliament for the results of all overseas travel.

At the end of each year Ministers are required to table a statement for public disclosure which shows a range of categories of expenditure including expenditure on overseas travel. That statement will be made available to Parliament in accordance with the normal requirements.

In line with the Guidelines for the Financial Management of the Office of the Minister, I have tabled reports in relation to the overseas travel undertaken from 10 to 15 October 1993, 3 to 18 March 1994, and 18 to 20 April, 1994. At the end of the 1994/95 financial year, I will table a report which includes details of my most recent overseas travel.

The cost of the four trips presently charged to my Ministerial Office are \$23,806.51, \$40,381.33, \$139.63 and \$22,530.31 respectively. With regard to the third trip, only minimal costs were incurred as I was a guest of the Papua New Guinea Government. Further, because the most recent trip was only completed on 16 March, 1995 some of the accounts for this travel are yet to be settled.

Unlike the open slather which existed under previous conservative governments, there are requirements for Ministerial expenditure which are quite clear as to what expenditures can legitimately be charged to the Department and those that are to be charged to the Ministerial Office. All expenditure, whether through the Ministerial Services Branch on behalf of Ministers or by the Department, is fully audited by the Auditor-General.

This accountability regime provides the assurance to Parliament and the people of Queensland that Ministers undertake overseas travel to achieve specific goals and then report on the benefits gained from the travel.

#### **141. Relocation of Townsville Railway Facilities**

Mr STONEMAN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to the relocation of certain railway facilities in Townsville to the Wugiuri-Stuart-Cluden area—

- (1) What expenditure is proposed for the current year and future years in respect of the transfer from the City central area, and over what period will construction be phased?
- (2) What protective mechanisms are being put in place to assure the surrounding residential areas will not be affected by the imposition of this major facility?
- (3) Will compensation be made available to those who are able to show physical, financial or quality of life impact?
- (4) Has an assessment been made of the impact on residential values for adjoining areas prior to and following the decision to relocate?
- (5) What hours are envisaged for shunting and general train movement in relation to marshalling?
- (6) What proposals are in hand to lessen the noise, dust and light pollution on surrounding residents?
- (7) What security plans are proposed for the site?
- (8) Are site plans and artists impressions available?
- (9) What increased traffic volume is anticipated for the facility over the next five, ten and fifteen years?
- (10) What will be the variation in workforce numbers once the new facility is completed as against that applying at present?

Answer:

A study has recently been carried out of rail freight activity in Townsville and recommends relocation of certain facilities to Stuart. QR is presently considering the recommendations and, in particular, is examining financial and other implications of the proposals prior to any commitments being made.

In 1993, \$26 million dollars was committed to the construction of Wagon and Locomotive Maintenance depots of which \$22 million will have been spent by June this year and an additional \$4 million is anticipated to be spent in the next financial year. The project will be complete by September 1995. Future works in the area will be dependant upon decisions which are yet to be made arising from the abovementioned study.

The extent of protective mechanisms within the facility under construction includes a 150 metre wide landscaped buffer zone for the entire western frontage of the site and a three metre high landscaped earth mound within this zone as well as sound insulation to the western walls of depot buildings.

Any future developments will comply with the Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH) requirements and QR best practice.

In accordance with statutory and judicial supportive processes, compensation will be paid to any land owner whose property is acquired in whole or in part for the construction of the project. At this point in

time it is likely that only one land owner is so affected.

The development has been designed in such a way as to provide no greater impact than would have occurred had the area been developed for its alternative use for industrial development.

QR has agreed to provide significant buffer zones on the western side of the development and has agreed to the provision of a significant wildlife corridor on its land along Stuart Creek. Queensland Rail has done all in its power to ensure that other land in the Wulguru/Stuart area, which it recently sold, is not developed for anything other than residential purposes.

Considerable consultation has been undertaken with property owners in the area through the Stuart, Cluden and Wulguru Residents Action Group and these consultations are ongoing.

Following these consultations the facilities have been designed in a way that addresses and minimises impacts identified during the consultation.

The present development under construction, does not involve shunting activity and envisages minimum train movements with wagons being dropped off and picked up twice per day. Future movements will depend on the type of facility to be provided under subsequent stages of the development and this has not been determined at this stage.

The existing development includes bitumen roads for dust limitation, a buffer zone and landscaped noise mounds for sound attenuation and street lighting for limited night glare. Any future development would be subject to normal environmental legislation.

The Wagon and Locomotive facilities under construction includes signage and boom gates to restrict traffic access as well as security cameras within the buildings.

Future development will evaluate appropriate security measures as part of the design and consultation process.

Site plans and artists impressions of the development under construction are available and have been widely distributed via press and public meetings. Any future development will have plans and impressions prepared as part of the design and consultation process.

Freight tonnage is estimated to increase by 20 percent in five years and a further 30 percent in ten years depending on mining developments in north-western Queensland. The number of train movements will not increase proportionately due to efficiency improvements of track capacity and load consolidation.

The variation in workforce numbers with the closure of Townsville Workshops has been well publicised. 450 job losses were identified in July 1993. The facilities presently under construction at Stuart are providing approximately 78 jobs for Townsville.

QR acquired this site in the late 1940s specifically as a future freight and maintenance facility. Thus the construction of these facilities is not a new initiative

but rather has been a future feature of the area for a number of decades.

The alternative to QR's use of the site would have been industrial zoning and the special arrangements made by QR are likely to be well in excess of those which would have been provided for an industrial development.

#### 142. Stress Leave by Teachers

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) How many teachers have been placed on Diminished Work Performance during the past three years?
- (2) Of those who were placed on Diminished Work Performance, how many are still employed by the department?
- (3) How many teachers during the past three years have been granted stress leave?
- (4) How much money has this cost the department?
- (5) Of those on stress leave, how many were also on Diminished Work Performance?

Answer:

(1) 129 teachers were on Diminished Work Process since the quarter ending 31 December 1993. There could be other cases resolved at stage one which are not included.

(2) There are no statistics kept which will directly and reliably answer this question. The figures could be manually extracted from files held in regional offices, but could not be available to meet the timelines of this request. To extract this data would involve considerable effort with current information systems.

(3) Over the past three years Department of Education stress claims as calculated from CEDVET data to end January 1995. These figures include all staff. There is no data specific to teachers available.

1992/93	69
1993/94	214
1994/95	266

Although the numbers are increasing, the department employs over 50,000 staff; this is a very small percentage of employees. Specific strategies are being implemented to reduce the incidence of teacher stress.

(4) The cost to the Department for Workers' Compensation Stress Claims include all employees and do not have separate figures for teachers. The costs for the past three years are:

1992/93	\$935,538.00
1993/94	\$1,625,686.00
1994/95	\$3,719,705.00 (till 31 January 1995)

(5) There are no statistics available to show a correlation between stress leave and diminished work performance process. In the past the Queensland Teachers' Union has advised members placed on Diminished Work Performance process to take stress leave. Changes to the Act now make this technically impossible, but it is yet to be tested.

#### 143. Bundaberg Hospital; Maryborough Hospital; Hervey Bay Hospital

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to regional hospitals in Queensland—

- (1) How many beds are available at the Hervey Bay Hospital?
- (2) How many beds are funded at the Hervey Bay Hospital as at 29 March 1995?
- (3) How many beds will there be available at the proposed new Hervey Bay Hospital?
- (4) What is the population catchment of the proposed new Hervey Bay Hospital?
- (5) How many beds are available at the Maryborough Hospital?
- (6) How many beds are funded at the Maryborough Hospital as at 29 March 1995?
- (7) What is the population catchment of the Maryborough Hospital?
- (8) How many beds are available at the Bundaberg Hospital?
- (9) How many beds are funded at the Bundaberg Hospital as at 29 March 1995?
- (10) What is the population catchment of the Bundaberg Hospital?

Answer:

(1) 38 beds. The term available beds refers to the number of beds, occupied or not, which are immediately available for use by admitted patients if required. They are immediately available for use if located in a suitable place for patient care, and there are nursing and other auxiliary staff available, or who could be made available within a reasonable period, to service patients who might occupy them.

(2) Available beds are appropriately resourced. The concept of funded beds is not relevant within the context of casemix based funding. With the introduction of casemix based funding from 1 January 1995, inpatient activity in the majority of Queensland public hospitals will be funded by Regions on the basis of the number of weighted separations achieved at a single statewide benchmark price.

(3) 130 beds.

(4) The catchment population is the proportion of immediate and nearby populations which utilise the hospital. It consists of a primary and a secondary catchment population. The new Hervey Bay Hospital will be part of joint, networked campus hospital for both Hervey Bay and Maryborough hospitals which will provide primary and secondary services to the catchment population which includes Hervey Bay City, Woocoo Shire and Tiara Shire. It is estimated that the proportion of the catchment population that the new Hervey Bay Hospital will service will be 41,333 in 2001.

(5) 137 beds.

(6) Same response as for (2).

(7) The catchment population of the Maryborough Hospital includes the Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Maryborough City, Woocoo Shire and



Hervey Bay City. The catchment population of the Maryborough Hospital in 1991 was 34,532 people and is estimated to be 40, 846 people in 1996.

(8) 186 beds are available, including 20 long stay beds being used for nursing home type patients.

(9) Same response as for (2).

(10) The catchment population of the Bundaberg Hospital includes the LGAs of Bundaberg City, Perry Shire and Burnett Shire (formally Gooburrum and Woongarra Shires). The catchment population of the Bundaberg Hospital in 1991 was 52,326 people, and is estimated to be 59,742 people in 1996.

#### 144. Coombabah School

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to Oxley Drive at Coombabah and concerns about safety and traffic flow—

(1) When is it proposed to continue four-lane construction past the Coombabah School?

(2) When will lights be provided for safe pedestrian access across Oxley Drive to the Coombabah School?

Answer:

Current works priorities on Oxenford-Southport Road (Oxley Drive) include the realignment of the bends at Boykambil followed by the four-laning north from Lae Drive. If funds are available work may commence on these projects within the next three (3) years.

There is currently a set of pedestrian signals across Oxley Drive to the Coombabah State Primary School. These pedestrian signals provide a safe crossing of Oxley Drive to this school.

It is presumed that this question refers to the proposal for pedestrian signals across Oxley Drive near Limetree Parade to provide signalised access to Coombabah State High School from Runaway Bay. There are currently development proposals in the area between Oxley Drive and the Gold Coast Highway and it is likely that for safety and traffic operational reasons, this would include traffic signals on Oxley Drive to access the development. Such signals would incorporate pedestrian facilities to permit access across Oxley Drive. In the interim, Queensland Transport is planning to construct temporary pedestrian signals near Limetree Parade to provide a signalised crossing of Oxley Drive. When future development proceeds, these signals would be considered for incorporation into the future traffic signals on Oxley Drive which accesses the development. If funds permit, construction of the temporary pedestrian signals is expected early in the 1995/96 financial year.

#### 145. Courthouse Facilities

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General and Minister for the Arts—

With reference to Court House facilities in Queensland over the last five financial years till 30 June 1994—

(1) What funds have been expended on Capital Works at each Court House in each financial year and for what purpose?

(2) What funds have been spent on maintenance at each Court House in each financial year and for what purpose?

(3) What are the forward financial projections for funds to be spent on Capital Works at Court Houses over the next five years?

Answer:

As the answer to the question asked by Mr Beanland is too voluminous to be incorporated in Weekly Hansard, the information has been forwarded directly to Mr Beanland.

#### 146. Performance Indicators for Industrial Estates

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Business, Industry and Regional Development—

With reference to the Estimates debate in 1994, it was determined that there were no performance indicators for industrial estates—

(1) How is the performance of each industrial estate determined?

(2) What is the performance of each industrial estate for this year, the previous financial year and any other years that have been determined?

Answer:

(1) The old Industrial Estates Program (IEP) which was established in 1963 under the Industrial Development Act operated for nearly 30 years without any performance indicators for individual industrial estates or the IEP itself.

In 1990, a major review of the IEP identified some 68 estates, many of which were in regional areas and had failed to attract industries.

A two stage action plan was developed in response to this review. Firstly, an evaluation was quickly undertaken of the existing land portfolio. Assets which were clearly not suitable for industry were listed for disposal. Secondly, it was decided to establish a new Industry Location Scheme (ILS) within the context of the Government's market enhancement policy for economic development.

However, instead of the interventionist approach of the old IEP, the thrust of the ILS is to maximise the contribution of business and industry land from private developers and to influence Local Authorities to preserve land which is critical for economic development within their planning schemes. In the future, the ILS will only become actively involved in land where market gaps occur, which would be a barrier to projects, or where planning failures are unable to preserve land which is of strategic importance for the future needs of business and industry.

The land portfolio of the ILS will be managed through Strategic Land Management Plans for

each estate. These have been prepared with the above objectives in mind and, after wide consultation with local authorities, industry groups and real estate interests. These plans will be subject to periodic review over a three year program.

Existing estates have been allocated to five categories:

CATEGORY A—Not suitable for business or industry—to be sold to reduce debt.

CATEGORY B—Land suitable for business or industry but not satisfying market gaps or strategic planning failures—to be sold through a rational disposal program to reduce debt.

CATEGORY C—Land that can satisfy market gaps—retain for ILS program activities.

CATEGORY D—Strategic land which is important for future economic development—retain for ILS program activities.

CATEGORY E—Land which is currently occupied under lease—encourage freeholding where appropriate.

Performance indicators for the ILS have not been adopted on an estate basis but rather on a whole of program basis and relate to the goals of the scheme to 'ensure that business and industry is encouraged to locate in Queensland because appropriately zoned and serviced land is available at competitive cost'.

(2) The successful performance of the ILS has already been established through the withdrawal of the yearly consolidated fund contribution of up to \$10M and the level of sales achieved. In the 1993-94 financial year, these totalled \$22.5M and the target of \$21M for the current financial year is expected to be achieved. Forecast land sales for 1995-96 are \$18.9M.

Since the introduction of the ILS, DBIRD has maintained a record of the applications for land as an indicator of the demand on individual estates. Other outcomes measured include the number of jobs created and the amount of capital investment involved in the establishment of projects on ILS land. This data will be considered when reviewing the Management Plans, however, the intent to target market gaps and planning failures means that the economic performance of each estate can not be compared to commercial subdivisions. The land is only a tool to ensure projects can access suitable sites.

#### 147. Moura Hospital

Mrs McCAULEY asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) As he has given an assurance that the Moura Hospital will not close, will he also assure the community that the proposed Ambulatory Care Centre which will be implemented in Moura will not mean the closure of all in-patient facilities so that Moura becomes simply a glorified out-patient centre?
- (2) Does he concur with his Central Regional Health Authority's Regional Planning Services report (Volume 1, page 9) which states that ambulatory care is defined as "a system by

which care is provided to a patient in a non-hospital admission context", and does this mean that there will in future be no hospital beds available for in-patient use in Moura, as stated in the current and projected separations table No. 24 on page 115 of the report?

Answer:

- (1) Inpatient facilities at Moura will be maintained.
- (2) The definition of "ambulatory care" used in the report is a reasonable definition.

The range of services proposed for Moura Hospital clearly incorporates an in-patient component. There is a commitment to maintaining the current level of inpatient services.

The provision of improved emergency care facilities will not be at the expense of current inpatient facilities, but rather represent an additional service.

#### 148. Hospital Accounting and Payroll Systems

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the 1995 Queensland Second Report of the Auditor-General on audits performed 1993-94—

- (1) What accounting systems and payroll systems are currently being used in each hospital?
- (2) Which four regional centres were inadequate in segregation of duties?
- (3) What internal controls were missing or not implemented.
- (4) What action was implemented to address the lack of segregation of duties between HRM and payroll?
- (5) What is the current situation?
- (6) What is the position with respect to the Right of Public Practice Scheme as at 31 December 1994?

Answer:

(1) The Queensland Government Financial Management System (QGFMS) is used by 11 Regional Health Authorities as their accounting system for monies received from Queensland Treasury. The Brisbane South and South Coast Regional Health Authorities currently utilise the Hospital Based Corporate Information System (HBCIS) as their accounting system. The Brisbane South Region will be using QGFMS from 1 July 1995.

There are presently four payroll systems in use in hospitals throughout Queensland Health: Regional Based Systems; Lend Lease Computa Pay; Lend Lease Caspay; and Lend Lease Prism Pay.

- (2) The centres in question have all addressed the problems highlighted in the report.
- (3) The Queensland Audit Office identified inadequate segregation of duties between the payroll and human resource management functions. Due to this inadequate segregation of duties some internal control weakness were identified.

(4) Action has been taken at all four sites to rectify these weaknesses.

(5) Action has been finalised at three of the four sites. The final site is currently undergoing a review to resolve any deficiencies.

(6) A standard computerised private practice billing system is now in operation at all sites in Queensland. The 1995 Queensland Second Report of the Auditor General on audits performed in 1993-94 has recorded that the deficiencies have been adequately addressed. Financial Information on the Right of Private Practice Scheme on a Statewide basis is only collated at the end of the financial year from the Regional Health Authority year end financial statements. The position as at 31 December is not available.

#### **149. Public Dentists in Rural Queensland**

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the unacceptable situation in North West Queensland where there is no public dentist between Townsville and Mt Isa, Charters has not had the services of a public dentist for over 2 years, Hughenden and Richmond for the last 6 months and Julia Creek for the last 3 years, and the fact that the dentists who do visit these areas attend only to emergency cases, leaving waiting lists of up to two years in some cases—

Will he give an undertaking to (a) provide lucrative incentives to encourage more dentists to rural Queensland or (b) look at an alternative proposal for example Flying Dental Care along the same lines as the Royal Flying Doctor with the express purpose of servicing the rural and remote areas of Queensland on a more regular basis?

Answer:

Improved remuneration for dentists was provisionally approved by the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission (QIRC) on 28 September 1994 for the duration of the current trials of integrated Oral Health Services and Team Dentistry. Results of the trials in all Regions will be reported to the QIRC on 25 May 1995 with a view to ratifying or reviewing these pay scales. A work value case for dentists has also been proposed by the Unions for consideration by the Commission.

The States are currently cooperating with the Commonwealth, under the Commonwealth Dental Health Program, to establish Demonstration Projects for the improved delivery of dental services to rural and remote/Aboriginal communities.

Queensland has submitted a proposal to provide regular service to remote/Aboriginal communities in the Central West and South West Regions, utilising attractive remuneration and other conditions of service for participating staff, rapid access by air and road and the use of modern dental equipment.

If proven successful, the intention is to implement a similar delivery system for all other rural and remote parts of Queensland.

#### **150. World Heritage Listing of Fraser Island and Great Sandy Region**

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

With reference to the compensation package offered following the closure, logging and World Heritage listing of Fraser Island and the Great Sandy Region—

- (1) How can she justify the claim that this package was a major job creation exercise when the thinning of commercial pine plantations was undertaken, bearing in mind this was previously carried out by forestry workers when at that time a redundancy package was in place laying off a number of permanent employees?
- (2) How can it be justified when the funds were used for road maintenance, garbage collection and other similar work usually carried out under normal maintenance arrangements?

Answer:

There were no existing Department of Primary Industries' staff employed on the non-commercial thinning of pine plantations in the Maryborough area at the time that this project was established as a Growth and Development Package project. Due to funding priorities, this work would not have been undertaken at that time.

The project was designed to provide temporary employment for timber industry workers displaced as a consequence of the decision to cease logging on Fraser Island. Since commencement, employment has been provided to eighteen workers at varying periods of time. Four workers are presently employed on the project. The non-commercial thinning of pine plantations will in the long term yield an economic return on monies expended.

The Queensland Government has continued to provide funding for park management in the Great Sandy Region. The Growth and Development Package has enabled park management to be upgraded to what would be expected for a World Heritage area and has provided funding for the employment of an additional fifty workers by the Department of Environment and Heritage on park management within the Region.

This Government has provided assistance to seventy timber industry workers displaced as a consequence of the cessation of logging on Fraser Island. More than \$11 million has been spent over the past four years from Package funds directly on projects designed to provide employment for these workers.

Nine displaced workers who have received Package Assistance have subsequently been able to establish successful businesses within the Region which are either providing additional employment or have employment growth potential.

Industry in the Region has benefited from financial assistance provided by the Package through the Department of Business, Industry and Regional Development to fourteen businesses in the Region.

Funding was also provided towards an extension to the lower Mary River Irrigation Scheme through the construction of a pipeline from the Owanilla Diversion Channel to the Teddington Weir, tourism promotion has benefited to the extent of \$500,000 and funding of \$1.4 million has been provided towards the restoration, enhancement and promotion of Maryborough's heritage values.

Projects funded by the Package have generated employment of a substantial nature within the Great Sandy Region.

### 151. Forest Service Offices, South Burnett

Mr PERRETT asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

With reference to the staffing of forestry offices in South Burnett—

- (1) What are the current numbers of staff attached to the Murgon, Yarraman and Jimna forestry offices?
- (2) What were the figures in March 1989 and March 1994?

Answer:

	Office Based Staff	Field Staff		Total
			Salary Wages	
Murgon	1	2	0	(3)
Yarraman	9	3	10	(22)
Jimna	1	2	9	(12)

	March 1989			Total
	Office Based Staff	Field Staff	Salary Wages	
Murgon	6	2	2	(10)
Yarraman	7	4	8	(19)
Jimna	2	1	19	(22)

	March 1994			Total
	Office Based Staff	Field Staff	Salary Wages	
Murgon	1	2	0	(3)
Yarraman	9	4	8	(21)
Jimna	1	2	11	(14)

### 152. Ports Corporation Facilities

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to the refusal by the Ports Corporation in 1994 to allow the general public and others to use the main sugar wharf, due to a perceived requirement of Workplace Health and Safety—

Will the public be denied access to areas such as Goodman Point, and the boat ramp and other areas within its jurisdiction, on the grounds of Workplace Health and Safety requirements?

Answer:

The Member for Hinchinbrook may be assured that this government and the Ports Corporation take seriously our responsibilities with respect to safety matters.

The main sugar wharf at Mourilyan is a "workplace" under the Workplace, Health and Safety Act and in 1994 the Ports Corporation of Queensland closed this area to the public and to commercial fishermen in the interests of safety both for the public and the terminal's workforce.

Goodman Point, while not intended to be utilised for future port expansion, can only be accessed through the commercial/operational port area. The PCQ intends restricting public access through the commercial port area as port activity intensifies. The feasibility of an alternative access to Goodman Point will be considered.

Access to the public boating facilities at Mourilyan will not be restricted. The PCQ has given an undertaking that the current level of public boating facilities will remain within the harbour.

In the event that the existing boat ramp and jetty need to be relocated, new public facilities would be made available prior to any closure of the existing facilities.

The Draft Mourilyan port plan was released to enable public consultation on such issues to ensure Mourilyan remains as a commercially viable port with appropriate boating facilities and most importantly with levels of safety for all concerned.

### 153. Mining Projects

Mr GILMORE asked the Premier and Minister for Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to his previous statement in the Parliament indicating that he was only interested in development and had no concern whatsoever that remote areas of Queensland will inherit a legacy of nothing more than a hole in the ground from mining projects—

Does he agree with his factional colleague, Bill Ludwig, that it would be preferable for some greater benefit to be left behind as a result of the exploitation of minerals in our State?

Answer:

The answer to Mr Gilmore's question is "Yes, there should be a benefit from mining and there is".

One of the major benefits of the Queensland mining industry is that it underpins development in regional and remote areas of the State. The mining industry has built towns, it has built airstrips and it has helped underpin development of social infrastructure that is vital to these regions. One of the points that I frequently make in national and State forums is that this is one of the key benefits of the mining industry, its contribution in underpinning development in regional areas of Queensland.

The Queensland Government is working co-operatively with the mining industry to maximise the chances of new large-scale mining developments in this State. In the North West Province in particular,

a number of key mining industry developments are being considered that would further underpin development in regional areas of Queensland.

The mining industry has other important benefits for the State. It accounted for around six per cent of Queensland's Gross State Product in 1993/94. The industry generates over 50 per cent of the State's export income and directly employs over 16,500 people. Indirectly it employs over 50,000 people, many located in regional areas of the State.

Mr Gilmore's suggestion that remote areas of Queensland will inherit "nothing more than a hole in the ground from mining projects" is an insult to the steps being taken by the Queensland mining industry in relation to environmental protection and rehabilitation of mine sites and is typical of the increasingly hard-line anti-mining stance of the National Party under Mr Borbidge. Australian Bureau of Statistics show that total expenditure by the Queensland mining industry on environmental protection in 1992-93 was \$59.3 million, \$20 million higher than that spent in any other State (\$39.2 million was spent in Western Australia) and over 40 per cent of all such expenditure nationally.

#### 154. Arterial Road, Beaudesert Shire

Mr FITZGERALD asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

- (1) Is she aware of the current moves of Beaudesert Shire Council and developer, Springfield Land Corporation, with assistance from the Department of Transport and the Australian Army, to establish an arterial road along the southern boundary of the Greenbank Army Reserve without adequate consideration of alternatives?
- (2) Is she also aware that the land nominated for this roadway is awaiting gazettal by the Australian Heritage Commission and is recognised as a critical flora and fauna reserve in Southern Queensland and has been the subject of local residents' outcry for some months?
- (3) What action has she taken to protect the natural environment of this area?

Answer:

(1) I am aware of two potential road proposals in that area:

- (i) closure of the section of Goodna Road (also known as Old Logan Road) that passes through the Greenbank Army Training Area (GATA) and subsequent proposal to re-route the road along the southern boundary of the GATA and through the Springfield development site. The Commonwealth Department of Defence engaged a consultant (Dr M. Olsen) to consider alternative locations for the realigned Goodna Road with the preferred option utilising the existing firebreak on the southern perimeter of the GATA. Several other road locations were considered in the report. However, the preferred option

would have the least impact upon the nature conservation values of the area; and

- (ii) location of an arterial road (Beaudesert Western Bypass) which is proposed to connect the northern residential areas of Beaudesert Shire to the proposed Camira Bypass. The proposed Beaudesert Western Bypass is illustrated in the 'Future Road Network for Beaudesert Shire Report' by Veitch Lister Consulting. Exact route location has not been shown. However, this road is likely to impact on the conservation values of the GATA and southern end of the Springfield development site.

(2) Yes, I am aware that the GATA is currently proposed for inclusion on the National Estate Register by the Australian Heritage Commission. The local residents' concerns regarding future developments which have potential impacts on the GATA have been evident through the media and the residents' submissions on planning documents, such as the Springfield Development Control Plan.

(3) Officers of the Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH) have provided input into the sub-regional structure planning process in the WESROC and SOUTHROC sub-regions which include the GATA and Springfield site to the west. The GATA and portions in the southern end of the Springfield site have been identified as Critical Conservation Land through this process. DEH has also had input into the Springfield Development Control Plan, specifically with respect to refining the Conservation designation in the southern end of the Springfield site which aims to conserve bushland areas providing linkages between GATA and the Spring Mountain—White Rock to the west. I have been advised of this input and support strong conservation planning compatible with strategic urban development.

#### 155. Police Officers, Salary Allowance

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to the announcement on 23 November 1994 that the Police Service and the Police Union had reached an agreement whereby operational police would be paid a special 19 per cent of salary allowance in lieu of overtime penalty rates to allow for more flexible rostering of these officers during the prime crime times of evenings and weekends—

- (1) Is it administrative incompetence, chronic underfunding or both which has delayed the implementation of this agreement?
- (2) When will this agreement, allowing for more flexible rostering, come into effect?

Answer:

(1) It is somewhat ironic to note that while the Honourable Member Mr Cooper is questioning a perceived delay in the implementation process, the Queensland Police Union had publicly condemned the Queensland Police Service for its indecent

haste in attempting to bring the new system in so quickly.

The payment of 19 percent to Police is in lieu of shift and weekend penalties and public holiday loading, and is a part of a package of productivity issues affecting all Police Service employees through a Police Service Enterprise Agreement.

It must be stressed at the outset that the implementation process that has been entered into between the Queensland Police Service and all respondent Unions is currently on schedule and at no time has any of the implementation processes been delayed.

The implementation process commenced immediately after the Police Service Enterprise Agreement was ratified by the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission on 17 January 1995.

The Service entered into negotiations with the three major unions having coverage of Police Service employees on matters requiring agreement prior to implementation. Agreement was achieved on 30 March 1995.

In the interim an eight day training workshop was held for Enterprise Agreement Implementation teams which was completed on 22 March 1995.

The implementation teams comprising Service and Union Representatives commenced work on 3 April 1995 and are proceeding to all Regions so as to ensure that appropriate mechanisms are put into place to accommodate the Enterprise Agreement including a system for payment of the 19 percent.

(2) It is anticipated that at the conclusion of the implementation team functions a decision to activate the new system will be taken in May 1995.

#### **156. Toowoomba State High School, Computers**

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the fact that the Toowoomba State High School's computer stock was (a) 7 Apple Computers—15 years old, (b) 18 Sperry Computers—10 years old, (c) 13 CCS Computers—8 years old, (d) 4 CCS Computers—6 years old, (e) 1 Epson Computer—6 years old, (f) 16 Compacts—4 years old, (g) 1 Computer—6 years old, (h) 30 terminals—Business Ed Centre and (i) 11 Hunts—4 years old at the end of 1994—

Will he immediately review this situation where a student population of 1,250 has access to just 71 computers, 25 of which are more than 10 years old, and bring the ratio up to the promised one computer for every ten students?

Answer:

The "Computer in Schools Project" was initiated by the Goss Government in 1992 as a five year initiative to allow schools greater access to computer hardware for student use. The Secondary Maintenance Program as part of this initiative has provided funds for the years 1992/93, 1993/94, and 1994/1995 to enable learning technology resources

in secondary schools to be repaired or upgraded or new equipment to be purchased.

A funding allocation of \$42 million over five years has been provided with an allocation for the 1994/95 year of \$9.2 million, and funding for the maintenance program for secondary schools of approximately \$4 million.

Since the project was initiated, Toowoomba State High School has received almost \$87,000 to undertake a program of repair, maintenance or upgrade of its computer stock.

The Computers in Schools Project is well on target in meeting the learning technology needs of schools in Queensland.

#### **157. Rebate on Solar Hot Water Systems**

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

How many applications for solar hot water system rebates have been processed since his Government announced its energy conservation program?

Answer:

No applications have yet been processed, as funds will only be available after 1 July 1995. Application forms will be made available shortly, and at that time, applicants will be asked to provide copies of receipts and other documentation.

The Government has given a commitment to pay the rebate on all approved solar hot water system purchases made after the 28 February 1995, the date of release of its Energy Efficiency and Alternative Energy Statement.

#### **158. Sunshine Coast TAFE Facilities**

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations—

With reference to the desperate rate of youth unemployment on the Sunshine Coast and the continuing demands of the housing industry for apprentices with prevocational TAFE training and access to block training—

(1) Why has the Goss Government failed to provide facilities for all plumbing, carpentry and cabinet making apprentices and pre-apprentices to be trained on the Sunshine Coast right through their apprenticeships without having to leave the area to train elsewhere?

(2) When will he upgrade these specific trade training facilities?

Answer:

(1) The Goss Government's commitment to expanding pre-vocational and apprentice training courses on the Sunshine Coast is evidenced by:

- an increase in the number of apprenticeship blocks from 58 in 1994 to 85 in 1995—a 46% increase in the number of training places in one year

the conduct of pre-vocational courses in plumbing, cabinet making and carpentry and joinery at the Cooloola Institute of TAFE in 1995

the establishment of a new Construction Training Centre in leased premises in Nambour in January 1995 for carpentry and joinery.

The Goss Government's commitment to vocational training in the Sunshine Coast-Cooloola region has come after years of shameful neglect by previous National and Liberal party governments. Funding for TAFE in the Sunshine Coast-Cooloola region has increased by 172% since 1989, with an increase of 251% in student contact hours since that time.

(2) Further expansion of training opportunities will be considered by the State Training Council for possible introduction later this year.

### 159. Police Resources, Beaudesert Electorate

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to police resources at the Beaudesert, Jimboomba, Rathdowney, Mt Tambourine and Browns Plains Police Stations—

- (1) How many patrol cars are permanently attached to each station?
- (2) How many permanent staff are attached to each station?
- (3) What are the staffing levels at each station for (a) night duty and (b) weekend duty?
- (4) How many CIB staff are based at each station?
- (5) What are the crime statistics for the Beaudesert Electorate?

Answer:

(1) With reference to patrol cars permanently attached to police stations, there are three at Jimboomba, one at Beaudesert, one at Rathdowney, one at North Tamborine, one at Canungra, and five (plus one motorcycle) at Browns Plains.

(2) With reference to permanent staff attached to police stations, there are seven at Beaudesert, 46 at Browns Plains (including three administrative officers), four at Canungra, 16 at Jimboomba (including one administrative officer), four at North Tamborine and one at Rathdowney. The administrative officer at Jimboomba performs duties at both that station and Beaudesert. It should be noted that the total number of staff at the stations identified is more than double the equivalent number for 1989. This is partly due to the Goss Government's delivery of the North Tamborine and Jimboomba Police Stations to accommodate extra staff.

(3) The staffing levels for each station are:

Night Duty (Week Days)	Shifts Commencing	
	After 2:00 pm	After 10:00 pm
Beaudesert 1	2 per day shift every 3 weeks	supplies 1 officer for
Browns Plains	6.5 (daily average)	2 daily
Canungra 1	1 (daily average) shift every 3 weeks	supplies 1 officer for
Jimboomba 1	3.6 (daily average) shift every 3 weeks	supplies 1 officer for
North Tamborine 1	1.2 (daily average) shift every 3 weeks	supplies 1 officer for
Rathdowney	-	-
Weekend Duty	Shifts Commencing	
	Day	Shifts Commencing
	After 2:00 pm	After 10:00 pm
Beaudesert	2	5 per fortnight
Browns Plains	18	20 per fortnight (CIB work extra 4 late shifts every 5 weeks)
Canungra	4	4 per fortnight
Jimboomba	10	10 per fortnight (CIB work extra 4 late shifts every 5 weeks)
North Tamborine	8	-
Rathdowney	2	-

supplies 1 officer for 1 shift every week

supplies 1 officer for 1 shift every week

supplies 1 officer for 1 shift every week

supplies 1 officer for 1 shift every week

supplies 1 officer for 1 shift every week

### 160. Seaforth Electricity Supply

Mr TURNER asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

With reference to the fact that power supplies to the coastal town of Seaforth, north of Mackay, have deteriorated to such an extent that blackouts are common and consumers are purchasing generators to ensure their lifestyle is not totally compromised—

- (1) What has he done about this scandalous situation?
- (2) Will he instruct the Mackay Electricity Board to upgrade the power supply to Seaforth?

Answer:

(1) I have sought advice from the Mackay Electricity Corporation (MEB) about the matters raised by the Honourable member. There has been an increase in the number of outages in the power supply to Seaforth recently, particularly during the last rainy season. Some of the interruptions were due to planned outages for maintenance. There have also been some complaints about variability in voltage.

In response to these concerns, MEB has undertaken both ground and aerial inspections of the line. One problem tree has been removed and a comprehensive program of trimming and selective route clearing will be completed over the next few months. The ground inspection has also identified several faulty cross arms and these are being replaced. A program of pole top inspections and any maintenance found necessary will take place over the next year.

A new recloser control box which was installed in November was later found to be faulty. This had caused excessive interruptions in the December to February period, and has been replaced. The voltage regulator at The Leap will be upgraded over the next few months, eliminating the voltage fluctuations that have been recorded.

(2) I am informed by MEB that the procedures and high level of expenditure detailed above should address these concerns and will result in the line returning to its previous level of reliability. The line has ample capacity. Fully utilised capacity will begin to be approached around the turn of the century and MEB has budgeted for construction of a \$2.9 million, 66 kilovolt line from Calen and a substation at Seaforth in 1998/1999.

### 161. Yeppoon Police Station

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

- (1) What is the current police establishment at the Yeppoon Police Station?
- (2) When will this station be upgraded to a 24-hour police station?

Answer:

(1) The current police strength at Yeppoon Police Station is fourteen officers, consisting of ten general police officers, two water police officers and two detectives. Supporting these officers are two administrative officers and one part time cleaner.

(2) There are no immediate plans to extend the operation of the Yeppoon Police Station to a 24 hours basis.

Rostering arrangements are in place to cover peak times so that there are no more than four hours between the end of the night shift and the commencement of the early morning shift. On Friday and Saturday nights, there are no more than two hours when the Yeppoon Police Station is not staffed by an on-duty police officer. No leave is granted during peak periods.

During times when the Station is not staffed, all calls for assistance are diverted to Rockhampton, where

patrols are tasked to attend. Urgent calls would obviously be dealt with as a priority.

### 162. Mourilyan Harbour

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

- (1) Will he provide details of who paid for the infrastructure at Mourilyan Harbour including the wharf, the sugar terminal conveyor and loading gantry, the sugar storage sheds and the molasses tanks and pumping equipment?
- (2) What charges are levied against the sugar industry for the loading of sugar at the terminal?
- (3) How are these charges justified?

Answer:

The Member for Hinchinbrook's questions relate to the port of Mourilyan and the funding arrangements between the Ports Corporation of Queensland and the Queensland Sugar Industry for port facilities.

Firstly, the Mourilyan Wharf itself was constructed by the Ports Corporation of Queensland (then the Harbours Corporation of Queensland) in the early 1960's using loan funds.

The remaining sugar industry infrastructure at Mourilyan including the sugar sheds, the shiploader etc were funded by the then Harbours Corporation under Part 9 of the then Harbours Act. This funding involved contributions from the sugar industry and/or loans guaranteed by the Harbours Corporation but repaid by the sugar industry.

The molasses tanks were funded by the Harbours Corporation through usage agreements with the molasses industry.

Secondly, a harbour due of \$0.85 per tonne is collected for the export of sugar and molasses in order to recoup investments made in sugar and port infrastructure.

The PCQ keeps accounts separately for each of its ports and produces an annual budget which details income and expenditure for the port of Mourilyan. Expenditure within the port covers:

- maintenance of port facilities;
- development of new or improved facilities such as the recent deepening of the entrance at a cost of over \$3 Million;
- port administration; and
- a contribution to the payment of a dividend to the Government.

### 163. Draft Animal Protection Bill

Mrs McCAULEY asked the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Rural Communities—

With reference to your comments at the Estimates Committee hearings in 1994 that \$25 000 had been allocated to progress the draft Animal Protection Bill—



- (1) At what stage is this draft legislation?
- (2) What consultation has occurred with producer groups?
- (3) Is it still proposed to appoint Department of Primary Industries officers as authorised inspectors under this legislation?
- (4) Will this lead to a conflict of interest for those officers, in that they are there to assist the beef industry and will be forced to police it as well?
- (5) How does he intend to resolve this?

Answer:

(1) The draft Bill is presently being updated by the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel and it is expected to be finalised towards the end of 1995.

(2) There has been wide spread consultation with both producer groups and community groups. In addition, an Animal Protection Act Review Committee was established to oversee the review of the current legislation. This Committee consisted of representatives of the United Graziers Association and the Cattleman's Union and representatives of intensive livestock production and extensive livestock production.

(3) Yes.

(4) No. Department of Primary Industries (DPI) officers who are appointed as inspectors under the proposed legislation will receive extensive training on their functions and powers under the proposed legislation. It should also be noted that DPI officers are currently appointed as authorised inspectors under other legislation (e.g. Stock Act 1915) where they are required to perform industry monitoring and inspection roles and generally conflicts of interest do not arise in these situations.

(5) As indicated above, it is not considered that conflicts of interest will arise by appointing DPI officers as inspectors under the proposed legislation.

#### **164. Comments by Senator Ray; Criminal Justice Commission Operation Wallah**

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General and Minister for the Arts—

With reference to the Federal Minister for Justice's call for him to take the Criminal Justice Commission to task and the unjustified attack on the Commission, its Chairman and officers by Senator Ray—

- (1) Will he assist his Federal colleagues in their attempts to nobble the CJC?
- (2) Alternatively, will he endorse the professionalism and commitment of the CJC in its role as lead investigator in Operation Wallah, which has raised disturbing questions about the role of Federal Labor figures in frauds on the Commonwealth and illicit dealings in weapons technology?

Answer:

(1) and (2) The alternative courses of action suggested by the Member raise issues relating to the independence of the Criminal Justice Commission. Section 22 of the Criminal Justice Act 1989 requires that the Commission must at all times act independently. This is a statutory requirement which I have always been scrupulous in observing. The open letter from the CJC Commissioners published in the *Courier-Mail* of 3 April 1995 acknowledges that the Queensland Government has respected the CJC's independence. I will strenuously reject considering any course of action which would put that independence in jeopardy.

#### **165. Bald Hills/Zillmere Railway Stations**

Mr J. N. GOSS asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to the problem of access to the Bald Hills and Zillmere railway stations by the elderly, disabled and parents with young children who find it difficult to cross the line because of the number of steps—

When will an "at rail level" pedestrian crossing be provided at both Zillmere and Bald Hills stations, similar to the one at Geebung which has automatic gates, lights and a sound warning device?

Answer:

Bald Hills station is situated such that the inbound and outbound platforms are side platforms and are therefore accessible by physically impaired persons by ramps.

Access between the platforms is via an overhead footbridge.

Zillmere station has a side platform for the outbound and an island platform for inbound. Access between the platforms is via an overhead bridge.

Access to the outbound platform is at footpath level and can be accessed by physically impaired persons. Access to the island platform is by an overhead footbridge only.

Geebung station is serviced by two side platforms with access between the platforms via an overhead footbridge. Access can also be gained by way of the pedestrian crossing at the vehicular level crossing at the Brisbane end of the platforms.

Neither Bald Hills nor Zillmere stations have vehicular level crossings adjacent to them.

Queensland Rail carried out an inspection of the suburban rail system to identify all existing at grade crossings and both pedestrian and vehicular crossings.

A program has been put in place to upgrade 42 existing pedestrian crossings at a cost of approximately \$110,000 each. The project has been programmed to complete six crossings per year. It is expected that the project will therefore be completed in the year 2000.

Additional pedestrian crossings are being provided at existing level crossings on the Cleveland line from Coorparoo to Lindum. Funding of these crossings has been provided from the Fisherman Islands Project.

The program only provided for upgrading of existing crossings and for safety reasons there are no proposals to install additional crossings at locations such as Zillmere and Bald Hills.

#### 166. Mr and Mrs M. Tarbuck

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations—

With reference to my representations regarding Mike and Shirley Tarbuck of Stanthorpe and their Workers' Compensation claim—

Does this judgement mean that parents with their own children at their place of work will not be entitled to Workers' Compensation if the parent/employee are concerned about and report mistreatment of his/her own child, leading to dispute with the employer and ultimately to stress?

Answer:

The decision of the President of the Industrial Court does not preclude workers from making an application for workers' compensation benefits in those employment areas such as schools, where parents are employed and their children attend the same school.

However, for an entitlement to workers' compensation to exist, the injury must be employment caused. In dismissing the appeal against the Industrial Magistrate's decision, the President of the Industrial Court agreed with the Industrial Magistrate that Mrs Tarbuck's stress condition had at its foundation the parent/teacher and parent/principal relationship not the principal/teacher-aide relationship, i.e. her injury did not arise out of or in the course of her employment.

#### 167. Stress Leave by Teachers

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) How many teachers lodged claims for leave due to stress in 1994?—
- (2) How many claims have been lodged to date in 1995?
- (3) How many of these teachers are principals?

Answer:

(1) The information available relates to compensable occupational stress claims. Other cases of stress-related leave may have occurred. However, in these instances, the medical reason for the leave is not usually specified.

During 1994, 412 workers' compensation claims for stress-related conditions were lodged with the Workers' compensation Board. To date, 349 or 85% of these claims were lodged by teaching staff.

Of these 349 claims lodged by teachers, 7 were rejected and 18 required no action (for reporting purposes only).

Two hundred and forty-two (69%) of these claims from 1994 have been finalised.

(2) The department currently has information available from the Workers' Compensation Board only for the months of January and February 1995.

Forty-three claims have been lodged for stress-related conditions over these two months. Of these, teaching staff lodged 36 claims (84%).

(3) Eleven school principals and three teachers-in-charge lodged stress claims with the Workers' Compensation Board between January 1994 and the end of February 1995. This represented 2% of the total claims for stress-related conditions lodged over this period. In addition, 3 deputy-principals lodged claims over this period.

Note that occupational information available from the Workers' Compensation Board relies on potential claimants accurately detailing this information at the time of application.

#### 168. Juvenile Detention, Sunshine Coast

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs—

- (1) Where are juveniles detained on the Sunshine Coast when arrested by police?
- (2) How many juveniles can be held at one time on the Sunshine Coast?
- (3) How many juveniles are being held as at 30 March 1995 on the Sunshine Coast?
- (4) What is the average length of time juveniles are held in detention on the Sunshine Coast?

Answer:

(1) They are detained at the Maroochydore watchhouse or transported to Brisbane and held in a youth detention centre.

(2) There are in excess of 15 cells in the Maroochydore watchhouse.

(3) There were no juveniles held in custody on the Sunshine Coast on 30 March 1995.

(4) Information from police is that it takes 4—5 hours to process most young offenders. For most of the time the young person is in the police station and not detained in the cells. Only occasionally are juveniles held overnight in the watchhouse.

#### 169. Business Regulation Review Unit

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Business, Industry and Regional Development—

With reference to last year's Estimates debates and to the comments by the previous Minister that the methodology for determining a cost benefit analysis for regulation review has not been uniformly instituted across Government departments and to comments by the department head, Mr Boyle, that cost benefit analysis would be instituted during 1994-95—

- (1) Are all departments now using this standard cost benefit analysis; if so, what methodology is being used.

- (2) (a) What regulations have undergone this process, (b) which regulations have not and (c) for what reason?

Answer:

- (1) Yes—where they are required to do so.

The requirement (to apply the cost-benefit analysis) applies to all outstanding reviews under the Systematic Review Program and all new "significant" subordinate legislation.

Wherever departments have legislation within either of these two categories, an approved methodology is being applied.

The methodology itself is the "Cost Benefit Methodology for Regulatory Review" which was developed by Coopers and Lybrand in conjunction with the Business Regulation Review Unit of my Department of Business, Industry and Regional Development.

This methodology is the first of its kind in Australia and has attracted interest from the regulatory review agencies of other States and the Commonwealth and has helped to place Queensland at the forefront of regulatory reform in Australia.

The methodology itself is in four stages as follows:

- Stage I: Preliminary Analysis
- Stage II: Qualitative Analysis
- Stage III: Quantitative Analysis
- Stage IV: Combined Analysis

The results of each successive stage are used to determine whether or not proceeding to the next stage is warranted.

A good example of the results achieved through the application of the methodology can be found in the Department of Housing, Local Government and Planning review of the Local Government (Planning and Environment) Act during which economic benefits with a net present value of \$197M over 10 years were identified.

Not all results are so spectacular, however, because not all reviews produce changes worth costing.

For this reason, the methodology is not always applied as far as Stage III, where costs and benefits are quantified, because in most cases, the cost of obtaining the added information would be prohibitive.

- (2) With some exceptions, the methodology has been applied or will be applied to all legislation (both principal and subordinate) coming under the Systematic Review where the reviews of such legislation were current as at 30 September 1994.

The methodology has not been applied to reviews concluded prior to 30 September 1994 because it would have been counter-productive to re-open the issues so recently reviewed.

Also, training in the use of the methodology did not become available until mid-September 1994 following the Government's decision to use the methodology.

Since then, the Business Regulation Review Unit of my Department of Business, Industry and Regional

Development has trained over 200 officers in the use of the methodology and its application has since become widespread, as noted.

Other circumstances under which the methodology either would not or should not be applied, would include the outright repeal of redundant legislation because the application of the methodology would, in such cases, consume resources without improving the result.

### 170. Maroochydore TAFE College

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations—

- (1) What guidelines, requirements and/or specifications were provided by DEVETIR to the Department of Administrative Services for the provision of land or buildings in the Maroochydore area for a new TAFE college prior to the selection of Newspaper Place for this purpose?
- (2) In particular, was any price bracket, vicinity or parking capability detailed?

Answer:

- (1) The standard 'Client Request Brief', provided by the Department of Administrative Services Qbuild Property Management Section for the detailing of accommodation requirements for clients, was completed and forwarded to the Property Management Section in March 1994.

The Client Request Brief included the following:

"Considerations in determining location of new Maroochydore TAFE Centre

- a. in/next to Maroochydore CBD
- b. on major bus routes
- c. access to reasonable parking
- d. location can be rezoned to special use: education
- e. occupation for November 1994
- f. proximity to reasonable Child care"

- (2) No specific price bracket was detailed as each proposal would be considered on its merits. In relation to details regarding vicinity and parking capability, please refer to the answer to Question (1).

### 171. Overseas Visit by Tourism, Sport and Racing Minister

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing—

With reference to the overseas trip taken by him on 11-27 August 1994 to Canada and the United States of America—

Will he provide the following information—

- (1) Total cost of the trip including Minister and accompanying ministerial, departmental, government and statutory authority staff

- (2) Ministerial expenses—
- (a) Travel
    - (i) land
    - (ii) sea
    - (iii) air
  - (b) Accommodation and meals (except meals as part of functions)
  - (c) Official functions—including those organised around meals (breakfasts, luncheons and dinners)
  - (d) Other expenses
- (3) Departmental expenses—
- (a) Travel
    - (i) land
    - (ii) sea
    - (iii) air
  - (b) Accommodation and meals (except meals as part of functions)
  - (c) Official functions—including those organised around meals (breakfasts, luncheons and dinners)
  - (d) Other expenses
- (4) Government expenses—
- (a) Travel
    - (i) land
    - (ii) sea
    - (iii) air
  - (b) Accommodation and meals (except meals as part of functions)
  - (c) Official functions—including those organised around meals (breakfasts, luncheons and dinners)
  - (d) Other expenses

Answer:

This Government has put in place a set of guidelines for the operations of Ministerial offices which are far more onerous than anything ever attempted by previous Queensland Governments. These guidelines cover not only the control and audit requirements for Ministerial expenditure, but also a reporting framework to ensure that Ministers are accountable to Parliament for the results of all overseas travel.

At the end of each year Ministers are required to table a statement for public disclosure which shows a range of categories of expenditure including expenditure on overseas travel. That statement will be made available to Parliament in accordance with the normal requirements.

In line with the Guidelines for the Financial Management of the Office of the Minister, I have tabled a report in relation to the overseas travel undertaken from 15 October to 1 November 1994.

The cost of the trip charged to my Ministerial Office was \$52,655.18.

The guidelines for Ministerial expenditure are quite clear as to what expenditures can legitimately be charged to the Department and those that are to be charged to the Ministerial Office. All expenditure, whether through the Ministerial Services Branch on behalf of Ministers or by the Department, is fully audited by the Auditor-General.

This accountability regime provides the assurance to Parliament and the people of Queensland that Ministers undertake overseas travel to achieve specific goals and then report on the benefits gained from the travel.

## 172. Hospital Staff Training; Health Education

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the 1995 Queensland Second Report of the Auditor-General on audits performed 1993-94—

- (1) What training has been given to the individual health services (hospitals) managers or CEOs to ensure they understand their financial and employee related responsibilities, including budgets, financial reporting and internal control systems?
- (2) Which non-Government organisations have been given funds for health education in the 1994-95 financial year?
- (3) How much has been given to each organisation and what performance was achieved compared with that required to justify the grant payment?

Answer:

(1) Training requirements are determined and reviewed in the 'Performance Planning and Review' process. Queensland Health encourages and facilitates continuing professional development.

(2) A list of non-Government organisations showing funds given for health education in the 1994/95 financial year is attached.

(3) Details of funds given to non-Government organisations are provided in my answer to (2).

Funded programs to non-Government organisations are monitored on an ongoing basis.

Grant Program Managers have advised all non-Government organisations are administering grants for health education satisfactorily, and in accordance with the conditions and performance criteria set out in service arrangements.

**173. Schools, Clayfield Electorate**

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to each of the State Schools and Special Schools in the electorate of Clayfield—

What are the numbers of (a) students enrolled at each school per year for the years from 1987 to date and (b) teachers, teacher aids and other staff at each school per year for the years from 1987 to date?

Answer:

SCHOOL	YEAR	PRE-SCHOOL	PRIMARY	SPECIAL	TOTAL	YR 1	YR 2	YR 3	YR 4	YR 5	YR 6	YR 7	
Ascot SS	1987	0	756	0	756	119	114	108	113	119	105	78	
	1988	0	775	0	775	117	110	101	113	116	118	100	
	1989	0	788	0	788	114	118	117	108	108	109	114	
	1990	0	794	0	794	115	121	126	140	87	114	91	
	1991	95	788	0	883	140	113	119	123	105	102	86	
	1992	99	785	0	884	109	129	110	119	114	104	100	
	1993	97	842	0	939	147	107	136	119	113	120	100	
	1994	100	808	0	908	120	137	102	126	103	103	117	
	Feb 95	94	738	0	832	94	103	107	128	102	100	96	
Eagle Junction SS	1987	0	427	0	427	70	52	71	65	54	60	55	
	1988	0	426	0	426	72	64	57	71	61	49	52	
	1989	0	445	0	445	77	63	71	58	69	58	49	
	1990	0	474	0	474	86	71	67	73	54	68	55	
	1991	50	474	0	524	92	73	66	68	66	48	61	
	1992	49	496	0	545	94	83	72	63	71	65	48	
	1993	50	526	0	576	75	96	76	72	65	75	67	
	1994	50	547	0	597	83	79	96	81	70	65	73	
	Feb 95	50	618	0	668	108	87	86	103	86	81	67	
HAMILTON SS	1987	0	48	0	48	9	8	3	9	5	8	6	
	1988	0	45	0	45	7	7	6	2	10	6	7	
	1989	0	42	0	42	12	6	8	2	2	7	5	
	1990	0	35	0	35	2	12	2	4	6	1	8	
	1991	0	31	0	31	5	3	7	5	5	4	2	
	1992	0	23	0	23	1	3	2	8	4	1	4	
	1993	0	36	0	36	9	7	4	2	8	4	2	
	1994	0	43	0	43	7	9	6	5	2	9	5	
		Feb 95	0	44	0	44	11	6	6	5	3	3	10
	Hendra SS	1987	0	58	0	58	6	11	7	15	2	8	9
1988		0	34	0	34	4	6	6	3	7	2	6	
1989		0	14	0	14	1	1	3	4	1	3	1	
1990		0	23	0	23	3	3	3	3	4	2	5	
1991		0	29	0	29	5	5	3	1	4	7	4	
1992		0	29	0	29	4	5	4	2	1	4	9	
1993		0	37	0	37	5	6	8	5	3	4	6	
1994		0	30	0	30	7	2	7	4	2	3	5	
		Feb 95	0	37	0	37	9	9	1	6	5	4	3
Newstead Spec School		1987	0	0	66	66							
	1988	0	0	67	67								
	1989	0	0	70	70								
	1990	0	0	67	67								
	1991	0	0	60	60								
	1992	0	0	57	57								
	1993	0	0	66	66								
	1994	0	0	51	51								
	Feb 95	0	0	47	47								
Nundah State School	1987	0	359	0	359	59	45	43	59	49	48	56	
	1988	0	374	0	374	46	64	47	47	63	59	48	
	1989	0	396	0	396	61	48	65	43	51	65	63	

	1990	0	378	0	378	58	62	46	56	44	54	58
	1991	0	385	0	385	55	63	62	46	58	50	51
	1992	0	368	0	368	50	49	58	62	39	60	50
	1993	0	377	0	377	59	46	56	59	56	42	59
	1994	0	336	0	336	37	55	40	51	59	50	44
	Feb 95	0	329	0	329	42	35	54	36	52	59	51
Pinkenba State School	1987	0	26	0	26	3	2	3	5	4	3	6
	1988	0	20	0	20	3	1	3	1	4	4	4
	1989	0	22	0	22	6	3	1	4	1	4	3
	1990	0	17	0	17	2	3	2	1	4	1	4
	1991	0	21	0	21	4	3	2	4	2	5	1
	1992	0	17	0	17	1	4	3	1	3	1	4
	1993	0	13	0	13	4		2	3	1	2	1
	1994	0	16	0	16	3	5		2	3	1	2
	Feb 95	0	16	0	16	2	3	6	0	2	2	1
Woolloowin State School	1987	0	146	0	146	17	28	21	16	17	28	19
	1988	0	161	0	161	20	21	29	27	14	16	34
	1989	0	160	0	160	25	27	23	26	27	16	16
	1990	0	162	0	162	25	21	30	20	25	23	18
	1991	35	148	0	183	16	22	23	20	18	24	25
	1992	27	144	0	171	29	19	18	16	18	18	26
	1993	44	127	0	171	18	22	22	15	13	17	20
	1994	34	107	0	141	18	14	19	10	16	14	16
	Feb 95	34	126	0	160	25	19	14	20	18	17	13

SCHOOL		1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Ascot	Teacher			35	35	34	36	35	36	37
	T/Aide			66	80	80	80	90	89	88
	Other (Perm)			2	2	3	3	3	3	3
Eagle Junction	Teacher				24.2	24.2	24.5	25.2	26.4	28.2
	T/Aide	76	76	76	96	96	97	99	100	102
	Other (Perm)					2	2	2	2	2
Hamilton	Teacher	3	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	3
	T/Aide	42	40	40	32	32	30	40	40	40
	Other (Perm)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hendra	Teacher	3	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	2
	T/Aide	25	30	24	24	32	36	34	40	36
	Other (Perm)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nundah	Teacher	18	18	19	18	18	18	18	17	16
	T/Aide	44	44	44	60	60	60	60	58	58
	Other (Perm)	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Pinkenba	Teacher	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	T/Aide	30	30	32	40	36	28	28	28	28
	Other (Perm)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Woolloowin	Teacher	8	8	8	9	8	6	5	5	5
	T/Aide	60	60	59	60	60	78	44	44	44
	Other (Perm)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Newstead	Teacher	12	12	12	11	10	10	10.5	12	9.7
	T/Aide	60	60	110	135	130	130	130	130	120
	Other (Perm)	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2

(i) Teacher Aides expressed in hours per week

(ii) Permanent Employees only counted

(iii) Variance in Teacher Aide time may reflect additional SPSS hours

### 174. Increase in SES Positions

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General and Minister for the Arts—

With reference to the Public Sector Management Commission Report to 30 June 1994 which shows that the number of Senior Executive Service level positions has increased by 22, from 25 at 30 June 1993 to 47 at 30 June 1994—

- (1) Will he detail the (a) designation, (b) salary and (c) location of each of the 22 additional positions, the previous positions (if not a new position)?
- (2) Will he detail the cost of upgrading the positions (including motor vehicles, credit cards, allowance expenses, superannuation salary) as well as any other costs?
- (3) What are the names of the persons now occupying the positions?
- (4) What were the names of the persons occupying the positions before upgrading?
- (5) What was the date of amalgamation of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General and the Arts Division?

Answer:

(1) Yes. The information requested is contained in the following table. All positions save for one of the Consultant Crown Prosecutors are Brisbane based. The exception is located in Townsville. All positions save the four in Policy and Legislation Division were pre-existing Band 2 or Band 3 Contract positions. They were incorporated into the SES once the professional stream was established.

DESIGNATION	LOCATION	SALARY LEVEL	PREVIOUS POSITION DESIGNATION	LEVEL
<b>Crown Law Division</b>				
Crown Solicitor	Brisbane	SES 3(P)	Crown Solicitor	Band 2 Contract
Executive Legal Consultant	Brisbane	SES 1(P)	Executive Legal Consultant	Band 2 Contract
Executive Legal Consultant	Brisbane	SES 1(P)	Executive Legal Consultant	Band 2 Contract
Executive Legal Consultant	Brisbane	SES 1(P)	Executive Legal Consultant	Band 2 Contract
Executive Legal Consultant	Brisbane	SES 1(P)	Executive Legal Consultant	Band 2 Contract
Executive Legal Consultant	Brisbane	SES 1(P)	Executive Legal Consultant	Band 2 Contract
Executive Legal Consultant	Brisbane	SES 1(P)	Executive Legal Consultant	Band 2 Contract
Executive Legal Consultant	Brisbane	SES 1(P)	Executive Legal Consultant	Band 2 Contract
Executive Legal Consultant	Brisbane	SES 1(P)	Executive Legal Consultant	Band 2 Contract
Executive Legal Consultant	Brisbane	SES 1(P)	Executive Legal Consultant	Band 2 Contract
<b>Solicitor-General's Office</b>				
Crown Counsel	Brisbane	SES 1(P)	Crown Counsel	Band 3 Contract
<b>Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions</b>				
Consultant Crown Prosecutor	Brisbane	SES 2(P)	Consultant Crown Prosecutor	Band 2 Contract
Consultant Crown Prosecutor	Brisbane	SES 2(P)	Consultant Crown Prosecutor	Band 2 Contract
Consultant Crown Prosecutor	Brisbane	SES 2(P)	Consultant Crown Prosecutor	Band 2 Contract
Consultant Crown Prosecutor	Brisbane	SES 2(P)	Consultant Crown Prosecutor	Band 2 Contract
Consultant Crown Prosecutor	Brisbane	SES 2(P)	Consultant Crown Prosecutor	Band 2 Contract
Consultant Crown Prosecutor	Townsville	SES 2(P)	Consultant Crown Prosecutor	Band 2 Contract
Solicitor for Prosecutions	Brisbane	SES 2(P)	Consultant Crown Prosecutor	Band 2 Contract
<b>Policy and Legislation Division</b>				
Director, Court Practice and Procedure	Brisbane	SES 1(P)	<i>New Position</i>	
Director, Criminal Law	Brisbane	SES 1(P)	<i>New Position</i>	
Director, General Law	Brisbane	SES 1(P)	<i>New Position</i>	
Director, Public Law	Brisbane	SES 1(P)	<i>New Position</i>	
Director, Public Law	Brisbane	SES 1(P)	<i>New Position</i>	

(2) The cost of translation of the 18 positions amounts to \$77,268 per annum. This figure includes the salary increase, extra leave loading, superannuation and payroll tax, plus motor vehicles where appropriate.

All Band 2 officers had as part of their remuneration arrangements, the private use of a fully maintained Government Vehicle. Therefore, the lease cost to the department only increased by some \$45 per month each for the Consultant Crown Prosecutor Positions and that of the Solicitor of Prosecutions, and \$400 per month for the position of Crown Counsel (no private use vehicle under Band 3 contracts). The Crown Solicitor chose to keep his existing vehicle, so the increase in his salary allowance, \$600 per year, was incorporated there. The Executive Legal Consultants already had vehicles appropriate for their level.

The cost of creating the four new positions in the Policy and Legislation Division was \$356,000 per annum and this figure includes all costs detailed above. A separate new initiative funding proposal to establish these positions was approved by Treasury in early 1994.

(3) & (4) The information requested in questions 3 and 4 is contained in the following table.

POSITION	PREVIOUS OCCUPANT	CURRENT OCCUPANT
Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions		
Consultant Crown Prosecutor	Michael Byrne	Michael Byrne
Consultant Crown Prosecutor	Paul Rutledge	Paul Rutledge
Consultant Crown Prosecutor	David Meredith	David Meredith
Consultant Crown Prosecutor	David Bullock	David Bullock
Consultant Crown Prosecutor	Peter Ridgeway	Peter Ridgeway
Consultant Crown Prosecutor	Kevan Townsley	James Henry
Solicitor for Prosecutions	David Field	David Field
Policy and Legislation		
Director, Court Practices and Procedures	Vacant	Vacant (N Stehn Acting)
Director, Criminal Law	Vacant	Garry Hannigan
Director, General Law	Vacant	Leanne Robertson
Director, Public Law	Vacant	Peter Byrnes
Crown Law Division		
Crown Solicitor	Ken O'Shea	Ken O'Shea
Executive Legal Consultant	Robert Boiston	Robert Boiston
Executive Legal Consultant	Ronald Davis	Ronald Davis
Executive Legal Consultant	William Isdale	William Isdale
Executive Legal Consultant	Francis Pulsford	Francis Pulsford
Executive Legal Consultant	John Tate	John Tate
Executive Legal Consultant	Robert Tindal	Robert Tindal
Executive Legal Consultant	Patrick Wedge	Patrick Wedge
Executive Legal Consultant	Bronwyn Thompson	Peter McDonald
Executive Legal Consultant	Vacant	Gordon Walker
Crown Counsel	Robert Campbell	Robert Campbell

While some names have changed, this occurred after the redesignation as SES staff. For instance, the Consultant Crown Prosecutor Mr Townsley retired after his entry into the SES.

(5) The date was 24 September 1992.

### 175. Police Officers, Salary Allowance

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to his claim that about 90 per cent of the Police Service are engaged in operational roles and the CJC's conclusion that "at best 73 per cent of the service occupy such roles"—

- (1) Is his claim, rather than the CJC's view, correct?
- (2) If so, why?
- (3) When the Police Service and Police Union agreement on the payment of the 19 per cent of salary allowance in lieu of overtime penalty rates comes into effect, will only about 70 per cent of officers qualify and not the 90 per cent he claims have operational duties?

Answer:

(1) Both are correct on the basis of their respective definitions of "operational". The CJC estimate, in fact, refers to "direct service delivery".

(2) The Police Service adopted a definition of "operational" in December 1993 which includes officers performing duties in the State Crime Operations Command involving criminal investigation and intelligence gathering functions. The CJC definition does not include these officers.

The Police Service definition also includes police officers attached to the CJC; officers working in

specialist units such as the Water Police, the Special Emergency Response Team, the Public Safety Response Team, the Dog Squad, the Railway Squad and the Police Prosecution Corps; and First Year Constables. Again the CJC definition does not include these officers.

In addition, the CJC definition excludes all Commissioned Officers regardless of their role.

These differences in definition are acknowledged on page 93 of the CJC's report on the Implementation of Reform within the Queensland Police Service (August 1994).

(3) The 19% allowance is in lieu of afternoon and week-end shift penalties, not overtime. The actual number of officers who will receive the allowance will not be known until completion of the implementation phase of the Enterprise Agreement. However, it is not appropriate to regard "operational" police in the same sense as those who might be eligible to receive the 19% "operations shift allowance". The shift allowance will be applied to staff who are required to work a two or three shift roster over seven days a week. Not all "operational" police are required to work under such arrangements and so will not receive the new allowance.

They will, however, continue to be paid standard Award penalties whenever they work particular hours which would entitle them to such payment. Conversely, there are a number of non-operational



shift workers (e.g. Police Communications Centre) who may receive the allowance.

### 176. Special Needs Students

Mr FITZGERALD asked the Minister for Education—  
With reference to the implementation of the plan to integrate Special Needs Students into Primary and Secondary classes—

- (1) What criteria is used to determine what level of support is needed in the classroom so that no child is disadvantaged by this plan?
- (2) What has been done to provide the necessary support staff in the classroom?

Answer:

(1) Initially when a student presents as having an educational need at a level requiring intensive support an ascertainment process is undertaken to outline the child's educational and program requirements. This program may be delivered through clustered services such as special education units or special school or in the regular class with support from the visiting specialist. Support such as teacher aide time, no of times the visiting specialist attends, specialised equipment, facilities modifications, and transport is discussed at the placement meeting. The amount of resources provided depends on the educational needs of the student, location, parent preferences, availability of resources and should take into account the needs of other children within the class, school and other schools.

(2) Extensive support is available to support students with disabilities. This includes:

- support teachers;
- Advisory Visiting Teachers;
- Guidance Officers; and
- speech therapists.

In the 1994/94 budget \$4.4 million was allocated in special initiative funds which supported an additional 76 teacher positions and 1 440 hours per week of teacher aide time. As well \$1 million was allocated to extra teacher aide time from the departmental budget.

Regions regular review resource allocations and in this review process take into account the needs of all students.

### 177. Animal Health Services

Mr PERRETT asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

With reference to animal health services which are so vital to the viability of the State's livestock industries—

- (1) How many stock inspectors are currently employed by his department compared with the numbers at the same time in 1989 and 1992?
- (2) How many vets are currently employed by his department compared with the numbers at the same time in 1989 and 1992?

- (3) What is the total budget allocation for veterinary public health delivery in this year compared with 1989-90 and 1992-93?

Answer:

(1) There are currently 89 stock inspectors employed by the Department providing animal health services. There were 94 stock inspectors in 1992 and 146 in 1989.

(2) There are currently 41 veterinarians employed by the Department providing animal health services compared to 44 in 1992 and 61 in 1989.

Reductions in the numbers in (1) and (2) above have been due primarily to declining requirements in the National Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Eradication Campaign (BTEC). In addition, the Move Easy Stock Movement Authorisation System has resulted in substantial changes to work practices with the livestock industry acceptance of self-regulation through the filling-in and retention of waybills. Stock inspectors continue to provide an important audit role to ensure the integrity of this system which allows traceback of stock movements for disease control reasons.

(3) The expenditure on veterinary public health services for 1994/95 compared to 1992/93 and 1989/90 is:

	Expenditure \$
1994/95 (Estimated by QLMA from actual expenditure for eight months ended 28.2.95)	3,942,000
1992/93	
QDPI Meat Inspection Account	599,000
QLMA	3,360,000
TOTAL	3,959,000
1989/90	
QDPI Meat Inspection Account	3,416,000

Veterinary Public Health services are funded from income generated from slaughtering fees and, more latterly, accreditation fees.

The Veterinary Public Health Branch of the QDPI was transferred to the Livestock and Meat Authority of Queensland (now reconstituted as the Queensland Livestock and Meat Authority) on 8 August 1992.

### 178. Julia Creek State School

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to students at the Julia Creek State School who are forced to do French studies under the LOTE Program implemented by the Education Department and as these students receive only two periods of 30 minutes a week under the Telelearning Program which is supervised by a Teacher's Aide—

Can you give an assurance that this program will be upgraded so that the quality of the program and choice of languages is equal to that received by city students?

Answer:

- Negotiations were held with Julia Creek State School community in 1993 regarding students undertaking French supported by a teacher based at Cloncurry State School.
- Telelearning equipment has been installed at Cloncurry State School to support the program.
- Students in Years 6 and 7 at Gunpowder State School, Lorraine State School and Julia Creek State School receive two lessons of 40 minutes duration per week.
- The ratio of students to teachers is 17 to 1 for telelearning.
- At three-weekly intervals the French teacher from Cloncurry State School visits Julia Creek State School for face-to-face French lessons with a reduced student ratio of 6 to 1.
- On average, students receive more than 90 minutes per week for LOTE.
- To supplement the program additional resources and materials are provided to schools for follow up work with LOTE.

#### 179. Townsville Area, Electricity Supply

Mr STONEMAN asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

With reference to the parlous position of North Queensland in respect of security of electricity supply, both current and future, and more particularly the Townsville area—

- (1) What plans are in hand to provide a peak load capacity/facility for the region?
- (2) What plans are being made to ensure supply for commerce and industry in the event of major transmission line breakdown through cyclonic impact or other natural catastrophies?
- (3) To what stage has a proposal to locate a fuel fired turbine peak load facility in the Cluden area progressed?
- (4) If there is a planning schedule, what consultative interface is envisaged with the community?
- (5) What is the current supply demand on the regional authority in terms of base load and peak load?

Answer:

As announced on 19 April, the Government has decided that the 180MW Collinsville power station will be re-opened in 1998, after being closed by the National Party Government, of which you were a member. In addition, at least 110MW of 440MW of peaking plant to be installed in the period 2000-02 will be located at Townsville. These two developments will increase the generating capacity in North Queensland from 166MW to 456MW, with significant economic benefits from the deferral of new transmission works from Central Queensland and additional support for reliability of supply in the region.

The transmission system is designed so that full supply may be maintained with one major circuit out of service. All lines are designed to withstand severe weather conditions with specific reference to the area in which they are located. That is, the design of lines in north Queensland takes into account the potential for severe cyclonic winds.

As announced by the Premier on 19 April, at least an additional 110MW of peaking plant is to be located in the Townsville region. The Cluden site has been investigated and preliminary technical feasibility and environmental investigations have been completed.

A formal schedule for a Townsville development has not yet been developed. When a project is initiated, there will be a formal impact assessment process to which the community will be invited to contribute.

The demand supplied by NORQEB ranged from a minimum of 118MW to a maximum of 325MW over the period March 1994 to February 1995.

#### 180. Forest Service Staff, Gympie

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

With reference to the level of staff employed in the forestry districts in the Gympie area—

- (1) What is the current number of staff employed in (a) Gympie Forestry District and (b) Imbil Forestry District?
- (2) What were the staff numbers in these two districts in 1989?

Answer:

(1 & 2) Current number of staff at (a) Gympie Forestry District; (b) Imbil Forestry District—

(a) Gympie

Year	Salaried	Wages	Total
1989	62	124	186
1995	59	113	172

(b) Imbil

Year	Salaried	Wages	Total
1989	15	74	89
1995	20	117	137

#### 181. Bermuda Street, South Coast

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to the build up of traffic at the southern end of the Bundall Road-Bermuda Street link between Southport and Burleigh as a result of rapid residential and industrial development in the region and to increased congestion on the Burleigh connection road (Reedy Creek Road) particularly in respect of Marymount College—

When will Bermuda Street be completed through to the Pacific Highway via Burleigh Junction Industrial Estate to relieve traffic congestion where Bermuda Street ends at Reedy Creek Road?

Answer:

I have allocated funds in the later years of Queensland Transport's 5 year Roads Implementation Program towards extending the Southport Burleigh Road southwards to join with the Pacific Highway.

### 182. Fraser Island

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

With reference to Fraser Island—

- (1) How much money has been raised from camping and other fees charged to Fraser Island visitors over the last three years?
- (2) How has this money been spent?
- (3) What capital works programmes have been undertaken since the cessation of logging on the island?
- (4) What is the number, and the cost, of each ranger's residence on the island?
- (5) Is there a union required standard for rangers' residences; if so, what is that basic requirement?

Answer:

- |     |         |             |
|-----|---------|-------------|
| (1) | 1991/92 | \$1,480,333 |
|     | 1992/93 | \$1,475,080 |
|     | 1993/94 | \$1,572,448 |
- (2) Money is expended on recreation management of the Fraser Island Recreation Area. This includes:
    - payment of interest and redemption on a Treasury loan;
    - payment of the cost of management of the permit system;
    - payment of salaries and wages for recreation management support staff and on-Island Ranger staff;
    - operational costs of recreation management and recreation infrastructure maintenance;
    - operational costs of monitoring and enforcement under the RAM Act;
    - replacement of plant and equipment; and
    - capital works for recreation infrastructure and a contribution to management infrastructure in line with the need to provide support for recreation management.
  - (3) Capital works projects undertaken since the cessation of logging include:
    - a) Construction of temporary barrack accommodation at Dundubara and Eurong for additional staff employed under the Growth and Development Package.
    - b) Purchase of plant and equipment necessary for the implementation of

Growth and Development Package projects eg:

- waste management system—purchase of trucks, roll-on/roll-off equipment, compactor unit and bulk bins; and
  - road management equipment—tractors, truck, grader and pallet timber.
- c) Construction of a viewing platform at Lake Birrabeen.
  - d) Construction of two houses for married staff at Eurong.
  - e) Construction of replacement generator sheds at Eurong and Central Station necessary to meet Workplace Health and Safety standards and to allow re-development of the camping area at Central Station.
  - f) Construction of fuel bunding for fuel storage tanks at Waddy Point, Dundubara, Eurong and Central Station to meet WPH&S requirements.
- (4) Prior to the cessation of logging, no staff accommodation had been provided at State Forest stations by the Department of Environment and Heritage. The staff accommodation provided at that time is included below. No cost data is held by the Department of Environment and Heritage for these houses and barracks unless indicated.

#### Department of Primary Industries, Forest Service

Location	Accommodation type	No Structures	Yr Const
Ungowa	Two-bedroom house	2	1959
	Four-room barracks	1	1960
	Three-room visitor quarters	1	1960
Central Station	Three-room barracks	2	1960
	Three-bedroom house	1	1986
	Three-room barracks	1	1986/87
Eurong	Caravan and annex	1	1986/87
	Three-room barracks	1	1985
Lake Allom Poyungan	Three-room barracks	1	late 1960/ early 1970

#### Department of Environment and Heritage

Location	Accommodation type	No Structures	Yr Const
Dundubara	Two-bedroom house	2	1978
Waddy Point	Two-bedroom house	1	1986
	Barracks (Cost \$450,000)	1	1991/92
	Four rooms plus 3 visitors		

Upon cessation of logging, the Government acquired accommodation facilities provided by the logging contractor. Some of these are used periodically by staff when working in these areas. These include:

Ungowa	One-bedroom bungalow
Poyungan	3 cottages—1 x one-bedroom, 2 x two-bedroom, 1 temporary quarters—barracks
Puthoo North Camp	2 temporary quarters—five rooms in total



#### 184. Sir Leslie Wilson Youth Detention Centre

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs—

With reference to an incident on 28 February 1995 when an inmate of the Sir Leslie Wilson Centre was handcuffed and taken to the Royal Brisbane Hospital after being found convulsing as the result of a drug overdose of cocaine and heroin—

- (1) Did this youth have regular unsupervised visits from a female friend at the detention centre?
- (2) How did the illegal drugs enter the detention centre?
- (3) What steps have been taken to improve the supervision of access visits?

Answer:

In the incident referred to, the provisional diagnosis from the Royal Brisbane Hospital was of an acute psychotic episode. There was a query as to the possibility of this being drug induced but no firm conclusions were drawn. The resident denied taking any substance.

- (1) No.
- (2) There is no evidence that illegal drugs entered the centre.
- (3) Procedures have been revised in relation to supervision and security in the visiting area. Staff must approve visits before they occur. A staff member is required to observe all visits.

All visitors belongings' are locked in lockers for the duration of the visit.

#### 185. Free Bus Travel for Pre-school Children

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the establishment by the Education Department of excellent pre-school facilities throughout the State and as some pre-school children are unable to access free travel on school buses—

- (1) Will he give assurances that this anomaly will be rectified?
- (2) If not, what is the reason?

Answer:

The conveyance of students to and from school has always been a parental responsibility. Given the age of pre-school students, parents are expected to act as both transport provider and escort. Nevertheless, the government, taking into account some of the difficulties associated with transporting students to school has, for many years, provided limited assistance in certain circumstances.

Given the additional supervision required and the use of education programs which operate at times inconsistent with regular schooling, pre-school students are currently ineligible for assistance under school transport programs. In recognition of the additional access difficulties in rural areas, a concession was granted to this policy allowing pre-

school students to travel on kilometre-based contract services provided suitable arrangements could be made.

#### 186. Debits Tax

Mrs SHELDON asked the Treasurer—

With reference to the outcome of the recent meeting of Commissioners for State Revenue and to concerns of the business sector that there will be a selective reinterpretation of debits tax on direct credited payments to employee accounts, so that debits tax will apply per employee, instead of per payroll—

Can he confirm that in this State there will be no retrospective or other charges to the application of debits tax on direct credits under existing legislation or as part of new legislation, such as the overdue Revenues Bill?

Answer:

I assume that the question is based on a recent report in The Australian Financial Review that Victoria was allegedly changing its interpretation of a provision in the Debits Tax Administration Act which would result in that tax being payable in respect of each electronic funds transfer from a taxable account.

I can assure the Honourable Member that this Government is not considering any retrospective or other changes to the administration of debits tax on direct credits as a result of the issue raised by the Victorian Office of State Revenue. The two Bills currently being prepared by the Office of State Revenue do not deal with debits tax.

#### 187. Police Resources, Warwick Electorate

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

What were and are the numbers of operational Police officers and administrative personnel at (a) Allora, (b) Inglewood, (c) Texas, (d) Leyburn, (e) Yangan, (f) Killarney, (g) Warwick, (h) Stanthorpe and (i) Wallangarra Police Stations in 1989 and 1995 respectively?

Answer:

The following information is provided in respect of the abovementioned police stations:

	1989		1995	
	Operational	Administrative	Operational	Administrative
Allora	2	2		
Inglewood	3	1	3	1
Texas	3	1	2	1
Leyburn	1	1		
Yangan	1	1		
Killarney	2	2		
Warwick	33	3	38	5
Stanthorpe	8	2	8	2
Wallangarra	1	2	1	

Figures given for 1995 reflect the Queensland Police Service's Staffing Model, to be implemented in that year.

The Warwick District operational police and administrative support staffing levels have increased by 7% since 1989.

### 188. Sandalwood Export Industry

Mr PERRETT asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

With reference to the recent depressed prices and potential for market chaos in the sandalwood export industry—

- (1) What processes do the Queensland Forest Service have in place to account for the origin of sandalwood harvested in Queensland, particularly in identifying which wood is cut from Crown land, Crown leasehold and freehold land in Queensland?
- (2) Is he satisfied with the processes?
- (3) How many sandalwood operators have been audited to trace the sources of sandalwood that they have dealt in?
- (4) What checks are done on the *bona fides* of companies or individuals entering sandalwood tenders offered by the Queensland Forest Service?
- (5) Since the Treasury benefits from royalties paid for sandalwood cut on Crown land, what measures have been taken to protect markets and thus the future of the industry and the royalty stream?
- (6) How many Forest Service officers are involved in policing the cutting of sandalwood?
- (7) What process is followed when suspect loads of sandalwood are intercepted?
- (8) Why has the price paid per metric tonne for sandalwood decreased dramatically in 1995?

Answer:

(1) The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Forest Service has engaged a single contract harvester to harvest sandalwood from Crown land (including all Crown leasehold) in Queensland. All Crown land sandalwood is sold by the DPI Forest Service from a security yard in Richmond.

The *Forestry Act 1959* allows the DPI Forest Service to investigate suspected illegal harvesting of Crown land sandalwood and to prosecute where there is sufficient evidence.

The DPI Forest Service has no statutory authority in relation to sandalwood harvesting on freehold land in Queensland. However at the request of the Commonwealth Department of Primary Industries and Energy (DPIE), the DPI Forest Service inspects, wherever practicable, the freehold property nominated in an application for a License to Export. This inspection is to confirm that the sandalwood to be exported is sourced from the nominated freehold property.

(2) The total quantity and individual sources of all sandalwood exported from Queensland is monitored by the DPIE. Accordingly, through DPIE data, the DPI Forest Service has the ability to determine the quantity and source of freehold and Crown land sandalwood harvested in Queensland.

(3) Following the 1982 repeal of *Queensland Sandalwood Act 1934* and the subsequent recommencement of the sandalwood industry in

Queensland, there has been a number of suspected unauthorised operations involving the illegal harvesting of Crown land sandalwood.

These have been investigated under the *Forestry Act 1959* and/or the Criminal Code with 5 of these cases coming before the Court for prosecution or resulting in legal processes to recover State royalties.

(4) With regard to Australian Companies unknown to the DPI Forest Service, a company search will normally be done with the Australian Securities Commission to check their *bona fides*.

More importantly, no Crown land sandalwood is released to the successful purchaser until all the monies have been paid in full to the DPI Forest Service.

(5) The DPI Forest Service has a number of strategies in place to protect markets for sandalwood harvested from Crown land, the future of the sandalwood industry, and the royalty stream to the Queensland Government.

These include:

- Controlling the quantity and quality of Crown land sandalwood released to the market place at any time to avoid market saturation.
- Selling the harvested Crown land sandalwood at a market price via a tendering process to avoid a purchaser monopoly.
- Limiting the annual harvest of Crown land sandalwood to a conservative quantity to ensure a sustainable industry.
- Allocating part of the royalty from the sale of Crown land sandalwood to research into the propagation and growth of sandalwood.

(6) Two full-time DPI Forest Service officers, based in Hughenden, are involved in managing the harvesting of sandalwood on Crown land in Queensland.

Other Forest officers based in Central and South West Queensland assist where necessary in investigating suspected breaches of the *Forestry Act 1959* in regard to the possible illegal harvesting of sandalwood on Crown land.

(7) Forest Officers may make examinations and enquiries as may be necessary to ascertain whether the *Forestry Act 1959* is being breached by any person. At any time a Forest Officer may search and examine all containers, vehicles or other receptacles capable of holding forest products which includes sandalwood.

If the Forest Officer reasonably suspects sandalwood has been got or interfered with contrary to the Act, then the Forest Officer may seize the sandalwood. The person from whom the sandalwood has been seized may apply to the Court within 14 days of seizure for claim of ownership. The onus is on the person making the claim to establish ownership.

(8) The prices received by the DPI Forest Service for the sandalwood sold to date in 1995 have been satisfactory given the following combination of factors:

- Most of the sandalwood sold has come from Timber Management Permit areas on leasehold land in the Winton-Isisford region. The quality of most of this material was inferior to that normally sold from the Hughenden-Richmond basalt wall country. The Winton-Isisford sandalwood has a greater percentage of sapwood than that from the basalt soil country making it less valuable.
- There is normally a downturn in demand for sandalwood in the early part of each year following Chinese New Year celebrations.
- Recent uncertainty about the issuing by DPIE of Licenses to Export sandalwood, following the publicity arising from the Woodchip Export Licenses issue, may have worried some sandalwood purchasers.

### 189. Wivenhoe Dam

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

With reference to the listed storage capacity of the Wivenhoe Dam which is 1.15 million megalitres with an additional flood mitigation capacity of 1.45 million megalitres.

- (1) Has there been a decision to lift the water storage capacity of the dam following the decision to provide the Tarong Power Station with water?
- (2) If so, to what level?

Answer:

The Member for Beaudesert also asked me about Wivenhoe Dam and the flood protection it affords Brisbane during the recent debate on the Water Resources Amendment Bill. The following will serve to answer that question and the one on notice.

It is correct that the storage capacity of Wivenhoe Dam is 1.15 million megalitres and that the dam can temporarily store a much larger volume above the listed capacity for the purposes of flood mitigation.

The South East Queensland Water Board are the owners of Wivenhoe Dam. The legislation which established the Board requires that Wivenhoe Dam be operated in accordance with a manual of operational procedures for the purpose of flood mitigation. This manual requires Ministerial approval as does any amendment to the Manual.

The Manual defines a number of flood mitigation objectives including, as the most important, ensuring the structural safety of the dam.

To meet this objective, flood waters temporarily stored during one flood event must be discharged from the dam to bring the storage back to the 1.15 million megalitre level in order to avoid any risk associated with a second flood event occurring shortly after the first.

For this reason, and based on current assessments of the risks of flood inflows, it is not proposed by the Board, nor would it be likely that I would approve raising the storage capacity of Wivenhoe Dam.

In relation to the decision to provide supply to the Tarong Power Station from Wivenhoe Dam, I am advised that such use is unlikely to have any significant impact on supplies to urban consumers in South-East Queensland.

It is expected that the emergency pipeline to Tarong will only be used infrequently if, for example, droughts as severe as the current drought were to recur. The available supply from Wivenhoe Dam is at this time significantly in excess of the demand from the area served by Wivenhoe Dam. For example, the maximum annual demand on the Somerset, Wivenhoe, and Mt Crosby weir system to date has been approximately 230,000 megalitres compared with an available supply of nearly 390,000 megalitres.

In summary then, there is no need to raise the storage capacity of Wivenhoe Dam to meet emergency supply demands from Tarong Power Station nor would a raising be likely to be approved given the requirements of the approved flood operations manual.

### 190. Metalliferous Mines; Coalmines

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

- (1) How many (a) metalliferous and (b) coal mines are currently operating in Queensland?
- (2) How many (a) metalliferous and (b) coal mines have not paid the required rehabilitation security deposits?
- (3) How much money is currently held in trust by his department by way of security deposits for (a) metalliferous and (b) coal mines?
- (4) How much money is outstanding in relation to (a) metalliferous and (b) coal mines?

Answer:

There are (a) about 1000 metalliferous and (b) 33 coal mines currently operating in Queensland.

I understand all mines have met the legislative requirements for security deposits. However, the Department of Minerals and Energy is currently implementing revised security arrangements in line with the Government's Environmental Management Policy for Mining.

There is (a) \$34 042 679 held for metalliferous and (b) \$20 093 792 held for coal mines.

The Department has received from mine operators commitments for additional securities of (a) \$5 802 595 from metalliferous mines and (b) \$98 119 484 from coal mines which are now due for payment in line with the Government's Environmental Management Policy for Mining.

### 191. Great Sandy Region

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

With reference to the Great Sandy Region growth and development package—

- (1) How much of the State allocation of \$21.2m has been expended?
- (2) How were those funds dispersed?
- (3) How much of the original Commonwealth allocation of \$16.5m has been spent?
- (4) How were those funds dispersed?
- (5) How much of the further Commonwealth commitment of \$13.5m has been spent?
- (6) How were those funds dispersed?
- (7) As Budget papers reveal significant sums from the package, involving both State and Federal funds, have not been spent, will those funds be expended in an extension of the program or have those funds lapsed?

Answer:

- (1) The allocation of \$21.2 million has been spent.
- (2) This amount was spent on business compensation payments:
  - for the relinquishment of all mining leases on Fraser Island;
  - for the closure of the Orchid Beach Resort on Fraser Island; and
  - to twelve timber related business organisations affected by the decision to cease logging on Fraser Island.

Amounts paid to individual recipients were assessed by Price Waterhouse.

- (3) \$15.4 million from the initial Commonwealth Package contribution has been spent.
- (4) This has been spent on:

	\$
Worker's Special Adjustment Package and Assistance	3,000,000
Maryborough Heritage Projects	1,400,000
Road Upgradings—Fraser Island	800,000
Thinning of Pine Plantations Project	500,000
Park Employment Projects	8,200,000
Miscellaneous Employment Creation and Regional Business Promotion	1,500,000

- (5) The Agreement with the Commonwealth Government in relation to supplementary financial assistance provided additional funding of \$9 million not \$13.5 million.

Expenditure to date is \$4.9 million.

- (6) The allocation of \$9 million was provided by the Commonwealth specifically to allow the recipients of business compensation to be paid an additional ex gratia amount to compensate for taxation assessed on the initial amount of compensation paid by the State Government.

The expenditure of \$4.9 million has been for this purpose.

Amounts payable were assessed by and paid to the Australian Taxation Office following verification by Price Waterhouse.

Through careful assessment of taxation exposure of companies, \$3 million of this specifically allocated

amount was saved by the Goss Government and was re-directed by the Commonwealth to other Queensland projects.

- (7) Funds remaining in the Growth and Development Package will not lapse and will be spent within the Great Sandy Region within the six categories of assistance agreed to by the Commonwealth.

## 192. Mine Safety Inspectors; Coalmines

Mr GILMORE asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

- (1) What was the establishment of mines safety inspectors in Central Queensland in March 1985?
- (2) How many inspectors were employed at that time?
- (3) How many coal mines were serviced by the Central Queensland Inspectorate in 1985?
- (4) How much coal was extracted in 1985?
- (5) How many persons were employed in coal mines in the Central Queensland Inspectorate area in 1985?
- (6) What is the establishment of mines safety inspectors in Central Queensland in March 1995?
- (7) How many are currently employed?
- (8) How many coal mines are serviced by the Central Queensland Inspectorate in 1995?
- (9) How much coal was extracted in the 12 months to the end of March 1995 in coal mines serviced by the Central Queensland Inspectorate?
- (10) How many persons are employed in coal mines in the Central Queensland Inspectorate area in 1995?

Answer:

- (1) In March 1985 the funded establishment was 4 Inspectors and 1 Testing Officer in the Central Division (Rockhampton) and 3 Inspectors in the Northern Division (Mackay).
- (2) 4 Inspectors and 1 Testing Officer were employed in the Central Division and 3 Inspectors were employed in the Northern Division.
- (3) 8 Underground Mines and 18 Open-cut Mines were serviced by Central Queensland Inspectorate—4 Underground Mines and 9 Open-cut Mines for each Division.
- (4) 62,349,000 tonnes of coal was extracted in the Central and Northern Divisions in the 1984-85 financial year.
- (5) A total of 8,509 persons were employed as at June 1985.
- (6) The funded establishment of staff positions in March 1995 comprised 3 Inspectors and 1 Testing Officer in the Central Division and 4 Inspectors in the Northern Division.



(7) A total of 11 Inspectors, 2 Testing Officers and 1 Chief Inspector are currently employed in Queensland. This includes 3 Inspectors and 1 Testing Officer in the Central Division and 3 Inspectors in the Northern Division.

(8) 11 Underground Mines and 20 Open-cut Mines are currently being serviced by the Central Queensland Inspectorate—5 Underground Mines and 11 Open-cut Mines in the Central Division and 6 Underground Mines and 9 Open-cut Mines in the Northern Division.

(9) A total of 101,600,000 tonnes of coal was extracted between 1 February 1994 to 31 January 1995 in the mines serviced by the Central and Northern Division Inspectors. February and March 1995 figures are not yet available.

(10) In January 1995 a total of 9,199 persons were employed in the Queensland Inspectorate area of the Central and Northern Divisions.

### **193. Southport Broadwater Management Plan**

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

In view of the fact that (a) when the first draft Broadwater Management Plan was released I was assured that this first draft was initial and a new draft would be forwarded to me and then comment would be sought from many areas, (b) on the morning of 30 March you released what I am told is the definitive management plan that could not even be sourced yesterday by the Parliamentary Library—

(1) When will your secret management plan be available?

(2) Is it too late to invite comment from local people?

Answer:

The Member for Broadwater can be assured that commitments made in respect of the initial draft management plan for the Southport Broadwater have indeed been honoured.

The initial draft was released seeking comment and input from local government authorities and from maritime related industries.

The latest draft has been released for public consultation and comment and was put on display in four centres in the Gold Coast area on Thursday 30 March 1995 immediately after I made that announcement.

This draft will remain on display until 28 April 1995 and can be seen at: the offices of the Gold Coast City Council at Evandale and Nerang, and the Marine Operations Base on Seaworld Drive, and the Queensland Transport office in Wardoo Street.

Copies of the draft management plan were mailed to key people, including the Member for Broadwater, and the Parliamentary Library on Friday 31 March 1995.

There is no secrecy about the draft plan, it is on public display.

It is not too late for local people to comment, it is on display so that people can see it and comment is invited.

The draft plan will be revised where necessary to reflect comments received from the public so that the final document presents a well balanced and acceptable arrangement to further maintain marine safety in the area.

### **194. Police Resources, Clayfield Electorate**

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

Will he provide the following information in relation to the Clayfield Electorate and the Northern Brisbane Police Region: (a) the detailed crime statistics for the years 1989-90, 1990-91, 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94, (b) the clear up rate for the abovementioned years, (c) the number of police officers and support personnel allocated and actually on duty at the Clayfield electorate police stations and subsequently at the Clayfield police cluster headquarters in Boondall, (d) the details of any Government plans in relation to the sale of existing police stations in the Clayfield electorate and (e) the details of any Government plans to relocate the headquarters of the Clayfield police cluster from its current site in Boondall to another location, including the options being looked at?

Answer:

As official crime statistics are not able to be generated on an electorate basis, it is not possible to provide any crime statistics specific to the Clayfield electorate. However, as the electorate comes within the North Brisbane Police District and the Metro North Police Region, the annually published statistics for those areas provide the best means of looking at reported crime for the area taking in the Clayfield electorate. These figures have more recently been included in separate Police Service Statistical Reviews and previously have appeared in the Queensland Police Service Annual Reports. Such figures also include clear-up rates as well as expressing reported crime in raw numbers and rates so that population variations can be taken into account.

The staff composition within the whole Clayfield Police Division is made up of 60 general duties officers, 14 CIB officers, six JAB officers, six Traffic Branch officers and six Inquiries staff. These members are complemented by seven support personnel who are employed on a full time basis and one additional member who is a part time employee. Clayfield, Hamilton and Windsor stations are staffed by a police officer from the Clayfield Division Headquarters from Monday to Friday 9am-5pm. Scenes of Crime personnel are presently moving into Clayfield Station which will become one of the Regional Scenes of Crime Offices. In addition to the above, two police officers perform duties at the Toombul Police Shopfront.

There are no immediate plans for the sale of existing police facilities in the Clayfield electorate. As part of normal forward planning, there is a view within the Metro North Police Region that the Clayfield Police Division is one of four divisions within that region that would benefit from an all purpose building to accommodate all segments of the division. This would have to be viewed in the context of capital works priorities service-wide.

### 195. Release of Prisoners

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to each prisoner released from the Queensland prison system in 1994 and 1995, will he detail (a) the length of the sentence, (b) the crime for which each prisoner was convicted, (c) the length of sentence undertaken in prison, (d) when eligible for parole, (e) when released on parole, (f) when released on home detention, work release or some other day leave or weekend leave program, (g) whether the offender was imprisoned previously, (h) if so, the period between incarcerations and (i) how many occasions previously the offender had been imprisoned?

Answer:

The number of prisoners released from secure custody in the period between 1 January 1994 and 5 April 1995 is 4 226. To provide the numerous details requested about each of these people would place excess strain on the resources of the QCSC. If the member has any concerns about a particular offender, I shall answer him directly.

### 196. Shaping the Future

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the advertising and information distribution program conducted by the Education Department with respect to the "Shaping the Future" policy—

- (1) How much was spent on (a) television and radio advertising and (b) producing each of the various public documents released?
- (2) How many copies of the pamphlets—"Shaping the Future—Queensland Curriculum Review—Information for Parents" were produced?
- (3) How many of these pamphlets were distributed to (a) each region and (b) each school within a region?
- (4) How many of these pamphlets remained uncollected at each region and at each school as of 31 March 1995?

Answer:

(1) The initial information package distributed late last year subsequent to the Government's announcement of the *Shaping the Future* initiatives included 13 500 copies of a 12 page booklet and 2000 sets of information sheets. The total cost was \$22167.82.

The public awareness campaign in February involved the production and transmission of a 45 second television commercial supported by a parent

information brochure available from local schools. The costs were:

TV commercial production	\$47 973.12
TV transmission	\$150 278.55
Brochure	\$44 228.05

(2) A total of 300 000 brochures was produced.

(3) Brochures were distributed as follows:

State schools—1 for every 2 students—203 300

Non-state schools—1 for every 3 students—52 200

School support centres—300 each—14 400

Regional offices—500/300/100 according to size—4 400

QCPCA—100

Reserve supply—25 600

(4) As at 31 March some 2000 copies of the brochure remain uncollected at regional offices and the reserve supply stands at 1950.

Brochures were distributed to schools so that each received approximately half that of the student enrolment. The TV commercial ended with the invitation to those that wanted further information to contact their local school for a copy of the brochure. Some schools in fact distributed all the brochures to classes particularly involved with *Shaping the Future* initiatives this year. Many such schools requested more brochures from regional offices and from central office here in Brisbane. Brochures were distributed to all state and non-state schools a total of almost 2000 school sites. It would be a very time consuming task to ascertain the number of brochures that remain uncollected at this time.

### 197. School Improvement Assistance Scheme

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to changes made by his Department to the SISS scheme, which has now become the School Improvement Assistance Scheme for major works improvement for schools—

- (1) Why, when school Parents and Citizens Associations were informed that they must have their applications in for major works by 30 April each year for funding in the following financial year, were no applications considered for the 1995-96 year?
- (2) Why are applications which are lodged by April 1995 being pushed forward to 1996-97?
- (3) Why were schools, like the Caloundra State Primary School, not officially notified of a change in the scheme which meant that they were no longer able to gain funding for the 1995-96 financial year?
- (4) Why was the only notification given to the Parents and Citizens Associations a small advertisement in the Noticeboard section of the Education Views magazine?
- (5) Why have the funding provisions under the School Improvement Assistance Scheme

been changed so that schools now can only apply for dollar-for-dollar subsidies for projects over \$40 000 leaving many schools who have current applications for funding ineligible?

Answer:

(1) The major projects component of the SIAS caters for projects such as swimming pools, assembly halls and activities buildings. There is a significant planning and fundraising time period associated with these projects. A three year planning cycle is a reasonable expectation. Subsidies allocated for major projects under both the new SIAS and SISS will be expended a considerable time after initial approval.

All projects approved under SISS will be honoured. The majority of expenditure on 'major projects' in 1995-96 will relate to projects approved under the old scheme.

Under the new scheme, as was the case previously, there is some flexibility to move funding for projects forward or back as required by school communities (e.g. communities often fall behind in their fundraising and advise that the project will be delayed).

(2) Major projects require forward planning as indicated above.

(3) Caloundra State School, like all other schools, will receive a direct grant in 1995-96 (estimated to be \$3 728). The 1994-95 payment will be \$1 263 as the school has already received \$ 2465 this financial year.

The president of the Caloundra State School Parents and Citizens Association received written advice of the changes in a letter written by the previous Minister of Education (letter dated 22 November 1994, copy attached). School principals were advised of the changes through regions. Further advice has been provided to schools in 1995.

(4) The notice in the Noticeboard section of Education Views was additional to the direct letter to parents and citizens associations.

(5) All projects approved for subsidy under the previous scheme will be honoured.

The direct grant (\$1 000 per school, \$3.80 per student), provided annually, is to assist with smaller projects.

### 198. Mr W. Cass

Mr J. N. GOSS asked the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Rural Communities—

With reference to the dismissal by legislation of Mr W Cass from the Queensland Building Services Authority—

(1) Why was a termination payment not made to Mr Cass based on the same criteria as that applying to Mr Rod Richards who received \$350 000 after approximately 8 months employment?

(2) Why did he inform the Parliament that Mr Cass had not been sacked when the General Manager of QBSA told the Arbitration Commission that Mr Cass was "terminated by an Act of Parliament"?

(3) Is it correct that the Arbitration Commissioner's decision was that the Commission had no authority to consider the matter as Parliament had determined Mr Cass's dismissal?

(4) Why did he advise the Parliament that Mr Cass' job was redundant when the legislation said the "person goes out of office" not the position is redundant, yet Mr Cass continued to work in this position and the position has now been filled by another person?

Answer:

(1) Mr Cass received the termination payment to which he was entitled under the terms of his employment with the Queensland Building Services Authority (QBSA). The payment made to Mr Cass was in accordance with the approved benefits set out in the Public Sector Management Standard for Staffing Options to Manage Organisational Change in the Queensland Public Sector (the "Standard").

(2) Following a review of the QBSA by Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu the position of Director, Home Building Advisory Service was abolished by amendments to the *Queensland Building Services Authority Act 1991*. The Authority believed that the fairest approach was to treat Mr Cass as an employee displaced through organisational change.

Accordingly, the Standard was applied as it defines the appropriate process and compensation packages for such cases. Mr Cass was offered the full range of options available under the Standard. However he rejected all the Authority's attempts to resolve this matter and as a result was retrenched with appropriate compensation.

(3) Yes. Commissioner Swan agreed with the arguments presented by the QBSA, however she said that her determination did not solely relate to a consideration of the abolition by Parliament of the position held by Mr Cass.

(4) Mr Cass was employed in an acting capacity in the QBSA whilst the options under the Standard continued to be explored. During that time, Mr Cass was afforded the opportunity to apply for the position of Manager, Home Building Advice Division and following a merit selection process, another candidate was considered to be the most meritorious applicant and was duly appointed.

### 199. Noosa River Management Plan

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Lands—

Will he give consideration to involving the Noosa River Alliance Group in the drafting of the terms of reference for the Noosa River Management Plan?

Answer:

The Department of Environment and Heritage, Noosa Shire Council and my Department of Lands have all committed funds to employ a Consultant to

prepare a plan for the sustainable management of the Noosa River study area which will facilitate

- . the healthy state of the Noosa River
- . commercial operations
- . community use

The terms of reference for the report are being framed by those groups and the fourth member of the Planning Study Group, being the Fisheries Branch of the Department of Primary Industries.

The recently formed Noosa River Alliance has formally advised me of specific issues it believes should be incorporated in the terms of reference of the Consultant's Report. I have passed that request on to the Planning Study Group for consideration.

However, I am not prepared to have the Alliance formally join with the Planning study Group in setting the terms of reference. To do so would be to elevate the status of that group above the many other groups who also have a legitimate and worthwhile contribution to make to the Study.

All interest groups will be given equal and ample opportunity to contribute to the study once the terms of reference are set and a Consultant engaged.

## 200. Primary Industries Department, Gympie

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

With reference to the staffing level of the Department of Primary Industries office at Gympie—

- (1) What is the current number of staff attached to the Department of Primary Industries office at Gympie?
- (2) What were the figures as at 30 June 1989?

Answer:

1. Current number of staff at Gympie:

Salaried	90
Wages	34
TOTAL	124

2. Number of staff at Gympie as at 30 June 1989:

Salaried	94
Wages	42
TOTAL	136

## 201. Electricity Consumption

Mr FITZGERALD asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

With reference to the Government's decision to lower electricity tariffs and in view of the fact that electricity consumption is price sensitive—

- (1) What is the expected average energy sold per customer (kwh) in 1998 for (a) domestic, (b) commercial and (c) industrial electricity?
- (2) What is the expected (a) Standard weather (winter) maximum electricity demand for 1998

and (b) Standard weather (summer) maximum demand for 1998?

Answer:

The expected average energy sold per customer in the financial year ended at 30 June 1998 is— for the domestic sector 6,290kWh; and for the commercial and industrial sector 93,992kWh

Water heating is included in the domestic energy sales. For the commercial and industrial market, energy sold includes supply to Queensland Alumina Ltd (QAL) and Pacific Power but excludes consumption by Boyne Smelters Ltd (BSL).

- (a) the expected standard weather (winter) maximum electricity demand for 1998 is 5,900MW.
- (b) the expected standard weather (summer) maximum electricity demand for the financial year 1997/98 is 5,540MW.

The standard weather maximum electricity demand is the total generation on the Queensland Interconnected System at the time of peak demand under normal weather conditions for the season. BSL's electricity demand is included in the demand figures quoted.

## 202. Local Government Amalgamations; Local Government Commissioner

Mrs McCAULEY asked the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Rural Communities—

- (1) What local government areas of Queensland does he intend to refer to the Local Government Commissioner for investigation when his present references are complete, most of which will apparently be done by the end of 1995?
- (2) Does he envisage further possible amalgamations; if not, what activities will the Local Government Commissioner be occupied with until his term expires?

Answer:

(1) I expect to issue a number of minor references within the next month in response to requests received for external boundary alterations. These references will only be issued where each Local Government involved in the review supports the boundary alteration.

(2) The Local Government Commissioner holds two references which would permit him to make a recommendation for the amalgamation of Councils. These references flow from the Report of the Parliamentary Committee for Electoral and Administrative Review (PCEAR) and relate to-

- (a) the area of the Shire of Clifton and the area of the Shire of Cambooya; and
- (b) Fraser Island and the Great Sandy Region which includes the areas of the Cities of Maryborough and Hervey Bay and the Shires of Noosa and Cooloola.

Another 3 references involving boundary alterations that came out of the PCEAR process have also been made to the Commissioner. As well, the Commissioner holds a reference to review the composition of the Flinders Shire Council.

### 203. Bamaga Hospital

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Health—

Will he advise if the single accommodation duplexes built at Bamaga Hospital for Nursing Staff are now to be used on a shared or single basis?

Answer:

An Interim Report and a draft Final Report of the Ministerial Task Force on Remote Area Nursing which I am about to consider, has recommended that new and replacement accommodation for nurses in remote areas be "a minimum of two bedroom, self-contained accommodation with a proportion of three bedroom houses suitable to accommodate nurses with families". The report does not propose any specific entitlement of individual nurses and the draft standard allows for "changing room configurations depending on individual staff and Regional Health Authority needs". A separate recommendation also proposes that Regional Health Authorities allocate housing on the basis of need rather than status of staff.

In May 1993, the Government approved, as part of the Remote Area Accommodation component of the Capital Works Program, the provision of accommodation for nursing staff at Bamaga. The Functional Plan and Economic Evaluation for Remote Area Accommodation in Cape York Peninsula and Torres Strait identified the need for six units of accommodation for six registered nurses at Bamaga. This translated to two houses (2 units) and two duplexes (4 units), as detailed in the Project Definition Plan. The six units of accommodation currently under construction and nearing completion, were designed in accordance with the draft standard recommended by the Ministerial Task Force on Remote Area Nursing, with each unit satisfying the minimum two bedroom requirement. Additionally, Government approval was granted for the existing nurses quarters at Bamaga to be refurbished in order to provide accommodation for visiting health staff to the area.

Any additional health services planned for the Bamaga area, which have housing requirement implications, should be resolved through application for additional housing to the Government Employee Housing Scheme, prior to the commencement of the recruitment process.

### 204. Moranbah State High School

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the welding facilities at the Moranbah High School which are inadequate to accommodate the number of students participating in these vocational classes.

Will he give an undertaking to look at the possibility to increase or extend the area required to carry out welding classes at the school?

Answer:

Planning for the 1995-96 financial year Major Capital Works Program is underway. It commenced in August 1994 when all schools in Capricornia Region were surveyed to determine their needs. Moranbah State High School identified as its highest priority a new construction court.

Priorities for major capital works in Capricornia Region of the Department of Education covering some 174 schools were allocated as a result of consultation with each school support centre coordinator and the School Support Centre Advisory Council Standing Committee on Resources and Administration.

I am advised that a new construction court for Moranbah State High School has been given a reasonably high regional priority.

The level of funding provided will determine what projects on the priority list will be undertaken during 1995-96. Works are undertaken in priority order with the most needy projects provided first. This priority order is constantly under review because of sudden changes in population or urgent needs arising from unforeseen circumstances such as fires.

The situation at Moranbah State High School will be kept under review by officers of the department. These officers are however working within strict budget limits and must ensure that funds are distributed fairly and for the most effective results.

### 205. Sunshine Coast Health Services

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health—

Given that waiting lists for physiotherapy appointments for the public, excluding people who have been inpatients of Nambour Hospital or the fracture clinic, are conservatively 12 months long while at Royal Brisbane the wait-time for chronic physiotherapy cases is five to six weeks and for acute cases, two to three weeks—

What action is the Government going to take to ensure equity of access to health services, particularly for physiotherapy patients, on the Sunshine Coast?

Answer:

The Queensland Government's commitment to the principles of access and equity has seen the budget of the Nambour Hospital grow from approximately \$23m in 1988-89 to about \$45m in the current financial year.

Urgent physiotherapy outpatient referrals are seen within two to four weeks at the Nambour Hospital, which is similar to the waiting period at the Royal Brisbane Hospital. Consideration will be given to the need for additional physiotherapy services at the Nambour Hospital on receipt of increases in funding made under the Resource Allocation Formula for 1995-96.

### 206. Parking Area Redevelopment at Mourilyan Harbour

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to a prediction that the sugar shipment out of Mourilyan Harbour will increase more than 50% by the year 2018 —

If the proposal to redevelop the boat ramp/car parking area at Mourilyan Harbour as an additional sugar storage shed does not proceed, where will the storage shed be constructed?

Answer:

As I have assured the Member for Hinchinbrook, this government and the Ports Corporation of Queensland (PCQ) are committed to responsible port planning and this is evidenced in the draft Mourilyan Port Plan presently undergoing public consultation.

A section of this port plan is devoted to a commodity analysis which forecasts a 2.5% per annum increase in sugar exports.

The timing, volume and location of any related increase in sugar storage will be a matter for the sugar industry to determine and the Ports Corporation will respond to the industry by attempting to accommodate any request for additional sugar storage at the port.

Rather than increase storage of raw sugar at the port it is feasible that the industry may decide that some storage could occur at the mills and I am certain such an option would be investigated fully by the sugar industry.

It is pre-empting the current port planning process to determine with certainty where any additional sugar storage would be located. However, two options which may be available are:

- extending the existing shed to the west,
- or, construction of a new shed behind the boat ramp car park.

The Ports Corporation has given an undertaking that the current level of public boating facilities will remain within the harbour. In the event that the existing facilities need to be relocated, new public facilities would be made available prior to any closure of existing facilities.

### 207. Numbering of Highway Exits

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to the confusion suffered by interstate visitors as to which highway exit they should take to reach a particular destination, as highway exit signs are not (and cannot be) comprehensively labelled—

- (1) Will he give consideration to numbering exits (as happens in the United Kingdom and other European countries) in order to make travel on

our highways easier to manage for those unfamiliar with a particular region?

- (2) Will he give consideration to the Pacific Highway between the New South Wales Border and Brisbane for a pilot program for the numbering of highway exits?

Answer:

Advance Exit Signs and Exit Direction Signs on Highways are designed in accordance with the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (Qld).

The use of exit numbers was trialled on the first sections of the South East Freeway but it was found to be superfluous and the practice was dropped and the numbers removed.

The use of focal point destinations together with route numbers on exit signage gives positive information to motorists and can be correlated to information supplied on maps to enable motorists to negotiate the road network.

A further trial of Exit Numbers is not considered appropriate as it may cause confusion with the existing route numbering system used by Queensland Transport.

### 208. Bus Travel by Mature Age Students

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) Is it correct that adult students are not eligible for concessional student travel on school buses?
- (2) If so; (a) what is the reason and (b) will he remedy this anomaly?

Answer:

The primary intent of school transport assistance is to assist parents with the cost of transporting their dependent children to the nearest state school with the required year level should they live some distance from that school or their incomes qualify them for safety-net assistance.

The maintenance of existing school transport schemes is a major cost item for the government with a current operating budget of \$88m for the 1994-95 financial year. As a result it has always been necessary to focus limited resources on school-age students, particularly those in the compulsory years of schooling. Given this focus, it is considered that assistance for adult students falls outside the scope of current programs and does not constitute an anomaly.

Current eligibility guidelines for school transport assistance state:

The student must not have attained the age of 19 years at the time of application. A student 19 years or older may be eligible for assistance provided they are progressing directly from full-time study in Year 10.

This policy is consistent with that which applies to the Textbook and Resource Allowance.

### 209. Appointments to Magistrates Court Branch, Toowoomba

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General—

With reference to the fact that there has been no full time Registrar and Area Manager attached to the Magistrates Courts Branch, Courts Division, Toowoomba, for almost twelve months, and that the gazetted appointment on the 17 March of Mr Roger Stark's date of appointment to the position as being "date of duty",

When will Mr Stark take up the position and what action is being taken to fill two other Clerk (Administration) positions in Toowoomba that have been vacant for several months?

Answer:

Mr Stark was to have taken up duty on 26 April, 1995; but an appeal has been lodged against his appointment and he will not now take up duty until the appeal is determined.

A Selection Panel has been constituted under the Chair of Mr Stark, and the approved selection process will be followed in making appointments to the two vacant positions of Clerk (Administration) as soon as possible.

### 210. Queensland Industry Development Corporation

Mr QUINN asked the Treasurer—

With reference to the Queensland Industry Development Corporation—

Will he provide details of (a) the number of foreclosures of rural properties by the QIDC in the financial years 1990-91, 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 to date, (b) the number of rural properties under review by the QIDC's new customer risk classification system for possible foreclosure and (c) the number of foreclosures currently being disputed through the court system?

Answer:

One of the objectives of corporatisation of the Queensland Industry Development Corporation (QIDC) was to introduce competitive neutrality, whereby QIDC would be at neither an advantage or a disadvantage relative to other financiers. It is considered that since other financial institutions are not required to place on the public record the number of properties under review for possible foreclosure then neither should QIDC.

As parts (a) and (c) of the question relate to matters of history and fact, information can be provided. However in relation to part (b) only general information on the operations of QIDC can be provided.

- (a) QIDC advises that the number of foreclosures of rural properties by the QIDC were five in 1990-91, eight in 1991-92, eight in 1992-93, nine in 1993-94 and five in 1994-95.
- (b) A recent survey of rural debt in Queensland indicated that 6% of farm businesses are either in danger of becoming non-viable, or are

considered non-viable. QIDC advises that the proportion of QIDC borrowers that are in these categories is less than the state-wide situation as indicated by the survey.

- (c) QIDC advises that there are no foreclosures currently being disputed through the court system.

### 211. Family Court of Australia, Family Reports

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs—

With reference to the Department of Family Services' working relationship with the Family Law Court, whereby an officer prepares a family report for consideration by the Family Law Court during its deliberations.

- (1) Is she aware that these family reports are often pivotal in the decision making process?
- (2) Are these reports checked to ensure they are an accurate assessment of the family members concerned?
- (3) Will she detail the checks made to ensure these family reports are fair and accurate?

Answer:

(1) Mr Littleproud seems to be referring to reports concerning the welfare of children involved in custody, access or guardianship disputes for the Family Court of Australia, often called "Family Reports", which are ordered by Judges of the Family Court of Australia pursuant to Section 62A of the *Family Law Act 1975*. These reports are prepared by staff from the Court Counselling Section of the Family Court of Australia. Staff from the Department of Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs are not involved in either the counselling sessions with family members nor the preparation of the report. Family Reports form part of the evidence before the court at a hearing, and outline the options which are in the best interests of the child and contain important information concerning assessments of family functioning, the relationships of both parents with the child, as well as other considerations relevant to the welfare of the child.

Any questions concerning Family Reports should be directed to the Commonwealth Attorney-General.

The Department of Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs is sometimes requested to intervene in a custody or access dispute before the Family Court of Australia, in cases where there are allegations of child abuse and/or neglect, by an order pursuant to Section 91B of the *Family Law Act 1975*. In 1994 a protocol was developed to facilitate contact between officers of the Department and the Family Court of Australia. Section 91B Reports contain a summarised factual history of previous departmental involvement with family members including details of any investigations of allegations of child abuse and neglect. The 91B Reports do not contain assessments of family members as such and could not therefore, be

assumed to always be "pivotal in the decision making process" of the court in its deliberations about custody, access and guardianship.

(2) Section 91B Reports are accurate accounts of departmental involvement.

(3) Departmental officers consult closely with the child's Separate Legal Representative when preparing a Section 91B Report to ensure that the report is accurate and relevant to the issues in the Family Court proceedings. Officers preparing Section 91B Reports are supervised by their line managers. There is a further check on the accuracy of Section 91B Reports because the authors of these reports may be cross-examined in the hearing before the Family Court and the departmental records may also be subpoenaed by the parties.

## 212. Yeppoon Community Health Centre

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the need for extra staff at the Community Health Centre at Yeppoon and as there is sometimes a three month wait for counselling at the centre—

What action will be taken to alleviate this situation?

Answer:

The new Yeppoon Community Health Services Centre is a tangible result of this Government's capital works program. The Centre provides a comprehensive range of health care services, including counselling services, to the population of the Capricorn Coast. Demand for the services available at the Centre has increased with the reduction of services provided by Centacare—a Catholic organisation providing family counselling services.

The Yeppoon Community Health Services Centre currently has no waiting list for urgent community health services and non-urgent cases being seen within two weeks.

## 213. Cecil Plains State School; Clifton State School

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the old School Improvement Subsidy Scheme which his Government has abolished in favour of the School Assistance Scheme—

Will the Minister give an assurance that both Cecil Plains and Clifton State Schools, who have been adversely affected by the change of policy, will receive necessary funding to assist with (a) the resurfacing of the Cecil Plains School tennis courts and (b) a shade area for Clifton State School?

Answer:

(1) Cecil Plains State School

No record is held of any claim for assistance for resurfacing the tennis courts. The school will be in receipt of an annual direct grant of approximately \$1 664 per annum from 1995-96. In 1994-95 there

will be no direct grant payment as the school has already received payment of \$2 792.35 in 1994-95 toward two garden sheds and playground equipment under SISS.

The table below provides a recent history of subsidy payments for Cecil Plains State School.

Table 1: Subsidy claims—Cecil Plains State School

Year	Description	Amount Paid	Total
1994-95	Garden shed	\$811.35	
	Garden shed	\$833.50	
	Playground equipment	\$1 147.50	\$2 792.35
1993-94	Freezer	\$200.00	\$200.00
1992-93	Hose for irrigation	\$300.00	
	Ground improvement	\$400.31	\$700.31
1991-92	Nil		Nil
1990-91	Ground improvements	\$690.00	\$690.00
1989-90*	Pie warmer	\$205.00	
	Fertiliser	\$67.87	\$272.87

\* Excludes ride-on mower claim. Ride-on mowers are now provided by the Department.

Cecil Plains will receive an annual direct grant of \$1 664. In the period 1989-90 to 1994-95 the school has only once claimed in excess of this amount.

Cecil Plains SS is eligible to apply for assistance for major projects within the approved guidelines (i.e. no special consideration). For smaller projects, such as the resurfacing of tennis courts, direct grant funds should be used.

(2) Clifton State School

The school did seek subsidy on a shade area project (total cost \$9 600) on 17 November 1994. Under SISS, the subsidy payment on this project would have been \$4 800. Applications dated later than 14 November 1994 were returned to schools. The SISS was under review from 1993 and schools were anticipating a change. It was essential to have a cut-off date and the Clifton SS just missed that date.

Clifton State School will be in receipt of an annual grant of approximately \$1 724 from 1995-96. In 1994-95 the direct grant will be \$1 459 as the school was paid \$265 for a garden shed in December 1994 under the SISS. The table below provides a recent history of claims for Clifton State School.

Table 2: Subsidy claims—Clifton State School

Year	Description	Amount Paid	Total
1994-95	Garden shed	\$265.00	\$265.00
1993-94	Multipurpose court	\$14 179.50	\$14 179.50
1992-93	*Landscaping	\$2 090.00	
	Ground improvements	\$2 648.00	\$4 738.00
1991-92	Cricket pitch and nets	\$1 117.75	\$1 117.75
1990-91	Microwave oven	\$144.50	
	Trimmer	\$186.18	
	Tuckshop claim	\$162.50	\$483.18
1989-90	*Resurfacing tennis court	\$675.00	
	Urn	\$47.42	\$722.42



\* Mowers excluded as they are now provided at full Government expense.

In both 1993-94 and 1992-93, Clifton State School claimed in excess of their direct grant payment.

#### 214. Police Resources, Gold Coast

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

What plans does the Government have to increase police resources on the Gold Coast in order to (a) provide more police on the beat, (b) provide more vehicles for patrol work and (c) decrease the response time to investigate reported crime?

Answer:

A number of initiatives have been implemented to provide more police on the beat on the Gold Coast. These have included the establishment of a Police Shopfront at Australia Fair on 26 September 1994, staffed by an additional two police officers and an additional administrative officer with resources allocated to allow four Saturday shifts and two Sunday shifts per week, as well as a supplement of overtime units. A Police Post was also established in Cavill Mall in November 1994. This Post was staffed with two additional police officers and an additional administrative officer, with resources allocated to allow three Saturday shifts and three Sunday shifts per week, as well as a supplement of eight hours per week overtime.

Temporary Shopfronts are currently operating at Pacific Fair, Broadbeach, The Pines, Elanora and Palm Beach. These Shopfronts operate during peak holiday and business periods.

While there are no immediate plans for an increase in police vehicles in the Gold Coast Police District, local senior officers believe a more effective rostering system, resulting from the pending implementation of the Police Service's Enterprise Bargaining Agreement, will result in a more efficient use of vehicles already in the area (since sufficient officers will be available to operate as many vehicles as possible at all times).

The reliability of the existing police vehicle fleet has also been enhanced through the use of lower speedometer changeovers.

A number of initiatives have been set in place to decrease response times in the investigation of reported crimes. These include the introduction of an Information Management System (IMS) in October 1994 at the Police Communications Centre, Broadbeach, which has resulted in the improved coordination of tasking, with a subsequent improvement in response timings to calls for assistance. Additionally, the introduction of the Crime Reporting Information System for Police (CRISP) in March 1994 has served to decrease response times to investigate reported crime. Police using this system can telephone in information from a complainant's location and skilled data entry staff can enter it onto the computer system. This means that information is available immediately to investigating police. The system is further improved when initial police investigations are tasked within

24 hours and sufficient staff resources are allocated to allow follow up action to occur within the shortest possible time.

It should also be remembered in the context of any questioning of police presence on the Gold Coast that under the Goss Labor Government, police numbers in the Gold Coast Police District have increased at almost four times the rate of population growth in that district.

There will also be a greatly enhanced street presence delivered soon via the introduction of the enterprise bargaining agreement placing more police out during peak crime periods.

#### 215. School Guidance Officers, Mooloolah Electorate

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Education—

How many hours per week are Guidance Officers assigned to the following schools in my electorate: (a) Buddina State School, (b) Mountain Creek State School, (c) Buderim State School, (d) Mooloolaba State School, (e) Mooloolah State School, (f) Glenview State School, (g) Chevallum State School and (h) Mountain Creek High School?

Answer:

1. Guidance officers are allocated to schools in the Mooloolah electorate on the basis of days rather than hours.

2. School allocations are as follows:

SCHOOL ALLOCATION	GUIDANCE OFFICER
Buddina SS	2.5 days per week
Mountain Creek SS	1 day per week
Buderim Mountains SS	1 day per week
Mooloolaba SS	2 days per week
Mooloolah SS	.5 day per week
Glenview SS	.5 day per week
Chevallum SS	.5 day per week
Mountain Creek SHS	2.5 days per week

3. A school day is equivalent to approximately 6 hours.

#### 216. Anzac Day Betting

Mr TURNER asked the Premier and Minister for Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to the year of remembrance which marks 50 years since World War II ended—

- (1) Will returned soldiers face fines and charges if they are caught playing Two-up on Anzac Day?
- (2) Will the Government give consideration to making it legal for Two-up to be played on Anzac Days?

Answer:

(1) No. Playing Two-up in places other than licensed casinos is currently an offence under the Vagrants, Gaming and Other Offences Act 1886. However, members of the Police Service traditionally have

exercised their discretion in relation to the offence of playing Two-up on Anzac Day. I would anticipate that the police will continue to exercise that discretion during the forthcoming 50th anniversary celebrations on Anzac Day.

(2) Yes. The Government is currently considering this matter in connection with the forthcoming Summary Offences Bill which will cover the gaming offences currently included in Vagrants, Gaming and Other Offences Act 1886.

### 217. Fire Service

Mr BEATTIE asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Emergency Services and Consumer Affairs and Minister Assisting the Premier on Rural Affairs—

With reference to the Queensland Fire Service—

- (1) Is it correct that the previous National Party Government allowed Fire Brigades to run up massive capital works debts and overdrafts?
- (2) Is it correct that the previous Government introduced an urban fire levy, found that it would not adequately finance fire services in this State, but at the same time froze the levy for three years thereby freezing revenue for the service?
- (3) Is it correct to overcome this lack of funds, Fire Brigades were allowed to go into overdraft?
- (4) What steps have been taken by the Goss Government to overcome these chronic funding difficulties?
- (5) Have the massive debts and overdrafts built up under the previous National Party Government been paid off?
- (6) Is it correct that a continuation of National Party Government policy from 1989 to the present day would have crippled fire services with growing capital debts, overdrafts and frozen income?
- (7) What was the impact of this disastrous policy on the provision of vehicles and equipment for firefighters?
- (8) What initiatives have been taken by the Goss Government to improve fire services to the people of Queensland?
- (9) Has the fire service now been provided with new uniforms?
- (10) How many new firefighters have been trained in the last two years and how many are proposed for the next twelve months?

Answer—

(1) Yes. When the QFS was formed in 1990 it assumed responsibility for the following debts: Loans for Capital Outlays—\$29.6 million.

They included—

- \$7.478 million for the Metropolitan Fire Brigade Board
- \$5.547 for the South Coast Fire Brigade Board
- \$1 million for Cairns
- \$1.295 for Rockhampton; and
- \$ 1.246 for Townsville.

In addition, overdrafts (largely to pay wages) totalled \$27.7 million, giving a total indebtedness of \$57.3 million.

(2) A Fire Levy System was introduced in 1984-85 replacing the insurance-based system which was flawed and inequitable.

There was an initial public reaction to the new levy system and the Liberal/National Party Government refused to increase domestic levies for four fiscal years even though costs were escalating.

The commercial levy was never appropriately implemented. I'm advised that the Minister of the day when responding to criticism told authorities to charge what they felt was a fair thing.

The result of this policy was that expenditure during the period exceeded income substantially.

(3) Yes. When Queensland Fire Service came into being in 1990, the level of the overdraft was \$27.7 million .

(4) Since this government came into power, fire service levies have been increased by at least CPI.

The overdraft has been reduced

1991	\$14.9 million
1992	\$10.2 million
1993	\$6.9 million
1994	\$0.8 million

This reduction has been achieved by careful management of Queensland Fire Service funds by way of saving in expenditure, foregoing of Capital Works, and at the expense of the Appliance Replacement program.

In 1994/95, levies were increased above CPI to provide for the first time, additional funds (\$5.0 Million) for capital works and appliance replacement.

The Queensland Fire Service Trust Fund should now stay "in funds" or "in the black" and future savings and growth can be applied to capital works and appliances.

The separate Fire Brigade Board loans for Capital Outlays were consolidated in 1990 for a single loan of \$29.6 million with the Queensland Treasury Corporation.

In 1993 the loan was renegotiated and extended for a further 5 years to reduce the interest and redemption payment figure from \$6.8 million to \$3.5 million per annum.

Savings were applied to overdraft reduction and made available for Capital Outlays.

(5) The balance of loans for capital outlays at June 1995 is expected to be \$18.5 million. The overdraft has been eliminated and the Trust Fund is in credit.

(6) Loan indebtedness for the Boards as at 30th June 1989 and 30th June 1990 indicated that the total loan indebtedness had grown from \$25,300,811 to \$29,636,298 in 12 months.

For example—

- South Coast had grown from \$5,243,324 to \$5,547,593;
- Metropolitan from \$6,097,663 to \$7,478,054;
- Townsville from \$504,026 to \$1,246,178.

If this had continued, it is estimated that the debt for 1994/95 would have been \$51,313,733.

This coupled with an overdraft total \$27.7 million and frozen income through frozen levies was a recipe for disaster with some Boards managing well and others going further and further into debt where if such a pattern continued, they would be unable to fund any Capital Works and in some cases not pay wages.

(7) The QFS in 1990 inherited a fleet of old vehicles, over 100 being more than 15 years old.

New turnout clothing was not supplied until after the election of the Labor Government.

Many fire stations were poorly maintained, in some cases unable to house modern fire appliances. Boots, helmets, gloves, breathing apparatus and other equipment in many cases could not be upgraded because of the poor state of the finances.

(8) The 1993/94 budget totalled for Capital Outlays was \$6.5 Million.

In the 1994/95 financial year, the Queensland Fire Service received an additional \$5 million revenue from an increased levy approved by the Government and from levy adjustments where anomalies were identified.

This financial year (1994/95) \$13.979 million was approved for capital works and vehicle replacements.

The major components of this allocation are:

. Appliances	\$9.34 million
. Fire Alarm System	1.60 million
. QES CAD	.50 million
. HRM payroll	.25 million
. Regional CAD	.25 million
. Hervey Bay Fire Station	.11 million
. Communication systems	.64 million
. Operational equipment	.45 million
. Other equipment	.83 million
	<b>\$13.97 million</b>

It is anticipated that all these funds will be expended with the exception of \$7 million carryover for Appliances which is due to contractual arrangements, long lead times and shipping delays in imported components from overseas.

Appliances: A total of 33 fire appliances at an estimated cost of \$9.34 Million will be ordered this financial year (1994/95).

This will provide:

- . 2 High Reach (33m or 100ft) Aerial Appliances to be located at Brisbane and Southport (approximate value \$1 million each);
- . 4 Telescopic Aerial Pumpers (approximate value \$500,000 each);
- . 10 Standard Urban Pumpers (approximate value \$300,000 each); and
- . 17 Pumper/Tankers for country centres (approximate value \$180,000 each).

Most of these vehicles will replace appliances more than 20 years old.

A prototype 4x4 Appliance is being developed for rapid intervention and rural/urban firefighting.

Appliances have been upgraded at Harrisville, Kalbar, Lowood, Rathdowney, Taringa, Wynnum and Acacia Ridge.

Communications: Joint Communication Centres will continue to be developed to provide a more cost effective and operationally efficient service.

An estimated cost of \$600,000 has been allocated to this initiative and will improve communications in Toowoomba and Cairns for Queensland Ambulance Service and Queensland Fire Service.

A cost saving of \$125,000 has been realised by sharing equipment.

More firefighters will be equipped with portable radio equipment in the continuing program to provide greater inter-personnel communications on the fireground. This continuing program is estimated to cost \$100,000 this year.

Radio Communications network upgrades in Mt Isa, Cairns, Townsville, Ingham, Atherton, Mareeba, Port Douglas, Innisfail, Mackay, Rockhampton, Gladstone, Stanthorpe, Warwick, Maryborough, Hervey Bay, Gympie, Sunshine Coast, Cleveland, Capalaba and Beaudesert have been completed or being carried out at a total cost of \$300,000.

Regionalisation of communications to the Cairns Communication Centre will include fire alarm monitoring and radio traffic.

The statewide introduction of the portable radio battery maintenance program has occurred. This will result in a cost saving with improved battery life and operational readiness.

Auxiliary Firefighter communication has been improved with the development of remote area paging equipment and the implementation of an improved telephone recall system statewide. This will allow auxiliaries to respond faster to fire calls.

Fire Alarm Monitoring: The replacement of Automatic Fire Alarm Monitoring equipment will provide a more efficient monitoring system with less labour intensive involvement in the Firecom centres. At an estimated cost of \$1.6 Million this is required because of Telecom's technology upgrade to fibre optic cable.

Computer Aided Dispatch: The present Queensland Fire Service interim Computer Aided Dispatch system is being upgraded and will be introduced into Regions across the State pending the completion of specifications for a Queensland Emergency Services, Computer Aided Dispatch system.

A new Computer Aided Dispatch system has been installed at Fire Comm, Brisbane.

Research and Development: A Research and Development section has been established to carry out Research and Development projects on Queensland Fire Service equipment, uniforms, appliances and firefighting technology.

Research is being undertaken into Breathing Apparatus communications equipment to establish an improved communications system for Breathing Apparatus operations.

Queensland Fire Service is investigating a means of upgrading Distress Signal Units which are used with Breathing Apparatus at emergencies.

Research is being undertaken on the Telescopic Aerial Pump rebuild program—to refurbish ageing TAP appliances where cost effective.

**Breathing Apparatus:** The Fire Service has initiated a program to introduce breathing apparatus that will allow firefighters to enter inhospitable environments for a greater period of time and improve firefighter safety while increasing standardised breathing apparatus equipment.

This long duration usage breathing apparatus will allow up to 50 minutes to be spent firefighting instead of the present up to 35 minutes. Tenders were called on 24 February 1994 and following evaluations in December 1994, Fire Services are now awaiting approval for the recommended set from the National Association of Testing Authorities.

The Queensland Fire Service is closely monitoring the situation as the approval could take up to twelve months.

**Buildings and Equipment:** Queensland Fire Service has joined with Queensland Ambulance Service to establish a joint facility at Caboolture.

New Auxiliary fire station for Hervey Bay will be completed in June 1995.

Capital Works have been undertaken at the following stations: Jandowae, Miles, Roma, Wallangarra, Toowoomba, Anzac Avenue (Toowoomba) and Warwick.

Queensland Fire Service is currently establishing a panel of suppliers to supply Road Accident Hydraulic Rescue Equipment.

Fifty lengths of hose were delivered to Stradbroke Island fire station at a total cost of \$11,000.

**Road Accident Rescue:** Additional Road Accident Rescue equipment was supplied to Burleigh Heads, Gatton, Lowood, Boonah Loganlea, Millmerran, Miles, Allora and Charleville.

(9) Yes.

**Protective Clothing:** 2200 new style Turnout clothing outfits for permanent firefighters was developed in

consultation with the United Firefighters Union and are being issued this year at a cost of \$1.4 Million.

Permanent firefighters have been issued with new upgraded standard helmets.

Auxiliary firefighters are progressively being issued with new upgraded standard helmets this financial year.

Queensland Fire Service is seeking to improve the protection and quality of firefighting gloves and boots.

New firefighting gloves have been purchased and issued.

The contract for a further new issue will be let this year.

It is proposed to work with Australian manufacturers and to take advantage of new technology.

Research is being undertaken to provide improved Thermal protection to firefighters' Station wear uniforms (their normal walkout uniform of blue trousers and light blue shirt is not fire resistant) by using high technology fabrics.

(10) 67 recruits have been trained since January 1993.

The QFS Recruitment Process has been reviewed and improved.

A Statewide Program was conducted to inform potential candidates about the process and to encourage women and people from all community groups to consider the fire service as a career.

Over the next 18 months nearly 100 Queenslanders will commence careers with the Queensland Fire Service.

The recruitment process is almost complete and a recruit training course of 32 firefighters will be held commencing May 1995.

This will be followed up by two courses in 1995/96 for a further 64 recruits with an option for a third course.

The Honourable Member should be aware that the previous Government's financial mismanagement of Fire Service funding has made the tasks of our professional firefighters more difficult. I am personally very appreciative of their acceptance of the need for tight financial management and the resultant temporary reduction in capital spending.

## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

### 38. Police Resources, Barambah Electorate

Mr PERRETT asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to each of the shires in the electorate of Barambah, namely Kilcoy, Nanango, Kingaroy, Wondai, Murgon, Kilkivan, Esk, Rosalie and Cherbourg—

- (1) What is the ratio of sworn police officers to population?
- (2) How many sworn officer positions are currently unfilled due to leave or transfer and at what police stations?
- (3) What is the level of reported crimes against the person?
- (4) What is the level of reported property crime?

Answer (Mr Braddy):

(1) The Queensland Police Service does not collate statistics or allocation resources based on shire or electoral boundaries. The Service uses Police Divisional, District and Regional boundaries for administrative, statistical and resource allocation purposes.

The Police Service currently uses a Staffing Allocation Model to determine the fair and equitable distribution of available human resources across police Divisions, Districts and Regions. The model utilises a number of variables to determine this distribution, including population, and crime rate ("Crimes against the Person" and "Other" categories), isolation and degree of urbanisation.

Certain Police Service functions operation at the District level and are available to each Division within the District as the need arises.

Notwithstanding these issues, the following police to population ratios for the particular Police Districts encompassing the shires specified, have been obtained from the Police Service:

Police District	Shires Included	Police to Population Ratio	
		As at 30/6/94	As at 30/6/89
Gympie	Nanango	1:712	1:651
	Kingaroy		
	Wondai		
	Murgon		
	Kilkivan		
Dalby	Rosalie	1:506	1:570
	Esk (part)	1:745	1:823
Ipswich	Kilcoy	1:794	1:1112
	Esk (part)		

There has been a dramatic improvement in the police to population ratio's since 1989 in most police districts as a result of the extra 1500 operational police put in place by this Government. This Government has also committed to an extra 500 operational police over the next three years and an additional 2000 operational police over the next ten years. All Queensland Police Districts will get their fair share of these additional police.

(2) Sworn officer position vacancies, due to transfer, retirement or resignation, presently exist at Nanango (2) and Murgon (1) Police Stations. Temporary absences on approved leave may be offset by the use of overtime or relieving arrangements involving personnel external to the Division and, in such circumstances, do not constitute an unfilled vacancy.

(3 & 4) As per (1), the Queensland Police does not collate statistics or allocation resources based on shire or electoral boundaries. The Service uses Police Divisional, District and Regional boundaries for administrative, statistical and resource allocation purposes.

### 43. Police Resources, Innisfail

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services—

With reference to reports that police numbers are down by 36 percent in Innisfail—

- (1) Is this correct and is the problem due largely to the non-compulsory transfers?
- (2) If so, what does the Government intend to do to rectify this situation?
- (3) Is he aware that Assistant Commissioner Roly Dargusch of the Far North Queensland region has been outspoken on the non-compulsory transfers of police, labelling it as wrong?
- (4) How does he expect to fill vacancies in a town such as Innisfail if no applications are received or, if when transfers are made, appeals are successful against the transfer?
- (5) What does he intend to do about housing and single accommodation in towns such as Innisfail to attract police to country areas?
- (6) Will more accommodation be built?
- (7) Can a guarantee be given that it will not be reduced below the existing levels?
- (8) As he is reported to be aware of the Innisfail situation, will he give an assurance that the full complement of police will be made available in Innisfail?
- (9) When will this happen?

Answer (Mr Braddy):

(1) The Innisfail Police Station has a current Staffing Allocation Model of 25 sworn members, consisting of positions for one senior sergeant, six sergeants (including one surplus position), six senior constables and twelve constables. There are currently three constable and two senior constable vacancies. Selections have been made for the senior constable vacancies. Expressions of interest have been called for the three constable vacancies, however at this time, no applications have been received for these positions. Three trainee constables have arrived at Innisfail and took up duty there on 19 August 1995.

(2) See part 1.

(3) Assistant Commissioner Dargusch's stance on compulsory lateral transfers within regions is consistent with Police Service policy which has been in place since 23 September 1993.

(4) Attempts are being made at the present time to enlist people who have previous service in other states. These will be trained at the Police and Emergency Services Academy and will eventually serve in regional locations such as Innisfail.

(5) The issue of housing for both married and single officers has not been raised as a matter of concern by the District Officer, Innisfail, to the Assistant Commissioner, Far Northern Region. There are currently seven Police Service houses and four Housing Commission houses used by police in the Innisfail area.

(6) See part 5.

(7) See part 5.

(8) The Assistant Commissioner, Far Northern Region, is committed to ensuring that his Region, including Innisfail, receives the best possible policing service within available resources, and is satisfied that adequate staff are currently available to meet this commitment.

(9) It is anticipated that Innisfail will be at full staffing allocation in the near future.

## 62. Police Resources, Stanthorpe

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

(1) What is the current staffing contingent at the Stanthorpe Police Station, including the numbers of staff of all ranks, categorised?

(2) What are the latest developments relating to the recent review which recommended the replacement of two senior sergeants with two senior constables, at the station?

Answer (Mr Braddy):

(1) Stanthorpe Station

Sergeant x 3

Senior Constable x 3

Constable x 1

Constable Vacancy x 1 (vacancy advertised and closing date for receipt of applications was 18 September 1995, but the departing constable has not yet left the Station)

Stanthorpe Criminal Investigation Branch

Detective Senior Constable x 1

Civilian Staff Stanthorpe Station

Administrative Officer Grade 2 x 2 (full-time)

Cleaner x 1 (10 hours per week)

(2) For the efficient management of the Queensland Police Service—the approved staffing model for Stanthorpe Station recommends as follows:

Stanthorpe Station

Sergeant x 1 (In Charge)

Senior Constable x 2

Constable x 5

Stanthorpe Criminal Investigation Branch

Detective Senior Constable x 1

Civilian Staff Stanthorpe Station

Administrative Officer Grade 2 x 2 (full-time)

Cleaner x 1 (10 hours per week)

The Service Staffing Model clearly shows an imbalance in the current rank structure at Stanthorpe.

A proposal to transfer the two sergeants from the Station to facilitate their replacement with senior constables was considered by the Police Service's Transfer Advisory Committee on 9 August 1995. The Director, Human Resources Division, has considered the matter and supports the transfers in principle.

Negotiations are continuing with the two sergeants and the regional representative of the Queensland Police Union of Employees with a view to arranging agreed transfers. A meeting in that regard is scheduled to be held in the near future.

## 87. Police Resources, Toowoomba

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to the document "Towards the 21st Century: Resource Priorities for the Queensland Police Service—June 1995", in which an amount of \$8.25m has been proposed for Capital Works for the Toowoomba Police District Headquarters for the period 1995/96 to 1999/2000—

(1) Does this figure include land acquisition?

(2) What plans does the department have for the Southern Region Headquarters currently located in my electorate?

Answer (Mr Braddy):

(1) Yes. The amount of \$8.25m for the replacement Toowoomba District Headquarters is inclusive of an allocation of \$750,000 for land acquisition.

(2) The Southern Regional Headquarters is currently occupying leased accommodation and will be relocated to the new facility upon completion.

## 92. Police Resources, Albert Electorate

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to the Goss Government's pre-election promises of extra spending on infrastructure and personnel for the Queensland Police Service—

(1) Will he confirm all the details of the above for the Albert Electorate?

(2) Will Coomera become a full-time 24-hour station?

(3) Will a four-wheel drive vehicle be positioned at Coomera to allow police access to some of the very rough terrain in this Police District?

Answer (Mr Braddy):

(1) A new Police Station at Jacobs Well has been identified on the "Proposed Queensland Police Service Capital Works Program 1995/96 to 2004/05". It is anticipated that land acquisition will take place within the next five years. Current planning

anticipates that construction would be commenced in the 2001/02 financial year and that costs would be in the order of \$1.5m at current 1995/96 values.

The Government has endorsed the Police Service strategic policy document "Policing Resources Towards 2000" (June 1995), which projects that the police strength across the State will be boosted by 500 police officers in the next three years, comprising 300 new police and 200 police released from non-operational duties through civilianisation.

Staffing levels throughout the State are set using a staffing allocation model, which considers such factors as population growth, crime and community needs. Also, regional Assistant Commissioners, in consultation with district police managers, are constantly reviewing the policing needs of police divisions, based on factors including police workload, population growth and community needs.

When additional staff resources are made available to the South Eastern Region, the policing needs of communities in the Albert Electorate, in conjunction with needs identified on a region-wide basis, will be taken into account in determining where these staff should be allocated.

(2) The Coomera community is already serviced twenty four hours every day. The upgrading of Coomera Station will be considered in the light of future Gold Coast District staff level increases and in conjunction with policing needs identified across the District.

(3) The Gold Coast Police District is currently supplied with two four-wheel drive vehicles. The District Officer is of the view that this number is adequate for all District policing requirements. However, a police vehicle allocation review is currently being held in the Gold Coast Police District. When completed, this review will highlight priority areas for additional or upgraded vehicles.

#### **134. Police Resources, Warwick**

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

- (1) Acknowledging the current 24-hr status of the Warwick Police Station, what benefit will there be to the Warwick community from the department's plans to divert after hours and emergency calls through Toowoomba?
- (2) How will this improve police presence and response times in Warwick?
- (3) Are there any plans to reduce the 24-hr status of the Warwick Police Station?
- (4) What impact will enterprise bargaining have on total police hours at the Warwick Police Station?
- (5) How does this compare to the pre-enterprise bargaining situation?
- (6) What is the current status of the Traffic Branch at Warwick, and are there any plans to relocate staff from the Traffic Branch to General Operational Duties; if so, how many?

Answer (Mr Braddy):

(1) The status of the Warwick Police Station operating on a 24 hour basis will not change. Telstra's future plans for service delivery of telephone calls, including 000 calls, necessitate the Queensland Police Service upgrading its telephone and radio communications facilities in Toowoomba and surrounding areas. The upgrade will enable Toowoomba to provide support to other centres including Warwick.

The benefit to be derived from the diversion of emergency calls and the odd diversion of after hour calls is that, in times of emergency, police who would otherwise be performing radio and telephoning duties at the Station can be deployed on operational duties. Also, in those rare instances where police on the street require urgent back-up, this will be able to be provided whilst maintaining an appropriate policing service. The diversion of telephone calls will allow greater operational flexibility and enable an extra officer to be used when most needed.

(2) The ability to place an extra officer on the street when the need arises will improve the police presence and response times when such an officer is so deployed, particularly in the period from 2am to 7am.

(3) There are no plans at this time to reduce the 24 hour status of the Warwick Police Station.

(4) An integral part of the Enterprise Bargaining Agreement is the introduction of intelligence-driven policing which concentrates police staffing to the times and places of greatest need.

This has resulted in some variation to the rostering of police staff on shifts which have been identified as having low service demands. The total number of hours worked from the station will not change.

It is intended to trial new initiatives in conjunction with the Enterprise Bargaining process to create greater efficiencies at Warwick.

(5) See part four.

(6) There is currently one staffing position vacant at the Warwick Traffic Branch is as follows. Action is being taken to select a replacement. There are no plans to relocate staff from the Traffic Branch to general operational duties.

#### **139. Offenders and Police Numbers, Boondall**

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to the rampage of urban terrorism the residents of Jalomy Street and nearby areas of Boondall were subjected to by a teenage gang of some 15 to 20 thugs on the evening of Friday, 1 September 1995—

- (1) How many of the alleged participants in this outrage have been charged by police and what are the charges?
- (2) What is the gender and age of those charged?
- (3) What are the minimum and maximum penalties provided under existing law for each of these charges?

- (4) Did the police inquiry ascertain which person or persons supplied alcohol to any underage person charged in relation to this outrage, were charges brought as a result of this line of investigation; if not, why not?
- (5) What are the minimum and maximum penalties for an adult who is convicted of providing alcohol to a minor either on licensed premises or otherwise?
- (6) Has any internal Police Service investigation been launched to ascertain which attending police told a Jalomy Street resident, Mr Vince Weir, that a shortage of police was the reason for the pathetically slow response and, if so, are disciplinary charges being considered for a breach of the commissioner's directive of 14 February 1994 headed "Public Statements by Police Officers" and which specifically prohibits the making of such statements?

Answer (Mr Braddy):

(1) At this stage of investigations, no persons have been charged with any offences arising from the incidents.

Officers from the Boondall Juvenile Aid Bureau have interviewed a number of juveniles and adults, however no witnesses to the offences have been identified. Investigations are continuing.

(2) See part 1.

(3) See part 1.

(4) The issue of supply of alcohol to any underage person is being addressed in conjunction with the process of identifying persons responsible for specific offences.

(5) The Liquor Act 1992 provides for a maximum penalty of 25 penalty units under section 157(1) in respect of supply of alcohol to a minor in licensed premises. Section 5 of the Liquor Act nominates who is a responsible adult in relation to a minor. No specific penalty is prescribed.

(6) The matter was first reported to Police Communications Centre at 11.34pm on Friday, 1 September 1995. At 11.43pm a Boondall patrol received the task and arrived on the scene at 11.45pm, eleven minutes after the initial complaint was received. Five further police patrols, including the Duty Inspector and Boondall Supervisor, arrived shortly afterwards. Investigations concerning the alleged comment have failed to identify any officer as having made this comment.

#### 146. Coal Exports

Mr FITZGERALD asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

With reference to his recent reported statements that Queensland coal exports would be worth \$10 billion within five years, virtually double the current level and to his reported criticism of the Opposition's Energy Policy involving the construction of a new coal fired power station, which he described as a second rate option—

- (1) As much of Queensland's exported coal is used for electricity generation overseas, how can he laud growth in exports for that purpose while describing similar domestic use as a "second rate option"?
- (2) Is it the Government's assessment that foreign power stations using Queensland coal are "second rate"?

Answer (Mr McGrady):

Queensland exported 77.6 million tonnes of coal in 1994—95, up 8.8 per cent on the previous year. Of this, 25.3 million tonnes, or 32.6 per cent was thermal coal used for power generation. The demand for thermal coal is likely to increase dramatically as the Asian economies strive to keep their electricity capacity in step with their economic growth. There is significant potential for Queensland coal producers to benefit from this growth, with flow on benefits to the Queensland economy. Their foresight in planning to meet this demand is worthy of praise.

Traditionally, coal has been the most economic fuel source for power generation in Queensland, however increased competition in the gas market has led to gas now being potentially competitive with coal. The Government has recognised this potential and will undertake a competitive bidding process, to commence early next year, in which gas will compete with coal on commercial terms for the new capacity required beyond 2000. The Government's strategy also acknowledges the increasing role that renewable sources can play and will establish processes to solicit capacity from sources such as bagasse and mini-hydroelectric schemes.

Simply building new coal fired generators does not recognise the potential that alternative fuel sources may play in the future development of Queensland.

Fuel choices for foreign power stations differ from those available in Queensland. Foreign power stations that choose Queensland coal do so because it proves to be the most economic fuel source for their operations as well as often offering clean burning characteristics with respect to sulphur emissions. It is therefore not the Government's assessment that foreign power stations using Queensland coal are "second rate". Indeed for environmental reasons alone, the Government would like to see more foreign power stations burning Queensland's coal.

#### 147. Northern Regional Health Authority; Townsville General Hospital

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the recent appointment of the Regional Director of the Sunshine Coast Regional Health Authority to the position of Acting Regional Director of the Northern Regional Health Authority to investigate the financial problems of the Northern Regional Health Authority and, in particular, of the Townsville General Hospital—

- (1) Will he provide the details of budget over-run for the Northern Regional Health Authority at 30 June 1995 and for the Townsville General Hospital at 30 June 1995?



(2) Will he provide details of the Townsville Hospital's 1995-96 budget position at the end of August 1995?

Answer (Mr Beattie):

(1) In 1994/95, Northern Regional Health Authority had a final recurrent budget of \$165.3 million. Cash expenditure against this budget totalled only \$163.6 million. The \$1.7 million difference consists of a \$122,000 under expenditure against State discretionary budget and \$1,599,000 under expenditure against Commonwealth Programs and Special State funded projects. The conditions imposed on funding of the Commonwealth Programs and Special State funded projects prohibited the unexpended funds being redirected to other services within the Region. However, although the Region did not over-run its 1994/95 budget, the Region did carry \$4.3 million worth of pre-June creditors into 1995/96.

In 1994/95, Townsville General Hospital had a final recurrent budget of \$70.8 million. Cash expenditure against this budget totalled \$72.7 million. Although this expenditure was \$1.9 million in excess of the Hospital's budget, the expenditure was covered with underexpenditure against other facilities within the Region.

(2) Each year, Queensland's public hospitals are issued with budgets to cover expenditure for the 12 months to 30 June. These budgets are continually amended during the course of the year for items such as Awards, Commonwealth Program funding, superannuation and other items.

With respect to Northern Regional Health Authority, on the 13 September 1995, I announced additional funding for Oncology Services at Townsville Hospital and Mental Health Services at Kirwan. In addition, at this time, I also indicated the Region would be required to develop a long term financial plan consistent with the services available. This plan is currently in the process of being prepared and is expected to be finalised in the near future.

Consequently, as at 31 August, the budget for the Townsville Hospital was still in the process of being finalised. This process is still continuing and no specific budget position can be provided. However, as at 31 August 1995, expenditure at the Townsville Hospital totalled \$17.8 million.

This contrasts starkly with the National Party election commitment to slash funds to the Health Department by \$27 million, the effects of which would have been felt in Townsville.

As a result of the introduction of Cardiac and Oncology services, people in Townsville now have access to services denied to them by the Nationals.

The Government has also reaffirmed its commitment to providing neo-natal services in the North of the State by expanding services at the Kirwan Hospital. An extra \$3.2 million will be spent over two years on the neo-natal intensive care unit.

This means additional support for mothers and babies in Townsville but also north to the Peninsula and south to Mackay.

#### 148. Wheel Clamping

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for the Arts—

With reference to wheel clamping and towing of vehicles which practice has become widespread both in Brisbane and in parts of the Gold Coast, causing distress, hardship and in some cases serious financial loss to victims, and as there is concern that wheel clamping will spread to the central and southern Gold Coast—

- (1) What is the legal situation in respect of wheel clamping?
- (2) Will he introduce legislation banning this obnoxious practice?

Answer (Mr Foley):

(1) The legal issues surrounding wheel clamping are complex and, in the absence of any definitive Australian cases, the facts of the particular case will ultimately determine the legal consequences.

There may be a number of remedies available to the owner or occupier of the land where the vehicle is parked under the civil law in Queensland relating to the vehicular trespass on private property. Both the common law of contract or the common law self help remedies of distress damage feasant, abatement of nuisance, and ejection of chattels may apply.

In addition there may be certain remedies available to the owner or occupier of the trespassing motor vehicle.

Finally, the activities of wheel clamping companies/employees/individuals may amount to several offences under the criminal law.

(2) There are several competing issues involved in wheel clamping with respect to the rights of the land owners, lessees, motor vehicle owners and wheel clamping companies. Some would suggest that wheel clamping has substantially reduced the number of violations at several shopping centres, an outcome with obvious benefits for fire and emergency services and disabled groups.

The RACQ is currently considering comments received by 31 October 1995 on its Revised Draft Code of Practice for Car Clamping. The RACQ expects to release a final draft code for public reaction very shortly, followed by a final Code of Practice I will monitor the implementation of the Code of Practice and if it is not successful I will then consider other alternatives.

Prior to any further decisions being made as to an appropriate course of action to deal with these competing interests, consultation will occur with interested parties. Officers of my Department are currently examining a number of options with reference to both wheel clamping and towing of vehicles from private property.

If the Honourable Member has any particular view that she wishes to express regarding how these competing interests can be properly managed, I would encourage her to make her views known.

**150. Fire Service Approval of Building Plans**

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Consumer Affairs—

- (1) Are local governments required to refer the plans of large commercial buildings with in-built fire prevention equipment to the Queensland Fire Service (QFS) for approval?
- (2) What is the scale of fees for such approvals by the QFS?
- (3) How much has been collected by the QFS from this source in 1994-95?
- (4) Has an audit been done to ensure all local governments are in fact submitting the plans of all new such buildings?

Answer (Mr Davies):

(1) Yes, the Standard Building Law, Section 2.5, requires the Local Governments to forward to the QFS plans of all buildings other than private dwellings, not just commercial buildings, for which building approval has been sought and which contain Special Fire Services. Special Fire Services are listed in Appendix 6 of the Standard Building Law and include such things as hydrants, sprinklers, fire alarms and similar.

(2) The scale of fees charged by the QFS as of 1 July 1995 for the assessment or inspection of Special Fire Services is detailed in Schedule 2 of the Building Fire Safety Regulation 1991. The fees relate to the floor area of a building and include a 50% reduction for buildings owned by a charity or religious denomination as detailed in Part A.

**PART B—GENERAL FEES****Floor Area**

Not more than 500m<sup>2</sup>—\$210.55

More than 500<sup>2</sup> but not more Than 1,500m<sup>2</sup>—\$42.10 for each 100m<sup>2</sup> (or part of 100m<sup>2</sup>)

More than 1,500m<sup>2</sup> but not More than 2,000m<sup>2</sup>—\$631.70 plus \$21.05 for each 100m<sup>2</sup> (or part of 100m<sup>2</sup>) over 1,500m<sup>2</sup>

More than 2,000m<sup>2</sup>—\$736.95 plus \$7.30 for each 100m<sup>2</sup> (or part of 100m<sup>2</sup>) over 2,000m<sup>2</sup>

(3) The fees collected by the QFS for the 1994/1995 financial year totalled \$749,275.

(4) No. The QFS does not have the authority to audit Local Governments. An internal audit carried out by the Queensland Emergency Services Internal Auditor of the Townsville Office in early 1995, revealed that some Local Governments had failed to comply with the requirements of the Standard Building Law. In such cases, the QFS brings to the attention of the Local Government their legislative obligations.

**151. Juvenile Offenders**

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Family and Community Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Status of Women—

What is the situation relating to the current use of both care and control and care and protection orders for juveniles and the types of criteria which needs to

be established for the initiation of one of these particular types of orders?

Answer (Mrs Woodgate):

The Children's Services Act 1965 provides the basis for applications for care and protection and care and control.

Section 49 of the Children's Services Act 1965 refers to applications for care and protection. The decision to file an application for care and protection must be made in the context of ongoing casework with the child and their family, and should occur when the child's protective needs cannot adequately be met by the family voluntarily agreeing to use of departmental services or the services of a non-government agency; and removal from home is necessary to protect the child or young person.

Section 61 of the Children's Services Act refers to applications for care and control. An authorised officer of the Department of Family and Community Services, police officer, or a parent or guardian of the child concerned may make application to the Children's Court for an order for care and control.

The Children's Services Act 1965 deems that a child is in need of care and control if they are likely to fall into a life of vice or crime or addiction to drugs, if they are exposed to moral danger or they appear to be uncontrollable.

The provision which allows departmental officers to make application to the Children's Court for a child or young person to be admitted to a care and control order has not been used for several years. The needs of the young person can usually be met more appropriately through the use of care and protection orders. This achieves the same outcome as a care and control order; that is, the child or young person being placed under the guardianship of the Director-General, without labelling the young person as 'uncontrollable'. Examination of a young person's circumstances and background often reveals protective needs and a history of abuse and/or neglect.

**152. Transport Department Roadworkers**

Mr TURNER asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to safety concerns by main roads workers employed on sections of four-lane highways who fear that a fatality may occur through traffic failing to slow down near work sites—

- (1) Is he aware that approaches to the Police Department to have radar checks at such locations have apparently fallen on deaf ears, despite being raised at safety meetings?
- (2) What action will the Transport Department take to ensure its workers' safety is not compromised when working on four-lane highways?

Answer (Mr Elder):

(1) I can assure the Member that concerns about road worker safety have not 'fallen on deaf ears' as he has suggested. The Queensland Police Service

and Queensland Transport work very closely together on issues related to speed management and indeed have jointly been developing and implementing a Speed Management Strategy which attacks excessive and inappropriate speed on a range of fronts.

The reality is that road work sites create specific problems in relation to enforcement which need to be addressed on a case by case basis. The operation of radar equipment at road work sites is often restricted by factors such as the topography of the road work site, the extent of work underway and the length and availability of pull off zones.

It would be irresponsible to create dangerous situations where speeding offenders could not be safely stopped by Police Officers.

(2) In July this year, Queensland Transport launched phase one of a public education campaign designed to improve safety of both roadworkers and motorists in the vicinity of road construction and maintenance sites.

The campaign appeals to motorists with the message "You wouldn't want traffic speeding through your workplace.....neither do roadworkers".

The campaign urges everyone to make roadwork sites safe zones for everyone, all the time. This includes times at which roadworkers may not be present or work in progress. A poster and brochure have been printed to support the campaign.

I also advise that a production of a television and radio campaign is underway and the campaign will be launched early next year.

The public education campaign is part of a much wider approach to the issue of safety around roadworks sites. This will include improved engineering protection for roadworkers, better safety training for roadworkers and increased enforcement, where feasible, around roadwork sites.

### 153. Southern Brisbane Bypass

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to the latest changes to the Southern Brisbane by-pass route which impact heavily on the National Heritage listed Karawatha Forest in the vicinity of the Paratz land—

- (1) What measures are being undertaken to lessen the impact of the motorway on the rare frog habitat and the deep cutting in the scenic sandstone ridge and gullies of the north-west extremity of the Paratz Valley?
- (2) Has the Australian Heritage Commission been given a full report on the likely increased adverse environmental impacts of his decision to change the route?
- (3) If not, why not, and will he ensure that such a report is provided before any further clearing continues?
- (4) Will he reconsider the by-pass route to lessen the adverse impacts on the rare frog habitat

and Paratz Ridgeline, particularly as the Government has decided to add the Paratz land to the Karawatha Forest?

Answer (Mr Elder):

(1) The shift line has the approval of Karawatha Forest Protection Security based on the effort made to protect the rare frog habitat and other environmentally sensitive areas of the forest.

(2) No response has been given to the Australian Heritage Commission and none is considered necessary. Mr Mike Mulvaney of the National Estate Register has been in contact with the project managers and is aware of the shift in the alignment.

(3) The clearing has been completed.

(4) No. The realignment has been accepted as a satisfactory compromise by the residents of Stretton, the Karawatha Forrester Protection Society and the Brisbane City Council.

### 154. Eastlink

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

With reference to the Minister's reported case for the Eastlink project as outlined in the Toowoomba Chronicle on 10 October 1995 in which he stated, "By deciding to build Eastlink the Government has effectively deferred the need to build the equivalent new generation capacity. The money saved on not building a new power plant can be invested or spent on other services for Queenslanders."—

Does he stand by this statement?

Answer (Mr McGrady):

Eastlink is the most cost effective option for intermediate/peak capacity in Queensland from 1999 and defers the need to build new supply capacity in Queensland. As such, it makes available financial resources for the Government to invest in other service delivery areas.

In addition, Eastlink effectively minimises total electricity costs across the State, with the economic benefits being shared among the State's electricity consumers through lower electricity prices. Least cost reliable power is absolutely vital to improving the competitiveness of the Queensland economy.

### 156. Long-line Fishing, North Queensland; Mr M. Rowley

Mr PERRETT asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

With reference to longline fishing operations conducted by boats managed by Mr Mike Rowley and operating in Barrier Reef waters in North Queensland—

- (1) How many inspections of these boats have been conducted at sea by the Boating and Fisheries Patrol?
- (2) Will he assure the House that these boats comply with the requirement that they use no more than 500 hooks per soak, and thus dispel

rumours in Cairns that as many as 1,500 hooks are used?

- (3) What is the size and composition of the by-catch, including marlin and sailfish?
- (4) What measures are being taken to ensure these operations do not harm the game fishing segment of the northern tourism market?

Answer (Mr Gibbs):

1. Under the revised arrangements implemented on 1 October 1995, between the Commonwealth and Queensland governments, there have been no at sea inspections of tuna boats conducted by the Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol (QBFP). This includes the two fishing vessels managed by Mr Mike Rowley. These large vessels operate some distance from shore (120 to 250 nautical miles) in rough water and can be dangerous to board in some sea conditions.

2. Coast watch sightings and intelligence gathered by QBFP indicate that the two fishing vessels managed by Mr Rowley have not worked within the East Coast Tuna Managed Area E within the last month where the restrictions on the number of hooks apply.

If the vessels were to fish the East Coast Tuna Managed Area E, they would have to comply with any permit conditions which would be imposed, including limitations to the use of 500 hooks per soak.

3. The vessels fishing log books would indicate the size and composition of the by-catch but such information vessel by vessel is confidential, and collected for use in the management of the fishery. Summary input on the entire fishery will be prepared by the Australian Fish Management Authority (AFMA) and reported publicly annually.

There is no restriction on the size or number of Marlin or Sailfish caught by these vessels if they are outside the East Coast Tuna Managed Area E of North Queensland, (north of Proserpine). Vessels within the East Coast Tuna Managed Area E off North Queensland do catch some Marlin or Sailfish. These must be released under the terms of their permits.

4. The East Coast Tuna Fishery is managed by AFMA which seeks advice on its management from the East Coast Tuna Management Advisory Committee (ECTUNAMAC). This Committee, constituted by AFMA is broadly representative of all users and managers of fisheries, including commercial and recreational fishers, AFMA, scientists, a representative from Queensland, NSW, Victoria and Tasmania, and the broader community.

AFMA, using the advice from ECTUNAMAC and other sources (including Queensland government agencies) manages the East Coast Tuna Fishery within an agreed plan for sustainable use of the fishery by all sectors of the community, including the game fishing industry.

### 157. Adult and Community Education Programs, TAFE Colleges

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

- (1) Will she table a list of those ACE courses conducted by Townsville TAFE, in Term 1 1994, in rural centres, indicating the length of each course and the cost to participants?
- (2) Will she furnish the same information in relation to ACE courses conducted by Johnstone TAFE centre in Term 1 1995?
- (3) Were any of the above courses actually mainstream TAFE courses (ie with a "CN" number) being conducted by ACE?
- (4) According to statistics provided by the CAP enrolment program, what was the average length of ACE courses in the metropolitan areas (a) Gateway, (b) Ipswich, (c) Ithaca, (d) Logan, (e) Mt Gravatt, (f) Northpoint, (g) Bayside, (h) Southbank and (i) Yeronga for (i) Term 1 1995 and (ii) Term 1 1994?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

(1) Yes. I hereby table a list of those ACE courses conducted by Townsville TAFE, in Term 1, 1994, in rural centres, indicating the length of each course and the cost to participants.

(2) Yes. I hereby table a list of those ACE courses conducted by Johnstone TAFE, in Term 1, 1995.

(3) No.

(4) Yes. I hereby table information according to statistics provided by the CAP enrolment program on the average length of ACE courses in the metropolitan areas (a) Gateway (b) Ipswich (c) Ithaca (d) Logan (e) Mt Gravatt (f) Northpoint (g) Bayside (h) Southbank and (i) Yeronga for (i) Term 1, 1995 and (ii) Term 1, 1994.

### 159. Developer Contributions for Highway Upgradings

Mrs WILSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

- (1) Does he condone the continuation of a tax on end users of residential subdivisions by the imposition of substantial developer contributions for future highway upgradings without there being in place a fair, equitable and transparent underlying policy providing a technically sound basis of charge?
- (2) Will he identify in the accounts the millions of dollars already collected under the Transport Infrastructure Act?
- (3) How can the people of Queensland be satisfied that monies so collected will be applied for the purpose for which they were collected?

Answer (Mr Elder):

(1) Firstly, the infrastructure charges imposed by Queensland Transport as a condition of approval for residential developments are not taxes on residents. These are charges on liable developments specifically for provision of new, or rehabilitation and maintenance of existing, State-controlled infrastructure required as a result of the development to meet accepted safety and amenity standards.

The State Government enacted legislation enabling Queensland Transport to impose infrastructure charges in March 1994. If these charges are not implemented then tax payers are subsidising development.

Queensland Transport issued an Impact Management Policy in October 1994, following a consultation process involving an external Reference Group. This policy establishes the conditions that need to apply before Queensland Transport introduces any catchment-based schemes. The policy also establishes the referral requirements that apply for assessment of individual developments outside any catchment schemes.

Further, Queensland Transport always undertakes technical studies to determine the level of infrastructure charges for both catchment-based and individual development assessments.

The Government is currently preparing new Planning, Environment and Development Assessment legislation. An Exposure Draft has been released for full public consultation. It is intended that this legislation will clearly establish the principles for "Fair Share" infrastructure charging in Queensland, including State-controlled transport infrastructure.

(2) Infrastructure charging (development contributions) liabilities have been met by developers by providing land dedicated as road and handing-over infrastructure as well as by monetary payments to Queensland Transport. The program of works to be funded from infrastructure charges is to be included in the Roads Implementation Program which will be tabled annually in Parliament.

It is intended that upon enactment of the Planning, Environment and Development Assessment legislation the Department's published accounts will include annual infrastructure charge collections, payments and balances.

(3) Clearly any land or physical transport infrastructure provided by developers is publicly visible, as well as being officially recorded. Further, all monetary payments are paid into and held in accounts till expended on the infrastructure which is the subject of the payments. This can range from single infrastructure items required by individual developments or a combination of infrastructure items to be provided within a defined catchment area over a defined analysis period.

Queensland Transport will be adopting the strict accountability rules to be established by the forthcoming Planning, Environment and Development Assessment legislation.

## 160. Kholo Creek Resource Assessment Study

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Lands—

With reference to the Kholo Creek Resource Assessment Study provided to the Government by AGC Woodward-Clyde Pty Limited in July 1992 and as one of the major general recommendations of that study was "for prospective property purchases in the areas, particularly where those properties are (i) within the secondary buffer zone; (ii) adjacent to local authority roads to be used for road haulage ie Lake Manchester Road, Wirrabara Road; or (iii) in proximity to the barge-loading facility buffer zone (noticeably the Riverside development on the southern bank of the river) it is recommended that information be provided on property searches that clearly indicate the prospective activities associated with the quarry development."—

- (1) Given the significant marketing activity associated with "Riverside", has this recommendation been acted upon; if so, when was this done and what information is provided?
- (2) If not, what is the reason?
- (3) Is it the Government's intention not to proceed with the development of the Kholo Creek Resource or does it intend to compensate owners of Riverside land if the development proceeds?

Answer (Mr McElligott):

(1) No

(2) The AGC Woodward-Clyde Report is a partially completed draft that has not been accepted by the State Government. Its findings have not been implemented.

(3) The Regional Framework for Managing Growth, prepared through the SEQ2001 Regional Planning Process and adopted by the State Government and Local Governments, identifies the need for major extractive industry resources in the Region to be assessed and protected. The Kholo Creek Resource Area is a major resource and it will be evaluated through this process. The evaluation will include examination of the transport issues.

In August this year, the Extractive Industries Unit was established in the Department of Minerals and Energy. It is envisaged that this unit will undertake additional investigations of the Kholo Creek Resource Area, to further evaluate the potential regional significance of the Area. The AGC Woodward-Clyde Draft Study will provide substantial background material for the Unit's investigation.

Should the proprietors take the commercial decision to seek development approvals, relevant State Government departments and agencies, together with the Brisbane City Council and the Ipswich City Council, in consultation with the local community, will ensure that the required standards are in place for the sustainable development of a quarry site or quarry sites, if they are to proceed in the Kholo Creek Resource Area.

**161. South Coast Motorway**

Mr CARROLL asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

- (1) What is the total amount of money paid out by Queensland Transport for the 55 properties required in or near the route of the proposed South Coast Motorway for (a) land improvements and (b) legal, valuation or other costs claimed by the vendors?
- (2) Of those 55 properties acquired, how many are in the Mansfield electorate?
- (3) Of those vendors paid out, how many are presently still occupying their properties under rent-back agreements?
- (4) How many other owners of properties in the path of the said motorway, to whom Queensland Transport has sent invitations to treat on sale arrangements (either before or after the July election) have responded and are presently still negotiating with Queensland Transport (apart from those mentioned and in the said answer as having agreed on price, but not yet completed the sale)?
- (5) Will he provide a list of the properties (and owners) purchased in the path of the proposed motorway to date?

Answer (Mr Elder):

(1) Queensland Transport has acquired properties through negotiation along the northern and southern sections of the then proposed South Coast Motorway. Some further properties along the southern end were resumed. In some of the latter cases, advances against compensation have been made but the matters remain unsettled. The total expenditure including land, improvements and disturbance items i.e. legal and valuation fees, and relocation costs paid as at 24 October 1995 is as follows:

Negotiated Acquisitions	\$26,465,955
Resumptions	\$6,365,000

- (2) Queensland Transport has acquired 16 properties in the Mansfield Electorate.
- (3) Of the properties purchased by Queensland Transport 21 former owners are still in occupancy.
- (4) Queensland Transport is not currently negotiating with any property owners on the northern section of the former South Coast Motorway. The department is negotiating with six owners on the southern section at their request based on hardship circumstances.
- (5) A list of properties purchased along the former motorway and the names of the former owners is attached as requested.

No property is being acquired in or near that part of the last preferred route (as at June 1995) in the electorate of Springwood for the purpose of constructing a future road.

However commitments to purchase on the grounds of hardship are being finalised where the owner wishes to proceed with the sale, notwithstanding

advice that there will be no motorway through the koala habitat.

**SOUTH COAST MOTORWAY**

**NORTHERN SECTION**

PROPERTIES ACQUIRED THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS as at 24 October 1995

Between Beenleigh—Redland Bay Road at Carbrook and the Gateway Arterial at Rochedale

**FORMER OWNER and PROPERTY ADDRESS**

- Friberg PD and VJ, 1924-1936 Mt Cotton Road, Carbrook  
 Goodwin W and SM, 1950 Mt Cotton Road, Carbrook  
 Campbell AB and LRE, 1952 Mt Cotton Road, Carbrook  
 Chiapetta N and VW, 182 Stern Road, Carbrook  
 Cox RE and JS, 35-61 Erwin Road, Carbrook  
 Miller LD, 254-264 West Mt Cotton Rd, Cornubia  
 Ayres J and S, 266A West Mt Cotton Rd, Cornubia  
 Tincknell DP, 368-372 West Mt Cotton Rd, Cornubia  
 Morgan KA and RE, 26 Coorang Road, Cornubia  
 Smith JBMcE and A, 56-64 Coorang Road, Cornubia  
 Adams RG and IA, 36-44 Wuduru Road, Cornubia  
 Pinzger AJ and A, 66 Wuduru Road, Cornubia  
 Rackley AG, 86 London Street, Eight Mile Plains  
 Succarieh M and F, 88 London Street, Eight Mile Plains  
 Edser TE and CI, 90 London Street, Eight Mile Plains  
 Harker TM and SF, 35 Lilywood Street, Eight Mile Plains  
 Baker J & Martin-Chew K, 356 West Mt Cotton Rd, Mt Cotton  
 Jarzabkowski PZ and ME, 775 Priestdale Road, Priestdale  
 Hatherly R and CK, 253 Rochedale Road, Rochedale  
 Price WS and GT, 270 Rochedale Road, Rochedale  
 Crichton GA and KR, 280 Rochedale Road, Rochedale  
 Condon LP and KD, 300 Rochedale Road, Rochedale  
 Buckley TP and MG, 198 Gardner Road, Rochedale  
 Wellreen Investments Pty Ltd, 210 Gardner Road, Rochedale  
 McDonald AJ and R, 220 Gardner Road, Rochedale  
 Butler WR, 222 Gardner Road, Rochedale  
 Short RR, 99 Ford Road, Rochedale  
 Kentgowen Pty Ltd, 121 Ford Road, Rochedale  
 Wilkinson CM, 627 and 645 Grieve Road, Rochedale  
 Edwards JD and MA, 707 Grieve Road, Rochedale  
 Pabari MNV, 718 Grieve Road, Rochedale  
 Vyneld P/L (Wright Family), 744 Grieve Road, Rochedale

**SOUTHERN SECTION**

Between Beenleigh—Redland Bay Road at Carbrook and Smith Street, Gaven

PROPERTIES ACQUIRED THROUGH NEGOTIATION AND RESUMPTION, as at 24/10/95

**FORMER OWNER and PROPERTY ADDRESS**

- Covill EW and EM, Cnr Alberton and Zipfs Roads, Alberton  
 McFadden MB and CE, Cnr Rotary Park/Alberton Roads, Alberton

Raine M and Egstorf R, Lot 3 Woolshed Road, Alberton  
 Galli Developments (Q) Pty Ltd, Lot 500 Napper Road, Arundel  
 Abrahamson W and I, Lot 33 Beatty Road, Coomera  
 Ferguson ER and N, Lot 9 off Foxwell Road, Coomera  
 Care F McL, Lot 19 Foxwell Road, Coomera  
 Buckvic N and M, 7067 Foxwell Road, Coomera  
 Jalbaden Pty Ltd, Lot 109 Millaroo Drive, Gaven  
 Usoto Pty Ltd, Lot 110 Millaroo Drive, Gaven  
 Kentax Pty Ltd, Lot 111 Millaroo Drive, Gaven  
 Coolong Superannuation Fund, (Buckler), Millaroo Drive, Gaven  
 Buckler P and PD, Millaroo Drive, Gaven  
 Queensland Rail, Millaroo Drive and Smith Street, Gaven  
 Aninuma Pty Ltd, Smith Street, Gaven  
 Vanglow Pty Ltd, Smith Street, Gaven  
 O'Brien JC and SW, Smith Street, Gaven  
 Scholfield S & G, Allden W, (Wilde/Harris), Smith Street, Gaven  
 Watson PS and BB, 48 Columbine Way, Gaven  
 Sullivan GM and KT, 50 Columbine Way, Gaven  
 Crawford RA and MR, Lot 14 Burnside Road, Gilberton  
 Davies JM, Lot 19 Burnside Road, Gilberton  
 Helensvale Estate Pty Ltd, Monterey Keys Drive and Gippsland Drive, Helensvale  
 Kabale Holdings Pty Ltd, Monterey Keys, Helensvale  
 Fuller N, 7000 Gold Coast Highway, Helensvale (Crab Farm)  
 MacGregor K, 178-180 Banyula Drive, Nerang  
 McNamara RH and MJP, 182-184 Banyula Drive, Nerang  
 Hunter MG and WE, 23 Narribri Court, Nerang  
 Knight DM, 21 Narribri Court, Nerang  
 Green JL, 19 Narribri Court, Nerang  
 Buchanan NJ, 26 Nakula Street, Nerang  
 Roy AP and J, 25 Nakula Street, Nerang  
 White CB, 7003 P'pma-Jac Well Rd, Pimpama  
 Hassall J, Kaplan R, Shaw M, 44 Quinns Hill Road East, Stapylton  
 Silver G and Simpson P, Lot 6 Yawalpah Road, Yawalpah  
 Thrasivoulou B,B,M & Kelly A, Yawalpah Road, Yawalpah  
 Rayner P and Finegan G, Yawalpah Road, Yawalpah

#### 162. Kroombit Tops

Mrs McCauley asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

With reference to tenders which have recently been called by the Forestry Department to fence part of the Kroombit Tops so that "brumbies and scrubbers" cannot cause harm to a frog habitat in the area—

- (1) Will the funding for this project, estimated to be some \$50,000, come from drought money?
- (2) If not, where is the funding coming from and exactly how much money is involved?

Answer (Mr Gibbs):

1. The project at Kroombit Tops was supported under one of the four components of the drought landcare. This component involves using the tactical

advantage afforded by drought or significant rainfall deficit to control vertebrate pest species and so to maintain or enhance nature conservation values. \$1 million has been allocated to this component of drought landcare.

2. The tender, called by the DPI's Resource Management Group, for fencing of a part of Kroombit Tops State Forest will be funded by the Commonwealth Feral Pests Program at a total project cost of \$66,814. This program is administered by the Australian Nature Conservation Agency (Federal Environment Portfolio) and the funds provided to this project are independent of other drought monies.

The project will aid in controlling the impact of feral cattle and horses to enhance and maintain the natural integrity of the Kroombit Tops Scientific Area within the State Forest. The project will protect and conserve the flora and fauna of the area, in particular, endangered wildlife such as the Kroombit Tinker Frog.

#### 164. Mahogany Glider

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

- (1) Was a Mahogany Glider found in Alice Drive, Rupertswood, Thuringowa, near Townsville?
- (2) If so, was the Department of Environment and Heritage involved in an investigation?
- (3) Has there been any further investigation in the area looking for Mahogany Glider habitat?

Answer (Mr Barton):

(1) The Department of Environment and Heritage has no record of a Mahogany Glider being found at Rupertswood. The researcher currently working on Mahogany Gliders, based at James Cook University, Townsville, has been contacted by the Department of Environment and Heritage and has no knowledge of gliders in that area.

(2) This is not applicable given the answer to (1).

(3) The Department of Environment and Heritage is continuing to refine information on the distribution and abundance of Mahogany Gliders. Surveys have been recently conducted in the Mission Beach/Innisfail area. Any sightings or other records of Mahogany Gliders reported to Department of Environment and Heritage staff are investigated.

#### 166. Eastlink

Mr GILMORE asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

With reference to his reported case for the Eastlink project, as outlined in the *Toowoomba Chronicle* on 10 October 1995, in which he stated, "By deciding to build Eastlink the Government has effectively deferred the need to build the equivalent new generation capacity. The money saved on not building a new power plant can be invested or spent on other services for Queenslanders" and his closing statement in the above case which stated "Electricity is an essential element of most industrial processes

and it is important therefore that electricity continues to be provided at the lowest possible cost to promote the development of new industry and hence new jobs in Queensland. Eastlink is the most effective way of ensuring this happens"—

- (1) What is the basis of his assessment that Eastlink will be able to provide electricity at "the lowest possible cost"?
- (2) What on-going procedures will be put in place to ensure that such a situation is maintained?
- (3) Is it feasible, let alone wise, to defer construction of a new power plant in Queensland so that funds can be spent elsewhere?
- (4) How many jobs were created during the construction of (a) Tarong Power Station and (b) Stanwell Power Station?
- (5) How many permanent jobs are involved with the running and maintenance of (a) Tarong Power Station and (b) Stanwell Power Station?
- (6) If his Government is intent on producing electricity at the "lowest possible cost", why is it pursuing the development of liquid fuelled turbines which are generally recognised as more costly than traditional generation methods?

Answer (Mr McGrady):

- (1) Eastlink was selected by the Government following a detailed analysis of Queensland's future supply options by the Queensland Transmission and Supply Corporation (QTSC). This analysis showed, inter alia, that the interconnection of Queensland and New South Wales electricity grids would produce a lower supply cost for intermediate/peak capacity in Queensland than is currently available under any other option.
- (2) In April 1995, the Government released its Energy Policy Statement, *Meeting Queensland's Electricity Supply Needs* which outlined a least cost strategy for meeting the State's electricity requirements from 1998 to 2006.
- (3) Not only is it feasible, but it is economically sound. Contractual obligations for new plant should not be entered into any earlier than necessary, to avoid major costs of unused plant should predicted demand not eventuate. For example, building a new power station like Stanwell a year earlier than necessary would result in additional costs of over \$150 million.
- (4) It is estimated (where records are not readily available) that around 2,300 people were employed at Tarong Power Station during its peak construction phase and approximately 950 people were employed at Stanwell Power Station during its peak construction phase.
- (5) Approximately 290 permanent jobs are involved with the running and maintenance of Tarong Power Station and approximately 150 permanent jobs are involved with Stanwell Power Station.

(6) Historically, liquid fired turbines have been more costly than traditional coal fired generators, however with increased competition in the gas market, gas is now potentially competitive with coal for base load generation. Open cycle gas turbines fuelled by oil or gas are the most effective of the available options for peaking duty. The Government is intent on sourcing electricity generating capacity at the "lowest possible cost" and will therefore undertake a competitive bidding process early next year in which all fuel types will compete on a commercial basis for the new capacity required beyond the year 2000.

### 169. Pacific Highway Upgrading

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

In view of yet another horrific accident on the Pacific Highway at Gaven resulting yet again in loss of human life and extensive personal and property damage, will he bring forward the highway upgrade between Pimpama and Nerang to start immediately as the matter is of extreme urgency?

Answer (Mr Elder):

I recently announced the Pacific Highway between Brisbane and Smith Street will be upgraded to six lanes within the next four years.

Queensland Transport is actively working on a plan to accelerate this upgrading work as quickly as possible, mindful that the works are undertaken in a planned way which considers the needs of the travelling public and all communities living close to the highway. Queensland Transport will be releasing details of the upgrading plan by December 1995.

### 171. Road Crossing, Toowoomba Range

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

- (1) Will he detail accurate total costings of the proposed second crossing of the Toowoomba Range, given that Queensland Transport and their consultants have publicly stated that the total cost will be \$150-\$200m whereas an independent evaluation based on Queensland Transport's own costs and engineering figures indicate that the project will blow out to a minimum anticipated \$250-\$300m?
- (2) What steps have been taken to address fragile environmental and heritage areas on the Toowoomba escarpment such as the heritage listed rail line identified within the narrow band of the motorway?

Answer (Mr Elder):

(1) Accurate total costings are not available for the Toowoomba Region Transport Network Study as a range of alignment options are still being investigated by Queensland Transport, especially on the range escarpment.

While these route investigations are proceeding the options are being evaluated on the basis of:



Environment impacts  
 Social impacts  
 Engineering feasibility  
 Economical design  
 Operational efficiency

The final route selected will involve a consideration of all of the above factors in determining the optimum solution.

Detailed accurate costing will therefore not be undertaken until the alignment and intersection layouts have been determined.

The independent evaluation of costs referred to by Mr Healy were part of a submission prepared by the Blue Mountain Heights Concerned Residents Group.

The Consultant's report identifies that the group has misunderstood and misinterpreted data in the consultant's previous report and that the group's estimate of costs is grossly exaggerated.

Nothing in the recent investigations indicates that previous expectations of the project need to be significantly revised.

(2) A requirement of the study is for Maunsell, the consultants undertaking the study for Queensland Transport, to provide a full environmental impact assessment.

These studies include the following:

Heritage (including Goolburri Land Council)  
 Flora and Fauna  
 Visual Impacts  
 Noise Impacts  
 Air Quality  
 Social Impacts

#### **172. Workers Compensation Scheme**

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

Given the continued reference in the House on 17 October 1995 to the Workers' Compensation scheme as an insurance scheme, what scheme has been in place for IBNR (incurred but not reported) over the past 6 years?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

For the past six years, a provision for IBNR claims has been included in actuarial analyses of outstanding claims liabilities, both for statutory workers' compensation claims and common law claims. This provision is part of the valuation of outstanding claims liabilities included in the Workers' Compensation Board financial accounts and Annual Report each year.

#### **173. Police Resources, Maroochydore District**

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

- (1) What forward planning is in place regarding new police facilities in the Maroochydore District?
- (2) Is a police station planned for Buderim; if so, when is it planned to be built?

Answer (Mr Braddy):

(1) The Queensland Police Service has identified future requirements, both in terms of police numbers and capital works, for the next ten years. In the recent election the Government agreed to fulfil all requests by the Police in the "Towards the 21st Century: Resource Priorities for the Queensland Police Service" document.

A new police station in the Maroochydore District at Sippy Downs has been identified on the "Proposed Queensland Police Service Capital Works Program 1995/96 to 2004/05". It is anticipated that land acquisition will take place within the next five years. Current planning anticipates that construction would commence in the 2004/05 financial year.

(2) A new police station at Buderim has been identified on the "Proposed Queensland Police Service Capital Works Program 1995/96 to 2004/05". It is anticipated that land acquisition will take place within the next five years. Current planning anticipates that construction would commence in the 2001/02 financial year.

#### **174. Speed Cameras**

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to a media release of 28 September in which he made reference to the escalating road toll in Queensland and stated the increase in road deaths may be contributed to the sudden increase in population and vast distances Queensland motorists have to travel and as he said that initiatives such as "Lights on Friday" and "Random Road Watch" campaigns were attempts to highlight the road toll and at the end of the day what we are about is finding ways to lower the road toll—

Does this mean that his Government will be introducing speed cameras to help alleviate the road toll?

Answer (Mr Elder):

As you may be aware, the Parliamentary Travelsafe Committee conducted an inquiry into the likely effectiveness of introducing speed cameras in Queensland. Queensland Transport prepared a submission to the Parliamentary Travelsafe Committee in August 1994, SPEED CAMERAS: SHOULD THEY BE USED IN QUEENSLAND? The committee recommended that speed cameras be introduced not as a single enforcement tool, but within the broad context of speed management.

The Queensland Government has considered Travelsafe's recommendations and agrees that speed cameras should indeed be considered. In this regard, Queensland Transport is currently investigating a range of engineering, enforcement and educational initiatives (including the use of speed cameras) which

available evidence suggests are capable of reducing speed-related crashes.

We are establishing a Speed Management Project Team to facilitate the completion of a Speed Management Strategy. The development of all aspects of the Speed Management Strategy will involve extensive participation by, and consultation with, key stakeholders.

Once a Speed Management Strategy is completed, the Government will be able to give further consideration to the introduction of speed cameras.

#### **175. Stewarts, Southport; Southport TAFE College**

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

- (1) Has she been able to throw any financial light on the disaster that has beset the retail operator Stewarts in the old McDonnell & East building in Southport's central business district?
- (2) As this disaster was caused by TAFE upgrading this site for its own purpose and, in doing so, has perpetuated an injustice on this company, so much so that it closed the carpark against the company's wishes, put scaffolding across most entrances and then refused to negotiate with the company about its disastrous decision, will she take steps to compensate the company for the actions of the TAFE bureaucrats?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

(1) The tenant has not paid rent owed from 3 August 1995 in the amount of \$45,000 and this is being managed through the standard legal processes for such matters.

(2) TAFE denies the allegation that its action was in anyway wrongful in relation to the upgrading of the site. The Gold Coast Institute of TAFE entered into an agreement with Bannerfresh Pty Ltd to provide a rent free period of nine (9) months to compensate for any disruption caused by the redevelopment of TAFE premises in the Southport central business district. The value of the rent free period was approximately \$100,000. This rent free period expired on 2 August 1995.

Negotiations with legal representatives of the parties are continuing with a view to a meeting of the parties (in the presence of a mediator) later this month in an endeavour to settle this matter without recourse to litigation.

#### **176. Taxi Operators, Mackay**

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to the Mackay taxi operators who have incurred substantial costs because of lower returns while performing their role in the Taxi Transit concept—

When will Queensland Transport honour the promised financial support to Mackay taxis for work performed on Taxis Transit?

Answer (Mr Elder):

Queensland Transport provided Mackay Taxi Transit with an initial grant for \$10,000 in January 1993 to establish aspects of the service, including a 008 telephone number and administrative expenses.

Queensland Transport has never had an arrangement to pay ongoing subsidies to Mackay Taxi Transit.

Some Mackay Taxi Transit services are currently operated on behalf of Mackay Transit Coaches. Any reimbursement for these services is an issue to be addressed by Mackay Taxi Transit and Mackay Transit Coaches and does not involve Queensland Transport.

#### **177. TAFE College Directors**

Mr WOOLMER asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

- (1) How many applications were received for the Director's position at (a) Far North Queensland Institute of TAFE and (b) Brisbane Institute of TAFE?
- (2) Where did the applications originate from and what experience did they detail in their applications?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

(1) (a) Twenty one (21) applications were received for the position of Director, Far North Queensland Institute of TAFE.

(b) Twenty six (26) applications were received for the position of Director, Brisbane, Institute of TAFE

(2) Of the applications for the position of Director, Brisbane Institute of TAFE, five (5) were from within TAFE Queensland; four (4) from other public sector agencies; four (4) from interstate and the New Zealand TAFE systems; the remainder from the private sector and tertiary sector and one (1) unemployed.

Of the applications for the position of Director, Far North Queensland Institute of TAFE, four (4) were from within TAFE Queensland; two (2) were from public sector agencies; six (6) were from interstate and the New Zealand TAFE systems; the remainder were from the private sector and tertiary sector and one (1) unemployed.

Applicants detailed a range of experiences in their applications. Those from TAFE systems had a knowledge of vocational educational and training; a number of private sector applicants had experience in management consultancy; most had held management positions in various organisations.

#### **178. Adult and Community Education Programs, TAFE Colleges**

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

With reference to adult and community education programs in TAFE—

Will she provide (a) the enrolment and (b) student contact hours for each college/institute, per term, for the past two years?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

Yes. I table information relating to (a) the enrolment and (b) student contact hours for adult and community education for each institute, per term, for 1994 and 1995.

The information I have tabled shows that enrolments in TAFE Queensland Adult Community Education courses for 1995 have fallen by 3.55% in comparison with the same period for 1994. This small decrease reflects, in part, the increasing trend by clients particularly in rural Queensland, to enrol in introductory or access modules which are funded from the Consolidated Fund allocation to TAFE Queensland, and which provide articulation, and frequently advanced standing, into mainstream vocational education. Five of the seven TAFE Institutes outside the south-east corner of Queensland have recorded increases in mainstream introductory and access courses in 1995 including Mt Isa Institute which has doubled its enrolments in these modules.

#### 179. Trowbridge Consultants

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

With reference to an article in *The Courier-Mail* of 10 October 1995, in which she is quoted as saying that a firm known as Trowbridge Consultants provided Cabinet with figures which apparently indicated that lawyers are largely responsible for the \$120m shortfall in the workers' compensation fund—

- (1) How much was paid to Trowbridge Consultants for their service/information?
- (2) Who authorised this expenditure?
- (3) Why weren't departmental staff considered capable of providing the data that Cabinet needed for their deliberations?
- (4) Were other consultancy firms provided with the opportunity to tender for the supply of the required services/information?
- (5) Who are the principals of Trowbridge Consultants?
- (6) Are any of the principals of this firm related to any departmental officer/s.

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

(1) No money has yet been paid to Trowbridge Consulting as no account has yet been submitted. However it is anticipated that the account will not exceed \$25 000.

(2) On 26 August 1995 the Workers' Compensation Board recommended to me that an independent consultant be engaged to analyse the legal and other costs associated with common law claims.

(3) Given that legal and other disbursement costs in common law were an important part of the issues being considered by the Board, Board members believed that urgent independent advice was required.

(4) Given that the advice was considered urgent, Trowbridge Consulting, which already held workers' compensation claims data, but which was free of any relationship with the Board, was requested to perform the task.

(5) John Trowbridge, Jeff Atkins, Colin Brigstock, Ron Friedman, David Service and Martin Fry.

(6) One of the principals has a sibling who is employed within another Division of the Department in a separate building and has little or no contact with the Workers' Compensation Board.

#### 180. Child-care Centres, Greenslopes Electorate

Mr RADKE asked the Minister for Family and Community Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Status of Women—

With reference to the Greenslopes electorate in which there are currently five child care centres and five community kindergartens—

- (1) What are the assessment criteria for granting further licences?
- (2) In relation to a Federal Government directive that non-working parents receive only 12 hours per week fee assisted child care, what policy initiatives will be developed to ensure compliance?
- (3) Regarding 24-hour child care centres, (a) how many licences have been approved, (b) what criteria was used to grant such a licence to a child care centre, (c) what criteria will be used to assess which parent/child requires such a service and (d) what research demonstrates a positive impact of 24-hour child care centres upon a child's behaviour and development?
- (4) Is the commitment to community kindergartens' funding (Creche And Kindergarten Association affiliated) at 80% of staff salaries?

Answer (Mrs Woodgate):

(1) Applications for a licence to operate a child care centre are assessed under the Child Care Act 1991 and the Child Care (Child Care Centres) Regulation 1991.

Section 12 (2) of the Act, requires the following matters to be considered:

- (a) whether—
  - (i) the facilities provided or proposed to be provided are adequate for the provision of child care; and
  - (ii) the applicant is a fit and proper person or body to be providing child care; and
  - (iii) each person proposed to be engaged to provide child care services is a fit and proper person to be providing the services; and

- (iv) the applicant can provide the services in respect of which the licence is being sought; and
- (b) any relevant information given by or in relation to the applicant under this Act.

The Regulation sets out requirements for premises and facilities, capacity, group sizes, staffing, centre policies, and health and safety.

(2) This is a Commonwealth matter.

(3) (a) Two 24-hour licenses have been approved in Queensland. Neither of these centres is in Greenslopes and neither currently operates for 24-hour care. (b) 24-hour child care centres must meet the same criteria as all other child care centres, with additional requirements for overnight care. (c) These are principally matters for parents and licensees. In general, parents are best placed to judge the needs of their children and families. Similarly, as part of competing in the marketplace, licencees might choose to explore the possible demand for, and viability of, 24-hour access. Currently, no centre provides an overnight service. (d) I note that children in 24-hour child care centres do not necessarily spend longer hours in child care than children in other services. Further, given the nature of labourforce changes, I would submit that to preclude the possibility of access to qualified child care in non-regular hours would be unconscionable.

(4) Yes.

### 181. Workers Compensation Fund

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

With reference to the workers' compensation fund for 1993-94 and 1994-95, will she detail (a) the number of claims, by industry and occupation category, (b) the type of claims, by industry and occupation category, (c) any obvious categories of occupation experiencing extraordinary claim incidences and (d) the increase or decrease in credit on premiums—by occupation category?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

All profiles of claim data from the workers' compensation database are based on industry business groups, not occupation categories. Data is not held by occupation categories.

- (a) I table the number of statutory and common law claims by industry.
- (b) I table type of claims by industry.
- (c) Data is not available by occupation.
- (d) Merit bonus is paid to employers. "Occupation" is not relevant to this payment.

### 182. Establishment of TAFE Colleges

Mr STONEMAN asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

- (1) What cost savings have resulted from the establishment of institutes of TAFE?

- (2) Will she detail any cost savings (a) in total and (b) on an institute-by-institute basis?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

The establishment of Institutes is inextricably linked to the Workplace Reform Process which has been under way in TAFE Queensland since 1993.

Within the overall context of Workplace Reform the establishment of Institutes has been instrumental in the following achievements:

A reduction in the cost of delivery from \$8.50 per student contact hour in 1989 to \$7.24 in 1994, expressed on a 1989/90 base. Preliminary statistics soon to be released by the Australian Committee on Vocational Education and Training Statistics (ACVETS) show that in 1994 the Queensland Vocational Education and Training System achieved:

the lowest cost of delivery per curriculum hour of any State

the best value for money of any State achieving:

the lowest per hour cost for successful modular completion;

the lowest cost for successful modular completion;

the second lowest cost per award completion.

Full details of these data are hereby tabled.

The re-direction of \$44.423M including 128 staff places from State Office to Institutes between 1 July 1994 and 1 July 1995 minimising duplication of effort, reducing overheads and improving responsiveness.

The incorporation of the TAFE Queensland Regional Office resources into Institutes resulting in savings of \$432,000 in 1994/95, which were re-invested in contributing to the provision of 5 mobile learning units to the Far North Queensland (2), Barrier Reef, Central Queensland and Mt Isa Institutes of TAFE, thereby enhancing the delivery of vocational education and training to remote and rural communities.

These outcomes have been achieved even though many of the Institutes have only recently been established and are still in the process of finalising their structures and operating procedures.

The three Institutes which have been in operation for more than 12 months provide specific examples of productivity outcomes that can be expected of all Institutes as follows:

Southbank Institute of TAFE achieved savings of \$800,000 in the first full year of its operation. Delivery costs in nominal terms at the Southbank Institute of TAFE have fallen from \$6.94 per student contact hour to \$6.25 with productivity savings being channelled back into more places and more courses.

The Open Learning Institute projects productivity savings of \$172,000 which have been re-directed back into structuring the Institute to reduce administration costs and to increase its operational efficiency.

The Cooloola Sunshine Institute has achieved productivity savings of \$205,000 through fewer executive positions, centralising of corporate services, more effective teacher utilisation and the increased sharing of resources. These savings have been employed by the Institute to expand its academic program, increase the number of information and enrolment services to clients, expand and provide a more effective student counselling and employment service, improve the delivery of programs in areas such as food and beverage, cookery and horticulture, and significantly increase expenditure on staff training and development to ensure that training is of the highest possible quality.

As the above performance data indicates, the establishment of Institutes along with all the other initiatives ongoing under the organisation's workplace reform program, has positioned TAFE Queensland as a leading provider of vocational education and training across Australia. This outcome has been achieved by the commitment and dedication of TAFE Queensland staff at all levels and in all areas of operation to the objective of providing quality vocational education and training to Queenslanders at best value for the funds that the Government has invested in this most important community service.

#### 184. Crop Damage Mitigation Permits

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

- (1) Will he clarify the department's intention regarding the issuing of damage mitigation permits for flying foxes, rainbow lorikeets and other species that cause crop destruction?
- (2) Has the department established limits for these species; if so, what are the limitations for each species?
- (3) Has the department established that only 15 flying foxes and 15 lorikeets are the maximum number for 3 to 4 months of the permit's duration?
- (4) Should destruction of a crop continue after the 15 species are removed, what speedy recourse is a grower entitled to in order to recover his losses?

Answer (Mr Barton):

(1) Section 107 of the Nature Conservation Regulation 1994 provides the Chief Executive, Department of Environment and Heritage, with the power to grant a damage mitigation permit. Section 112 of the Regulation sets restrictions on the granting of such permits.

A person who is able to satisfy the requirements of the legislation may obtain a damage mitigation permit for common wildlife.

- (2) No, the Department has not established limits for these species.
- (3) The Department recognises, for example, that three species of flying fox, the red-headed, grey-headed and black flying foxes are frequent and

serious pests of orchards and that the rainbow lorikeet is a frequent and serious pest of pastures and large crops. In consultation with rural industry groups, the Department has reached an agreement that the issuing of damage mitigation permits should be phased down over a period of five years. There is no intention to phase damage mitigation permits out entirely and it is proposed that the phase down will be linked to the increased use of alternative crop protection measures.

No numeric limit on the number of animals to be taken under a damage mitigation permit is proposed, but there will be a limit of three months on the period of issue of a permit. Permits are available free of charge.

On 21 February 1995, the Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority wrote to the Department of Environment and Heritage to advise that crop netting not only protects produce from bat and bird damage, but importantly protects produce from hail and wind damage. The Authority expressed support for the above proposal and advised that netting assistance for primary producers in the form of concessional loans (under the Primary Industry Productivity Enhancement Scheme) and interest subsidy support (under the Rural Adjustment Scheme) was available from the Authority.

(4) Not applicable as no such numeric limit is proposed.

#### 185. Noise Barriers, Pacific Highway

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

- (1) Will he confirm advice from the former Minister (Mr Hayward) that noise barriers will be erected along the Pacific Highway to alleviate noise nuisance for residents of North Palm Beach and Palm Beach, between Tallebudgera Creek and Palm Beach Avenue?
- (2) What is the anticipated completion date for this work?
- (3) What will be the design and style of the above noise barriers, including information on consultation processes undertaken in respect of design of these barriers?

Answer (Mr Elder):

(1) Queensland Transport will be installing noise barriers along the Pacific Highway at Palm Beach as part of a major design and construct contract to duplicate the highway between Ready Creek and Tugun.

(2) Noise barriers will be erected by May 1997.

(3) I am unable to release details on the design and style of the barriers at this time as this forms part of a design and construct offer from each tender for the project. Each tenderer has offered a noise barrier which conforms to a performance specification developed specifically for the project. Queensland Transport developed the performance specification from numerous representations by the local community on highway traffic noise at Palm Beach.

Soon after the design and construct contract for the project is awarded, Queensland Transport will publicly display the project to the community. This display will include the full details on the locations and nature of noise barriers along the Pacific Highway. Residents will then have an opportunity to comment on the noise barriers.

#### **186. Police Service Conditions**

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to the complaints about poor working conditions, insufficient police officers, poor morale, sub-standard equipment, the need for an improved career path for junior officers and the impracticality of cluster policing—

What action does he intend to take to rectify such an appalling state of affairs affecting police at Ipswich and other districts around the State?

Answer (Mr Braddy):

While there has been some sensationalism around the genuine concerns of Queensland Police Officers, as Minister I have acted with the Queensland Police Service to review practices to enhance efficiency and effectiveness. The Commissioner's Inspectorate is conducting inspections and audits of establishments and assists regional and district managers to adopt best practices and identify areas where improvements can be made.

In relation to police numbers, when this Government came into office in December 1989 the actual strength of the Police Service was 5,303 officers. Of those approximately 77% were operational. Since that time the actual strength has increased overall by 20% and as at 17 November 1995, stands at 6,359 officers, of which approximately 90% are operational. A further 80 recruits will be sworn-in in December 1995. The Government's undertaking to provide an additional 2,000 extra operational police over the next 10 years demonstrates an ongoing commitment to addressing police resourcing issues. Ipswich District's actual strength has increased from 166 officers to 220 officers during the same period. At the moment the District has six officers over its approved strength of 216 positions.

With respect to the matter of morale, preliminary results of independent research to be released next year indicate that morale in the Queensland Police Service is much higher than under the days of corruption presided over by the former national party Government. A survey of over 3,000 police revealed that 85% of them were satisfied or very satisfied with their work. In addition, a recent (July/August 1995) survey of 54 First Year Constables conducted by the Research and Co-ordination Division of the Criminal Justice Commission indicated that such officers were satisfied with their careers as police officers. Ninety percent stated that they were "very satisfied" or "satisfied".

In terms of career paths for junior officers the change from seniority to merit-based promotion has given younger police a great incentive and is proving a considerable attraction to mature, well-educated

young people to seek a police career. Discussions have commenced with the Queensland Police Union of Employees to further streamline the promotions system and the Police Education Advisory Council, now under the Chairmanship of former Supreme Court Justice, Mr Bill Carter, QC is examining proposals for the introduction of professional development programs to be jointly delivered by the Queensland Police Service and various tertiary institutions. The Service is also introducing distance education which will assist officers in isolated areas to pursue professional development and career goals.

This Government will continue to increase the resources allocated to the Queensland Police Service and, together with the Service, is committed to providing reasonable working conditions for police and enhancing the quality of the policing service delivered to the Queensland community.

#### **188. Overtime Payments, Fire Service**

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Consumer Affairs—

With reference to his answer to my question on 15 September 1995 concerning the cost of overtime payments in the Queensland Fire Service—

Will he detail where the cash reserves being used to pay for this overtime are listed in the Budget papers presented earlier this year?

Answer (Mr Davies):

Cash reserves are not used for overtime.

#### **189. Bruce Highway Flood Study**

Mr TURNER asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to a flood study undertaken by Connell Wagner in 1992 covering the Eudlo Creek-Forest Glen area of the Bruce Highway using information provided by a local contractor whose property was allegedly flooded due to road works in that area—

- (1) Will he release a copy of the flood study to me as the local Member?
- (2) Were any previous flood studies undertaken prior to the removal of culverts from the road, which appeared eventually to have caused major flooding of the subject property?

Answer (Mr Elder):

1. The report will not be released as the report was created for the sole purpose of likely litigation.
2. All road projects involve a detail design phase. As part of the detail design phase, hydraulic studies were undertaken to determine the appropriate treatment at Eudlo Creek.

#### **191. Holland Park State School**

Mr RADKE asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to promised "new building works" at the Holland Park State School—

Will the Government honour these election commitments and is the completion date for a new two-storey teaching block still on track for the second half of 1996?

Answer (Mr Hamill):

The teaching block in question is a facility that the Holland Park State School community and the previous Member for Greenslopes, Mr Gary Fenlon, identified as important for the educational development of the children who attend the school.

I can confirm that, thanks to the representations made to me by Mr Fenlon and this Government's now proven record in meeting its election commitments, Holland Park State School will have constructed a new two storey teaching block at an estimated cost of \$1 million.

### 192. Designation of DEVETIR Staff

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

Despite the circulation of official memoranda, Executive Forum Agenda items and correspondence between senior officers of DEVETIR and the PSMC in relation to the incorrect designation of departmental staff, senior executives of the department were unable to answer a question on this matter at the Estimates Committee hearings—

- (1) Will she now table all correspondence between her department and the PSMC (and vice-versa) in relation to this issue?
- (2) What is the cost, to date, of corrective action to rectify this matter (total back-pay of employees, administrative costs involved in rectification)?
- (3) How many instances of incorrect designation of staff have so far been identified?
- (4) What is the maximum amount of back-pay any individual employee has so far been paid?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

- (1) Yes. I hereby table all correspondence between my department and the PSMC (and vice-versa) in relation to this issue.
- (2) The direct cost of the rectification was \$17,412.91. The approximate administrative costs are estimated at \$1740.
- (3) 23
- (4) \$6764

### 193. Taxi Expenditure, Southbank Institute of TAFE

Mr HARPER asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

Will she table the reports, both from internal audit staff and from the Auditor-General's officers, resulting from investigation of the massive taxi expenditure at Southbank and the circulation of

approximately 115 Cab Charge voucher books at that TAFE institute?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

The issues raised by the Auditor General's officers are still under consideration by the Auditor-General. Internal Audit staff did not undertake any investigation of taxi expenditure at Southbank Institute of TAFE.

### 194. Adult and Community Education Programs, TAFE Colleges

Mr WOOLMER asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

- (1) What were the Adult and Community Education (ACE) enrolments and student contact hours and enrolment periods for the following TAFE centres (a) Gympie—First Term 1994, (b) Hervey Bay—First Term 1994, (c) Mt Isa—First Term 1995 and (d) South Burnett—First Term 1995?
- (2) Were the above ACE programs all conducted on a full cost recovery basis?
- (3) Does she believe that the level of service to each of the communities indicated above meets the department's social justice obligations?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

(1) During the period of first term 1994 and first term 1995 for the above TAFE centres there were no enrolments for the ACE courses. However social justice obligations are increasingly being met through introductory or access modules which are funded from the Consolidated Fund allocation to TAFE Queensland. These programs, unlike ACE, provide articulation, and frequently advanced standing, into mainstream vocational education and training programs.

In 1994, the number of students enrolled in access/entry level programs at each of the locations mentioned was:

(a) Gympie	453
(b) Hervey Bay	2102
(c) Mt Isa	344
(d) South Burnett	453

- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) See (1).

### 195. Establishment and Operating Costs of TAFE Colleges

Mr J. N. GOSS asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

What were the establishment and operating costs incurred in establishing regional management for TAFE in (a) Brisbane, (b) Central Queensland, (c) Darling Downs, (d) North Queensland and (e) the Wide Bay/Sunshine Coast regions?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

The decision to establish the regional management structure, of which TAFE was a component resulted from a recommendation of the 1991 DEVETIR Review conducted by PSMC, with the structures being established in early 1992. This structure was also responsible for regional elements of the employment program and training administration. The costs of these functions cannot be objectively separated to specifically identify the TAFE components because the regional offices were operated on an integrated basis. Regional Directors were appointed as follows:

Regional Director, Brisbane—7 February 1992

Regional Director, Central Qld—24 February 1992 (date of commencement)

Regional Director, Darling Downs—17 February 1992 (date of commencement)

Regional Director, North Qld—7 February 1992

Regional Director, Wide Bay/Sunshine Coast—7 February 1992

Funding for 1991/92 was limited to the salary costs of the Regional Directors and basic overheads. Formal Regional Office budgets were not allocated until 1992/93 which I have detailed below:

All assets and recurrent budgets have been reallocated to Institutes. In particular, the savings realised in 1994/95 of \$432,000 from the closure of Regional Offices partly funded the purchase of five mobile learning units to enhance the delivery of vocational education and training to remote and rural communities.

#### 196. Cape York Wilderness Zone

Mr GILMORE asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

With reference to the announced Cape York Peninsula Wilderness Zone—

- (1) What effect will this decision have on existing exploration permits and mining leases located within the zone?
- (2) Will the status of those titles change?
- (3) Will existing requirements on those titles be changed by this zone?
- (4) Will new exploration permits be allowed in the wilderness zone, particularly in respect of known resources?
- (5) Does his Government intend to purchase existing mineral tenements in the zone?
- (6) Will exploration for new mineral resources be allowed within the wilderness zone?

Answer (Mr McGrady):

(1) The Cape York Peninsula Conservation Zone will consist of a variety of land tenures that will most appropriately provide for the future management and conservation of the natural values of the zone. In determining such tenures, arrangements will be made to allow holders of all existing exploration permits and mining leases, other than those at Shelburne

Bay, to continue to exercise their legal rights and entitlements. Identified significant ore deposits not yet subject to exploration or mining tenure will also be taken into account. In the case of Shelburne Bay, it is not Government policy to allow for future mining in this area of great environmental and cultural importance, and the Government will pursue the surrender of two small mining leases.

(2) The status of remaining exploration permits and mining leases will not change.

(3) Existing requirements on such tenures will not be changed.

(4) New exploration permits will be possible where the future land tenures permit.

(5) It is intended to enter into negotiations for the surrender of two small granted mining leases at Shelburne Bay. No other negotiations are necessary as other exploration and mining tenures are unaffected.

(6) Exploration for new resources will be possible where the future land tenures permit.

#### 197. Establishment and Operating Costs of TAFE Colleges

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

What have been the establishment and operating costs incurred in establishing TAFE institutes across Queensland to date?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

The costs to date of the establishment of Institutes have been absorbed and have been more than offset by the benefits which are included in my answer to Question No 182.

#### 198. Capital Works Contracts, Queensland Rail

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

- (1) What was the value of all contracts for capital works undertaken by Queensland Rail during 1994-95 for which tenders were called?
- (2) For each contract contained in the value in (1) above, what was (a) the job number, (b) the name of each contractor (including government departments, councils and GOEs and business units) who submitted a bid and the price submitted, (c) who was the contractor awarded the contract, (d) the date the contract was awarded, (e) if the contract was completed during 1994-95, what was the total final price paid and (f) if the contract remained incomplete, what was the total of the progress payments made?
- (3) What was the value of all capital works undertaken by Queensland Rail during 1994-95 for which no tenders were called?
- (4) For each separate capital works project in (3) above, what was (a) the job number, (b) the



name of the contractor (including government departments, councils and GOEs and business units) awarded the job and the price of the contract, (c) the date the contract was awarded, (d) if the contract was completed during 1994-95, what was the total final price paid and (e) if the contract was incomplete, what was the total of the progress payments made?

Answer (Mr Elder):

(1) I am pleased to advise the Honourable Member that Queensland Rail awarded 157 contracts during 1994-95, valued at \$370 million.

Total expenditure on capital works for 1994-95 was \$758 million, which includes substantial expenditure on contracts awarded in previous years.

(2) Should the Honourable Member wish, I have available a report from Queensland Rail which details a monthly listing of public contract awards for 1994-95. This excludes acquisition of items through inventory and vehicle purchases.

A listing of companies who bid for the contracts and the prices submitted is not readily available. In any event this information is considered commercially sensitive to the companies involved as the tendering process involved a mix of public and private tender openings.

(3) Queensland Rail's capital works activities and expenditure comprise:

- Planning studies
- Design, Engineering and Project Management
- Land Acquisition
- Civil and Building Construction
- Signalling and Telecommunication
- Rollingstock (new and upgrades)
- Track construction (new and upgrades)
- Information systems (Hardware and Software)
- Vehicle and Plant acquisition (and upgrade)
- Service relocations

Delivery is principally via a range of internal Queensland Rail specialist resources, external consultants, contractors and suppliers, with limited use of other Government Departments, local authorities and service authorities.

(4) Information is not readily available for the overall capital works program requested, and considerable time would be required to collate this data. However, should the Honourable Member wish, I have available a sample of initial and final contract values for the Mainline Upgrade project civil contracts should you wish to view them.

### 199. Transport Department, Gympie

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to speculation within the community that the district office of the Department of Transport may be relocated away from Gympie—

Has any change been made to previous decisions that the district office will remain in Gympie?

Answer (Mr Elder):

The Member for Gympie would be aware that my predecessor, Ken Hayward had advised that whilst there were no current proposals to relocate Queensland Transport's North Coast District Office from Gympie to the Sunshine Coast, Consultants Coopers & Lybrand had been engaged to review the strategic location of this office.

This report, which involved widespread consultation with major stakeholder including: local Members of Parliament, local government Mayors, and representative from Chambers of Commerce, developers and major engineering consultancies, concluded that there is a strong business case to relocate the district office to the Sunshine Coast.

Any decision to relocate this office will account for the sensitivities in the local community and the impact on the staff involved.

### 200. Police Beat Shopfront Program, Sunshine Coast

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

Will he extend the community police beat program, which has been successfully trialled in Toowoomba, to the Sunshine Coast Police District and, in particular, to the Maroochy North Shore area, Bli Bli and Yandina?

Answer (Mr Braddy):

The Opposition still do not understand that since the Fitzgerald Inquiry the deployment of Police Officers is determined by the Queensland Police Service, not politicians. The Queensland Police Service has formed a Steering Committee in the North Coast Police Region to consider the possible establishment in the Region of a pilot neighbourhood police beat, similar to that in Toowoomba. Research will be undertaken to identify possible locations for such a police beat. In that regard, consideration will be given to the policing needs and demographics of areas in the Region.

### 201. Seniors Card

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Family and Community Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Status of Women—

Does she intend to make alterations to the Seniors Card eligibility schedule to remove the anomaly which renders those citizens who apply for a card after 1 July 1994 ineligible for a motor vehicle registration concession?

Answer (Mrs Woodgate):

The provision of Queensland concessions gives a priority to those who are most financially disadvantaged. Concessions targeting is regularly reviewed and was last amended with regard to Seniors Card in early 1994, in the context of an overall review of concessions.

This review resulted in the extension of eligibility for the Seniors Card to an estimated 30,000 additional Queenslanders. Recipients of several Social Security benefits, the Veterans' Affairs Disability Pension or War Widows Pension and Commonwealth Seniors Health Card holders all became eligible for a Queensland Government Seniors Card for the first time.

As a partial offset to this expansion of eligibility, the motor vehicle registration concession was not included in the package of concessions made available to new Seniors Cards applicants; that is, those applying from 1 July 1994. Existing recipients of the concession retained eligibility, so as to avoid disadvantaging any existing cardholder who might live on a fixed budget and have relied upon this concession in framing their financial plans.

Demand on Seniors Card concessions is expected to increase over the next decade. Average life expectancy is increasing and stands at 80.4 years for women and 74.5 years for men. In the next ten years, the number of people over 65 is expected to increase by 29%, those over 75 by 48% and people over 85 years by 70%. By contrast, total population growth is expected to be only 24.2%.

In spite of this, the Queensland Government is able to continue to provide a very generous range of government concessions to a rapidly increasing number of Queensland Seniors. These concessions are among the most generous in Australia and include valuable reductions on ambulance fees, electricity, transport—both local and long distance travel and various health services.

## 202. Eastlink

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

With reference to a report in the Sydney Morning Herald on 2 October which outlines the New South Wales Government's intention to split the \$12 billion power generator, Pacific Power, into three companies and claims that the central coast's giant Eraring Power Station will go it alone and be incorporated in a joint venture with Queensland Generators once Queensland comes onto the National Power Grid—

Is the Goss Government aware of such plans; if so, what is the status of negotiations regarding this joint venture and which generation units will be involved?

Answer (Mr McGrady):

On 3 October 1995, the Premier of New South Wales wrote to the Premier of Queensland in relation to the program of reforms to that State's electricity industry. The letter enclosed a copy of the final report of the New South Wales Generation working group which recommended the disaggregation of Pacific Power into either two or three separate and competing generation businesses, one of which was Eraring Power Station. The letter raised the possibility of the Queensland and New South Wales Governments' forming a jointly owned generation corporation that has a major power station asset in each State.

No specific details were raised in the letter and there have been no official negotiations between the Queensland and New South Wales Governments at this time.

Any detailed proposal would need to be examined carefully and in the light of Queensland's possible participation in a National Electricity Market. The Queensland Government would only consider a venture which is demonstrably to the benefit of Queensland electricity consumers.

## 203. Griffith Arterial Road

Mr CARROLL asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to traffic island beautification works along the Griffith Arterial Road (Mt Gravatt-Capalaba Road) between Logan Road, Upper Mt Gravatt and Boyanda Street, Wishart undertaken in the first six months of 1995—

- (1) What was the total cost to the State Government of these works?
- (2) Was any contribution received toward those costs from the Federal Government?
- (3) Will any plants be planted in the unsealed parts of the bark-covered traffic islands?
- (4) What additional outlays on this work are planned?

Answer (Mr Elder):

- (1) & (2) Because Mt Gravatt-Capalaba Road is a National Highway, all works are funded by the Federal Government. The cost of the woodchip covering, on that section of the road median was \$37,000.
- (3) Queensland Transport is currently planting trees, shrubs and ground covers on the medians.
- (4) The planting costs to complete the works are estimated to be approximately \$30,000.

## 204. Land Rezoning, Ravenswood

Mr STONEMAN asked the Minister for Lands—

With reference to the recent change of purpose over L21/R16221, Parish of Ravenswood, from 'Public Purpose' to 'Police Purpose' with the Commissioner of Police given control under the Land Act 1994—

- (1) Why was there no consultation with the Dalrymple Shire Council in this matter?
- (2) Were the local community who have worked assiduously for years to recreate the historic 'heart' of the town of Ravenswood on the site, consulted; if not, why not?
- (3) What commitment has been given by the Commissioner of Police that access for the people of Ravenswood and visitors to the historic town, have free and continuing access to the site?
- (4) What assurances was he given that there had been a community consultation and that the security of public access would continue over the site?

- (5) What arrangements have been made in respect of the changed purposes of the land to ensure that the Police Commissioner will not construct any inappropriate building or facility on the historic Court House site?
- (6) What constraints, if any, will apply to the use of the land by the Police Commissioner?
- (7) What charges have been made in respect of the change of purpose against the Police Commissioner and what on-going charges will apply?

Answer (Mr McElligott):

1. Whilst the original reserve was for Public Purposes, the Council were not trustees of the reserve. Lands Department were not recently informed of the extent of Council activity on the reserve. Departmental of Lands records showed that the Police Service had an interest in the site through the Government Land Management System processes. Those records also indicate that Council has had prior consultation with the Police Service to the extent where it was expected that extensive negotiation would be required concerning restoration work and standards of accommodation.

2. As already mentioned the Police Service had registered its interest in the site through the processes of the Government Land Register and Council as representatives of the local community had not recently sought to formalise their interest in the reserve. The department acted on advice from another agency, and facilitated this dealing in State land for and on behalf of that agency.

3. & 4. The Police Service has indicated that extensive negotiation will be required between Council, the Police Service and Q-Build to ensure building restoration work would be sufficient to the needs of the service. The Police Service has been in communication with citizens through Dalrymple Council and to the best of my knowledge prevention of public access to the site was never contemplated or raised. That observation has been enforced by later developments. In addition I understand the Police Service will confirm it has had no interest in two of three buildings on the site.

5. & 6. The department is not yet aware of any arrangements or details between the Police Service and Council concerning construction or modification of existing buildings, except that the negotiation process will address issues such as public access (including disabled access), retention of the heritage architecture features, vehicular access, signage and also the specific requirements of a police station.

Very recent discussions between the Police Service, Dalrymple Shire Council, the Ravenswood Restoration Preservation Society and Lands have now taken place and have been very positive. The department is advised that the Police Service will now seriously consider revocation of its trusteeship of the reserve.

7. No charges to date have been made against the Police Commissioner in respect of the change of purpose of the reserve or the ongoing use of the site. This is in accord with the Government Land

Management System processes. Should a building on the reserve be able to be modified to accommodate Police requirements a nominal lease arrangement would be established with the trustees and the Police Service.

## 206. Regional Open Space Strategies

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

With reference to the Regional Open Space Strategies—

Will he guarantee that (a) land affected by these strategies will not be devalued by delays in compensation payments, (b) compensation will be paid at values equal to adjoining unaffected land values, thus reflecting full potential dollar prices and (c) adequate funding is available to meet the purchase prices of all land affected under these strategies?

Answer (Mr Barton):

This question is more appropriately directed to my colleague the Honourable Terry Mackenroth, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning, Minister for Rural Communities and Minister for Provision of Infrastructure for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities—the Minister responsible for the implementation of the Regional Open Space System (ROSS) program.

(a) Land acquired by the Government for ROSS purposes will be very limited and will be purchased only from willing vendors.

(b) Land will be purchased at market rates at a price agreeable to the vendor.

(c) An annual budget allocation of \$4 million has been made for purchase of land for the ROSS program. The first allocation was in the 1994-95 financial year. This allocation is scheduled to continue for five years, making an overall total of \$20 million. Purchase of land for the ROSS program will not exceed budget allocation.

## 207. Eastlink

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

When will the final terms of reference for the Environmental Impact Statement for Eastlink be made available to the public?

Answer (Mr McGrady):

The Terms of Reference for the Environmental Impact Statement are expected to be finalised over the next few weeks, pending the approval of the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage, the New South Wales Department of Urban Affairs and Planning and the Commonwealth Environment Protection Agency and will thereafter be available. It should be noted that the Queensland Transmission and Supply Corporation has undertaken extensive consultation in the drafting of the proposed Terms of Reference, including with relevant Queensland, NSW and Commonwealth Government agencies, local authorities, and

conservation and community groups concerned about the Eastlink project.

### 208. Bus Operators

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

Since the changes to licensing of bus routes on the implementation of the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Bill that have now been rescheduled, how many bus operators have been forced from the industry as a result of the implementation of the new licensing system?

Answer (Mr Elder):

There have been no existing bus operators forced from the industry as a consequence of the implementation of commercial service contracts pursuant to the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act of 1994. However, some operators have chosen to exit the industry and negotiated sale prices that are of course confidential to the parties involved.

In accordance with section 56 (Entitlement of existing operators) of the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act of 1994, each of these existing operators of public passenger services were extended a right to the first opportunity to offer to provide services under contract for the respective declared service area.

One of the objectives of the legislation is to provide the best possible public transport at reasonable cost to the community and the government, whilst keeping government regulation to a minimum. Consequently, there are no restrictions placed on operators in respect of the sale of their business in the period immediately prior to, during, or after, the implementation of a commercial service contract.

### 209. Sewage Treatment Plants

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

With reference to a statement made to the Local Government Conference in Bundaberg by the Minister for Local Government (Mr Mackenroth), that the State Government would provide \$150m towards the cost of upgrading sewerage outfall during the next decade; and the Minister for Environment and Heritage's advice that sewerage treatment plants that discharged to the coast would have to be upgraded to tertiary treatment level by the year 2010; and to his statement, "This requirement will be supported by a \$74m programme of State Government enhanced subsidies for upgrading local governments' sewerage treatment plants"—

Will he explain the two statements in respect to the differing amounts and time frames?

Answer (Mr Barton):

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning in his statement made to the Local Government Conference in Bundaberg referred to the additional funding to be provided by the State

towards the cost of upgrading sewage treatment to provide for nutrient removal. This amount of \$150m is additional to the existing subsidy which would have been payable by the State to provide sewerage infrastructure in the period if nutrient removal was not a requirement.

The advice given by myself is consistent with this statement since it refers to the enhanced subsidy payable on investment to provide nutrient removal. \$76m of the \$150m would be payable under the existing 20% subsidy rate. Of the remaining \$74m, \$50.5m provides the special base subsidy of 33 1/3% on the additional works to enable nutrient removal. The remaining \$23.5m is intended for allocation on a needs basis determined primarily by the impact of the cost of nutrient removal on consumer charges.

In terms of the timelines, my statement clearly indicates that the upgrade to tertiary standard (the substantial removal of nitrogen and phosphorus) by 2010 will be supported by the program of enhanced subsidies. In this regard, the Government has committed \$150m towards the cost of upgrading over 10 years. This is clearly very substantial support to the upgrade to tertiary standard by 2010.

### 210. Mining Lease Applications

Mr FITZGERALD asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

With reference to the provision in the Mineral Resources Act which provides for a mining company to seek costs for preparing defence of objections to a mining lease application from objectors in the Mining Warden's Court—

How many such orders have been made by Mining Wardens since the Act has been in force?

Answer (Mr McGrady):

Three orders have been made but two of these were settled privately between the parties. Therefore, only one order for costs against an objector to the grant of a mining lease has been made since the Act has been in force.

### 213. Hyperbaric Unit, Townsville General Hospital

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) What are the details of the tenders made for the shifting of the Hyperbaric Unit at Townsville General Hospital, including the name of the firm or department and the amount of each tender?
- (2) What was the final cost of shifting the unit by the successful tenderer?

Answer (Mr Beattie):

(1) Project Services, Administrative Services Department advises, that a total of 11 local firms or firms with Townsville offices were involved in the relocation of the Hyperbaric Unit at the Townsville Hospital. All firms were selected following submission of competitive quotes to Q-Build. Sub-contract work was completed at a total cost of

\$224,968. The following lists those firms and the trade supplied:

Electrical—Kennedy & Taylor—\$48,223

Air conditioning—York Australia—\$40,135

Pipework—A E Smith—\$45,774

Cabinet work—Townsville Cabinet Making & Joinery—\$17,832

Plaster work—C D Projects—\$11,970

Painting—John Perrin—\$11,350

Sheet vinyl & carpet laying—Carpet Solutions—\$18,435

Glazing—G James Glass—\$6,849

Hoist—Dimag—\$12,583

Block work—Pilcher & Johnston—\$2,020

Steel work—Thomas Steel—\$9,797

Q-Build undertook all carpentry and joinery works associated with the relocation.

(2) The final cost of shifting the Unit including the above trades and Q-Build's component was \$429,943.

#### 214. Ferry Road, Southport

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

(1) When will the upgrading of Ferry Road, Southport, be completed as problems with access to many small businesses are now manifesting themselves and it seems there is much more work to be done to bring this road up to dual carriageway standard?

(2) Will these businesses be compensated financially for their losses?

Answer (Mr Elder):

(1) Queensland Transport plan to complete the upgrading of the Southport-Burleigh Road (Ferry Road) between Benowa Road and Queen Street by August 1996.

(2) Queensland Transport has no obligation to compensate businesses affected by roadworks unless the Department acquires land from a property owner under the relevant Acts for transport infrastructure purposes.

Queensland Transport does recognise the roadworks do impact on businesses during the difficult construction phases and will be taking measures to minimise inconvenience.

#### 215. Research Facilities, Primary Industries Department

Mr PERRETT asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

With reference to apprehension among Department of Primary Industries (DPI) scientific and technical staff about the future of research and development in the department—

(1) Is the closure of any research facility or DPI farm being contemplated?

(2) If closures are contemplated, (a) which facilities will be affected and (b) what is the timetable for the closures?

(3) What projects are being undertaken at the Bjelke-Petersen facility in 1995-96?

(4) Is the Redvale Farm in my electorate to be disposed of as a DPI facility?

Answer (Mr Gibbs):

1. In line with the Government's aim of promoting the more efficient use of DPI's research assets, a critical review of DPI's facilities has been undertaken. Following the completion of this review, the issue of how best to service the Department's current and future research needs will be considered. This assessment will be undertaken in consultation with industry.

2. At this point, no decisions have been made regarding the conclusions and recommendations of the review.

3. Current projects being undertaken at the Bjelke-Petersen facility include:

Soil fertility deterioration of the red earths of the South Burnett

Maize breeding and selection

Development of metarhizium for control of scarabs in peanuts on farm

Support to Land Care Committee promoting conservation farming practices

Soybean breeding and testing

Navy bean breeding and varietal evaluations

Integrated pest management in raingrown cotton

Peanut breeding

Selection of water use efficiency in food legumes

Integrated management of soil borne diseases of grain legumes

Managing herbicide residues in sustainable farming systems

Managing of oxisol soils for sustainable agricultural production in cropping systems incorporating peanuts

4. As with other facilities managed by the Department, any decision on Redvale Farm is subject to the outcomes of the review, detailed in (1).

#### 220. Land Rezoning, Ravenswood

Mr STONEMAN asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

With reference to the recent change of purpose relating to the land on which the historic Court House and police barracks buildings are located in the town of Ravenswood (L21/R16221 Parish of Ravenswood)—

- (1) Was his department consulted in respect of the change of purpose; if so, why has the department not issued any notice of the consultation to the local community or local authority and sought their input?
- (2) What assurances can he give to the people of Ravenswood that their best interests are served in respect of the change of purpose of the land?
- (3) Is he aware that the site was committed by the previous Government to the people of Ravenswood, a commitment that facilitated the return of the historic Court House and associated buildings from the site where they stood within the inundation area of the Burdekin Dam?
- (4) What precedent was used to change the purpose of this land to 'Police Purposes' in view of the fact that the township of Ravenswood is acknowledged as one of the most important heritage sites in the State?
- (5) What assurances can be given that this same change of purpose will not happen to other heritage sites around the State, many or most of which are maintained by dedicated volunteers from local communities?
- (6) Has the National Trust been consulted in respect of the changes?

Answer (Mr Barton):

- (1) Although the Ravenswood Court House and Police Barracks are entered in the Queensland Heritage Register, re-zoning of land does not constitute development under the Queensland Heritage Act 1992. Therefore, there is no requirement to advise either the Department or the Queensland Heritage Council when land upon which registered buildings are situated is re-zoned. Following referral of this matter to the Northern Regional Office of the Department, regional officers have arranged a meeting in Ravenswood at which this matter will be discussed with the Ravenswood Restoration Preservation Association.
- (2) The proposed change of purpose of the land returns the land to a use which is consistent with the historic use of the site. It accommodated police station and Court House usage for 94 years between 1871 and 1965, when the buildings were moved off the site.
- (3) Yes. The return of the historic Court House and associated buildings to their original site in the late 1980s saved them from inundation in the Burdekin Dam scheme and allowed them to be used on their original site for their original purpose. In the period leading up to the return of the buildings from Mingella to Ravenswood, officers of the then Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service were involved in discussions with the Shire of Dalrymple and the people of Ravenswood.
- (4) The land in question has accommodated a police station and court house usage since 1871. The historic Court House and police barracks buildings were purpose-built and occupied the site from 1883 until their sale and removal in 1965. Returning the

purpose of the land to its original use is entirely consistent with maintaining its cultural heritage significance. In early discussions with the Shire of Dalrymple on the return of the buildings, it was agreed that the buildings could be used for Police purposes.

(5) Dedicated volunteers from local communities throughout Queensland play a very important part in the conservation of Queensland's cultural heritage. The Department of Environment and Heritage encourages interested volunteers to communicate with it about any historical and heritage issues which concern them. Changes of purpose for sites of this nature must be considered on a case by case basis which takes account of cultural heritage significance and the views of local communities.

(6) The Regional Manager for Cultural Heritage in the Northern region will routinely include the National Trust in the forthcoming round of discussions about the re-zoning of the Court House complex. These discussions will include the Ravenswood Restoration Preservation Association and any other group which expresses an interest in the matter.

#### **221. Workers' Compensation Premiums, Police Department**

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

How much is the Police Department currently paying in workers' compensation premiums annually and what will be the cost of the proposed increase on the Police Department budget?

Answer (Mr Braddy):

For the financial year 1995/96, the Police Service has paid a workers compensation premium of \$6,272,551.50 to the Workers' Compensation Board of Queensland. As at this point in time, the Queensland Police Service is awaiting advice from the Workers' Compensation Board of Queensland as to whether the Service's premium will increase for 1996/97.

#### **222. Imported Pork**

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

Will he outline what steps he has taken through dialogue with his Federal counterpart, Senator Collins, to address the issues of imported Canadian pork and labelling laws which are currently threatening the viability of Queensland pork producers and the jobs of workers in Queensland's pig meat processing industry?

Answer (Mr Gibbs):

The importation of Canadian pigmeat and 'Country of Origin' labelling laws have been long standing issues for the Australian pig industry. Both issues are Commonwealth matters.

Pig producers recently held a national rally in Canberra to highlight the current plight of their industry. The Commonwealth, as a result of the rally, has agreed to the Industry Commission conducting a

research project into the effect of pig meat imports on the Australian industry. This study will be completed at the end of October.

My Department maintains close contact with the Queensland pig industry and it has already provided a submission to the Industry Commission research project. My Department has also assisted the Queensland industry to prepare its submission on this issue.

Recommended changes to the national food labelling standards, which include 'Country of Origin' classification, have just been released. These are welcomed by producers but have yet to be formally approved by the National Food Standards Council.

I have recently received representations from the Queensland Pork Producers' Organisation and processing unions on these matters. The industry strongly believes these issues are affecting its financial future at a time when it is undergoing considerable financial stress.

I acknowledge the potential for these two issues to impact on the Australian pig industry and I have recently written to Senator Collins, the Federal Minister for Primary Industries and Energy, to convey the Queensland industry's concerns.

### 223. Mosquito Breeding

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the dramatically increasing incidence of reported cases of Ross River Fever and the huge costs to the Health budget of treatment and care associated with this epidemic—

Will he make available additional funding for local governments to assist in the control of mosquito breeding, particularly as most of the breeding grounds are Crown lands?

Answer (Mr Beattie):

I recently met with the President of the Local Government Association of Queensland Inc. to develop a partnership approach between the two spheres of government towards management of mosquito borne diseases in Queensland.

The Local Government Association has agreed to forward a proposal on how best to deal with the issue of mosquito control on State land, and funding will be discussed subsequently in this context.

### 224. Auctioneers and Agents Act

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Consumer Affairs—

When will the review of the Auctioneers and Agents Act be finalised?

Answer (Mr Davies):

If the Auctioneers and Agents Act is to remain responsive and relevant to changing circumstances and needs, it must be constantly overhauled and amended. In this sense the review of this statute will never be complete, and nor should it be so.

The Auctioneers and Agents Act 1971 has been subject to a number of reviews over the past 6 years.

The legislation was investigated by a Committee headed by John Hoare, established by the previous Government, which reported in 1989 and then by a Committee established by the Honourable G.R. Milliner MLA and headed by the then Chairman of the Auctioneers and Agents Committee, Mr Alex Overett, which reported in January 1992. Apart from these special purpose committees established to review the Act, it has also been the subject of reviews by the Prices Surveillance Authority and also by the VEETAC Committee on Partially Registered Occupations established by Heads of Government.

In addition to these reviews, the Act, regulating as it does motor dealers, real estate agents, auctioneers and commercial agents, is the subject of ongoing assessment by my Department as is the relevancy of the Act's provisions. The dynamic nature of the legislation and the reviews that it is subject to, is indicated by the fact that the Act has been amended on no less than 10 occasions since 1990.

Legislation is currently being prepared, which will transfer licensing authority from the Auctioneers and Agents Committee to the Registrar, implement the major recommendations of the VEETAC review and introduce a cooling-off period for consumers purchasing used motor vehicles from licensed motor dealers.

The Act will be subject to a second set of amendments based amongst other things, on the Overett Committee's findings once these reforms are in place. It is the intention that these second stage amendments be considered by Parliament during 1996. However, ongoing changes in the marketplace will, no doubt, require further refinements to ensure the law remains appropriate.

For example, the Act has been recently amended to prohibit the practice of odometer tampering and also to strengthen the powers of the Auctioneers and Agents Committee to discipline those persons whose actions have resulted in a claim against the Auctioneers and Agents Fidelity Guarantee Fund. This particular legislation applies to a dynamic environment where the Government is conscious of the changing needs of both industry and the consumer.

### 225. Land Transport of Cattle

Mr PERRETT asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

With reference to the Australian Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals Land Transport of Cattle draft document produced by a committee of which his department is a member—

- (1) What consultation was undertaken in the development of this draft?
- (2) Which organisations, including producer organisations, were consulted on the thrust and detail of the proposals?
- (3) Which producer organisations have expressed dissatisfaction with the proposals in the draft?

Answer (Mr Gibbs):

1. In the development of this draft (draft 2b dated July 1995) the standard procedure used in

developing all the drafts of all of Model Codes of Practice for the Welfare of Animals was followed. The procedure is that all comments received on the previous draft (in this case a draft 1a, dated February 1992, and for comment in September 1994) were considered for incorporation in the 1995 draft.

Comments on drafts from each State are solicited by that State's member of Animal Health Committee's Sub Committee on Animal Welfare (SCAW) and forwarded to the national coordinator of that particular code. In the case of the Land Transport of Cattle Code, the coordinator is the SCAW member for New South Wales.

2. A list is attached which shows all of the organisations which were invited to provide comments on the current (2b) and previous (1a) drafts of the Land Transport of Cattle Code and which of these actually did provide comments.

3. The Winton Branch of the Cattlemen's Union wrote to me on 3 October 1995 to advise that this Branch has passed a motion totally rejecting the July 1995 Draft.

However this Branch has subsequently held discussions with the Cattlemen's Union Animal Welfare Committee and has endorsed this Committee's comments which were sent to the Department on 18 October 1995. The Cattlemen's Union comments are extremely constructive with many pages of detail explaining which individual parts are regarded as satisfactory and which are proposed for change. In the introduction to their comments the Union has stated that "our members believe a Code of Practice for the Land Transport of Cattle is necessary to set the minimum industry standard and welcome the opportunity to have input in its construction".

Queensland Organisations Consulted on drafts of the Australian Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals, Land Transport of Cattle

Organisation provided  
comments back to QDPI  
Draft 1a      Draft 2b  
September    July 1995  
1994

INDUSTRY

United Graziers Association of Queensland	Yes	No
Livestock Transport Association of Queensland	Yes	Yes
Australian Lotfeeders Association	No	No
North Australian Pastoral Company Ltd	No	No
Elders Pastoral Company	No	No
Bohle Saleyards	No	No
Heytesbury Pastoral Group	No	No
Cattlemen's Union of Australia	Yes	Yes
Queensland Livestock and Produce Agents Association Ltd	Yes	Yes
Australian Meat Holdings	Yes	No
Rockhampton District Saleyards Board	Yes	Yes
Stanbroke Pastoral Company Pty Ltd	Yes	No
Australian Agricultural Company Ltd	Yes	No
South Burnett Meat Works Co-op Assoc Ltd	Yes	No
Australian Meat Council (Queensland Division)	No	Yes
Kilcoy Pastoral Company Pty Ltd	Not Sent Code	No
Queensland Farmers' Federation	Not Sent Code	No

COMMUNITY

Animal Liberation (Qld) Pty Ltd	No	No
Australian Veterinary Association	Yes	No
RSPCA	No	Yes

GOVERNMENT

QDPI	Yes	Yes
Queensland Rail	Yes	Yes
Department of Housing, Local Government & Planning (Bureau of Animal Welfare)	Yes	Not Sent Code
Queensland Meat and Livestock Authority	Yes	Yes

**227. Intellectually Disabled Persons**

Mr FITZGERALD asked the Minister for Family and Community Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Status of Women—

With reference to the Government's practice of de-institutionalisation of intellectually disabled people—

- (1) How many (a) occupational therapists, (b) physiotherapists, (c) psychiatric nurses, (d) general nurses and (e) carers have been employed or funded by her department per hundred clients placed in the community?
- (2) In the case of chronic dual disability of intellectually disabled with mental illness, what arrangements have been made by her department for access to psychiatric services when needed?

Answer (Mrs Woodgate):

(1) The Department of Family and Community Services does not employ psychiatric nurses or general nurses to provide health services to people with intellectual disabilities living outside of institutions. These specific health services are accessed as required from the various generic health services and domiciliary nursing services.

People with intellectual disabilities living in the community are provided with day-to-day support by direct care staff trained by the Department. These staff are called Residential Care Officers and are employed as required to support small groups of people with intellectual disabilities. Specialist services are provided to people with intellectual disabilities by a range of professional staff including occupational therapists, physiotherapists, speech and language pathologists, social workers and psychologists. These staff provide a number of services including assistance with communication, assessments, behaviour management, counselling, assistance with daily living skills training and referral to other services.

It is not possible to specify a particular number of staff that would be provided to support each hundred people with intellectual disability living in the community as these services are provided based on the individual needs of each client. Thus, one person with an intellectual disability may receive two or three hours of a particular therapy each week while another may receive more or less than that.

However, all residents leaving institutions will have access to a number of support services as follows:

Direct care support—all residents will receive direct care support from a support agency and will have access to support 24 hours of the day. This support will be monitored and adjusted accordingly over time as the person's needs change.

Behaviour management—all residents leaving institutions will have access to behaviour management services from specialist teams which have recently been established within my Department. These teams will work with people with intellectual disabilities and their



care providers to assist in the management of any difficult behaviours.

Case Management—all residents leaving institutions will have access to case management services from designated staff within my Department who will have a role in co-ordinating and monitoring the provision of services to people with intellectual disabilities. These staff will have small caseloads to ensure quality service provision.

Therapy and other specialist services—all residents leaving institutions will have access to the required specialist support services including therapy services. Careful assessments will be made of the needs of individuals and allocations will be made accordingly.

While it is not possible to estimate precise numbers of staff provided to support each 100 people leaving institutions, it is evident that this number will far exceed the existing numbers of staff providing support in institutions. It is estimated that the final numbers of full-time equivalent staff will be up to twice the number of staff currently employed in the institutions.

(2) With regard to people with dual disabilities, particularly intellectual disabilities and psychiatric disabilities, specific arrangements are in place to meet the needs of this group of people. It should be noted that these people make up only a very small proportion of people with intellectual disabilities leaving institutions managed by my Department as Queensland Health has primary responsibility for providing support to this group of people.

Existing arrangements between my Department, specifically Intellectual Disability Services, and the Mental Health Branch of Queensland Health, recognise that Queensland Health has the expertise and resources to meet the needs of this group most effectively and there is regular review and discussion about the cases of particular individuals.

The Queensland State Mental Health Plan provides for the ongoing treatment of this group of people as one of the major treatment groups of Queensland Health in both acute and long stay psychiatric hospitals. These services are being strengthened by the addition of Community Mental Health teams throughout the state which will link more locally with staff of my Department.

Additionally, the provision of specific behaviour management services will assist in meeting the needs of this group of people where my Department is the major service provider. Where there is a need for more specific or specialised services to be provided in relation to a psychiatric disability, a working arrangement allows for referrals to be made to acute mental health services. My Department will jointly manage the provision of services with the mental health service providers and assist in relocating the person back to the community when their mental health treatment is completed.

Should any difficulties arise with this process, the arrangement provides for problem solving mechanisms involving staff in the central offices of both Departments.

## 228. Fossicking

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

With reference to the huge unrest in relation to fossicking in the Clermont area and as many people are fossicking illegally without a license and outside designated areas—

Has the department any plans to base an agent and/or ranger in this area to better control fossicking activities?

Answer (Mr McGrady):

All fossickers are required to have a Fossickers Licence under the Fossicking Act (1994) or a Prospecting Permit under the Mineral Resources Act (1989), and each is issued and required to comply with, a strict code of behaviour when conducting such activities.

The Department already has a fossicking agent in the Clermont area, but does not intend to base a field officer full time in the area. The Field Officer and staff from the Emerald Office, which covers the Clermont area, have been actively engaged in preventing illegal entry onto properties in the area, and have been advising agencies in the district who issue Fossicking Licences to adequately explain the provisions of the code of behaviour.

## 229. Capital Works Contracts, Port Authorities

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

- (1) What was the value of all contracts for capital works undertaken by Queensland Port Authorities during 1994-95 for which tenders were called?
- (2) For each contract contained in the value in (1) above, (a) what was the job number, (b) what was the name of each contractor (including government departments, councils and GOEs and business units) who submitted a bid and the price submitted, (c) who was the contractor awarded the contract, (d) what was the date the contract was awarded, (e) if the contract was completed during 1994-95, what was the total final price paid and (f) if the contract remained incomplete, what was the total of the progress payments made?
- (3) What was the value of all capital works undertaken by Queensland Port Authorities during 1994-95 for which no tenders were called?
- (4) For each separate capital works project in (3) above, (a) what was the job number, (b) what was the name of the contractor (including government departments, councils and GOEs and business units) awarded the job and the price of the contract, (c) what was the date the contract was awarded, (d) if the contract was completed during 1994-95, what was the total final price paid and (e) if the contract was incomplete, what was the total of the progress payments made?

Answer (Mr Elder):

The Honourable Member would be aware that port authorities follow the landlord model. As a rule, the port authorities only undertake routine maintenance and minor works around the port since they do not maintain construction staff. Gladstone would probably be the only exception to this rule.

In general terms I would not expect the works carried out by the port authorities to be the type of tasks normally undertaken by Local Government or Government Departments and the overwhelming majority would be undertaken by private contractors.

For your information and for the information of other Honourable Members, the preliminary figures for all port authorities excluding Mackay for the 1994/95 financial year indicate that the total expenditure on capital works was approximately \$150 million. The works ranged from minor developments such as the installation of piles at Rockhampton costing \$14,100 to the major expansion of the Dalrymple Bay Coal terminal which incurred expenditure of \$37.8 million.

Capital works expenditure figures for Mackay have not been included due to telecommunications problems and these will be provided as soon as they are available.

If the Member would like more detailed information individual port authorities may be able to source details of works in their port.

### **230. Police Resources, Greenslopes Electorate**

Mr RADKE asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to the closure and subsequent shop fronting of police stations in my electorate to make way for a Police Cluster Station outside my electorate—

How will this proposed policing method enhance a 24-hour community policing ethos and ensure Coorparoo, Camp Hill and Holland Park police stations are manned by police who are known by and have affinity to the local communities?

Answer (Mr Braddy):

The Assistant Commissioner of Police, Metropolitan South Region has advised me no police station will be closed in the Greenslopes electorate. He has also advised me there are no plans to shopfront any police station in the Greenslopes electorate or anywhere else in his region. He has also advised me the clustering of police stations has not been given any consideration.

### **231. Boat Licences**

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

Has the department any intention of changing boat licences from the current practice to requiring people to obtain licences on an annual basis or at regular intervals?

Answer (Mr Elder):

Queensland Transport is currently considering a significant number of issues associated with marine safety as part of developing revised regulations under the Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994.

The Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994 provides for all existing licences to become invalid six (6) months after the new regulations come into effect.

### **232. Power Supply, Daintree Region**

Mr GILMORE asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

With reference to continued requests by a number of individuals for the installation of grid mains power to the areas north of the Daintree River known as Forest Creek and Cow Bay—

- (1) When can these communities expect to be connected to grid mains power?
- (2) What conditions will apply to such a connection?
- (3) What cost will be associated with this connection for each individual property owner in each community?
- (4) If such connection is to be denied what are the technical reasons behind such denial?

Answer (Mr McGrady):

The Government is currently reviewing its position on the supply of reticulated power to the Daintree region in the context of a number of issues, including:

the energy requirements of residents in the Daintree region;

the costs involved in the supply of reticulated power to the Daintree region, including whether it is technically and economically feasible to supply;

the need to protect the unique environmental values of the Daintree region;

the impact the installation of reticulated electricity would have on the rate of development in the region;

the impact the installation of reticulated electricity would have on the region's special qualities, particularly as an environmental and tourism resource (it has been estimated that the tourist industry in the Daintree region directly generates \$26 million in revenue annually);

the major findings of the Alternative Energy Advisory Group report (finalised in January 1995) which investigated power supply options for Forest Creek; the domestic and commercial RAPS projects currently being trialled in the region;

Section 52c of the Electricity Act 1994 (the Act) which states that the supplier must take into account the environmental effects of its activities under the authority to supply; and

Division 4 of the Act which states that an electricity authority must not build, replace or alter electric lines or other works in a protected area unless the entity

acts under a written agreement of the Minister administering the Nature Conservation Act 1992. The Minister, in deciding to agree, must consider the environmental impact of the lines, viable alternative routes or positions for the building of works outside the protected area, and the extent of any disadvantage in using an alternative route or position.

As noted above, the Government is currently reviewing the provision of reticulated power to the Daintree region. The conditions which might be attached to any decision to extend the electricity grid are being considered as part of the review process.

The Far North Queensland Electricity Corporation (FNQEB) has provided preliminary estimates of the costs involved in supplying reticulated power to properties in the Forest Creek and Cow Bay area of the Daintree region. The FNQEB advises that the contribution per customer varies in accordance with the total cost of each grid option. For example, an individual customer contribution of:

\$24,000 would be required for overhead uninsulated reticulated power;

\$33,500 would be required for overhead insulated;

\$42,500 for underground hybrid with some overhead; and

\$46,000 for underground (padmount transformers).

It must be noted that the above figures are provisional estimates as they are based on an assumed "take-up" rate among the residents at Forest Creek and Cow Bay. Reductions in the number of residents accessing the grid would increase the costs of supplying reticulated power to individual properties.

(4) As indicated above, the Government is currently reviewing its position on whether to supply reticulated power to areas north of the Daintree River.

### 233. Standees on School Buses

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

What action is he taking to ensure that the practice of allowing school children to stand on buses travelling at speeds in excess of 80kph, such as the Mooloolah to Beerwah school bus, is discontinued?

Answer (Mr Elder):

The Queensland Government takes the issue of school transport safety very seriously as can be seen by the formation of the School Transport Safety Consultative Committee. This committee, comprising representatives from the major stakeholders in school transport safety, including the Queensland Council of Parents' and Citizens' Associations, Queensland Transport, Department of Education, Department of Administrative Services, Queensland Rail, Local Government, bus operators, other parents groups, and students, was set up to develop a set of recommendations aimed at increasing the level of safety of all forms of transportation of school

children. One of the school transport safety issues was standees on buses.

You will recall that the 1993 Parliamentary Travelsafe Committee Report on the Safety and Economic Implications of Permitting Standees on Urban and Non-Urban Bus Services, concluded that public perceptions that standing passengers on buses are at risk, both in general and on roads with high speed limits, are not supported by the evidence.

The School Transport Safety Consultative Committee has focused on the identification of routes which are hazardous due to topography, rather than declaring all roads with a particular speed limit to be hazardous to standees.

Currently the Queensland Transport Regional offices can investigate particular school bus routes and evaluate their safety, including whether it is acceptable for passengers to stand on these routes. If a route is evaluated and found to be potentially hazardous for normal bus operation, the Regional office can refuse permission for the route to be used, require particular types of buses to be used, require the fitting of particular engineering safety features to buses on that route, or set other restrictions, such as a ban on standing passengers. There are bans on standing passengers on some routes already.

The School Transport Safety Consultative Committee has recommended a more systematic approach to assessing bus routes to ensure that hazardous routes, wherever they are and whatever the prevailing speed limit, will be properly assessed and subjected to appropriate restrictions, be they restrictions on the vehicle or on standing passengers.

Consequently, the Department is currently developing assessment guidelines for school bus routes as part of the School Transport Safety Strategy. It is envisaged that the issue of standees on routes such as the Mooloolah to Beerwah route will be addressed via this review.

### 234. Cape York Wilderness Zone

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

With reference to Stage One of the Cape York Peninsula Land Use Study outlining current or potential mineral project areas—

Has he read this report; if so, what input did he have prior to the Premier's campaign announcement regarding the Cape York Wilderness Zone and what form did such input take?

Answer (Mr McGrady):

The report referred to on the mineral potential of the Peninsula was one prepared by the Department of Minerals and Energy in co-operation with the Australian Geological Survey Organisation. I have not read the full report personally but have been kept informed of its contents and significance by Departmental officers. My involvement in the establishment of the Cape York Conservation Zone resulted in the rights and entitlements of holders of exploration and mining tenures, with the exception

of mining leases at Shelburne Bay, being protected by gazettal of suitable land tenures within the Conservation Zone where such activities can continue. Significant ore deposits not yet subject to exploration or mining tenures will also be protected. The Department of Minerals and Energy will be involved in designing the boundaries of the areas required.

### **235. Pumicestone Passage; Commercial Fishermen**

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

With reference to his closure of the Pumicestone Passage to commercial fishermen on 18 October 1995—

- (1) Has there been consultation with any interested parties with regard to any other closures in Queensland; if so, which areas were discussed?
- (2) Is there any intention on the part of his department to close any other areas in Queensland to commercial fishermen?

Answer (Mr Gibbs):

Before answering the questions put forward I should clarify that Pumicestone Passage was closed to commercial fishing by the Director-General of my Department and not by me.

1. The concept of recreational only fishing areas arose from the State Government Inquiry into Recreational fishing. The Inquiry received over 4000 written submissions and large attendances at public meetings throughout the State to discuss issues relating to recreational fishing. As a result of this consultation process the Consultative Committee to the Inquiry put forward the following recommendation:

#### Recommendation 36

That Recreational Fishing Areas be declared throughout Queensland in all areas where permanent netting closures presently apply and that additional netting closures be introduced in the following areas and declared as Recreational Fishing Areas.

Part of the Southport Broadwater

Part of the foreshores of the Redcliffe Peninsula

Pumicestone Passage

Part of Hervey Bay and the Great Sandy Strait

Part of the Hinchinbrook Channel

Johnstone River

Trinity Inlet

Barron River

That the exact boundaries and the extent of the areas be recommended by Zonal Advisory Committees.

That all commercial fishing activity be excluded for these areas.

At this juncture Pumicestone Passage has been established as a recreational only fishing area. The

Government has made every attempt to consult with affected commercial fishers who insist that all contact be with their legal representatives. The fishers' legal representatives were provided with adequate opportunity to put forward their clients' viewpoint before a decision on Pumicestone Passage was made.

2. Several areas other than Pumicestone Passage have been mentioned in the Report of the Consultative Committee to the Inquiry into Recreational Fishing. Consideration of any future commercial fishing closures will be achieved through Management Advisory Committees and Zonal Advisory Committees established under the new Fisheries Act.

### **236. Fire Service Vehicles**

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Consumer Affairs—

With reference to FIREPAC 4 000 vehicles built specifically for the Queensland Fire Service (QFS) which have been found to have inferior braking capacity and this fault led to an accident in the Cairns district and serious injury to a fireman—

- (1) Did the vehicle involved in this accident have its brake drums machined out to fit oversized braking pads?
- (2) Are other similar vehicles passing machinery inspections by simply having new braking pads fitted prior to the inspection?
- (3) Is this acceptable maintenance when he is personally charged with providing safe working conditions for firemen?

Answer (Mr Davies):

There is no evidence to suggest that the Firepac 4000 has inferior braking capacity and this has not been found to be the case on this vehicle.

The implication that the braking system on Fleet 191 (Firepac 4000) was the cause of the accident is not true. The inspection by DOT of the vehicle at 0900 hrs on the morning of the accident, determined no mechanical reason for the cause of the accident including the braking system.

(1) The Firepac 4000, Fleet 191 did not have any brake drum machining before the accident. The vehicle did have its brake drums machined on return to the Regional workshop after being rebuilt in August 1995.

(2) Vehicles that pass machinery inspections by the Department of Transport Inspectors meet a criteria of satisfactory performance and any replacement of brake linings are part of the scheduled maintenance program requirement not a ploy to pass a Department of Transport Inspection.

(3) No, this is nothing to do with the maintenance of the vehicle. The Queensland Fire Service maintains vehicles in accordance with the manufacturer's schedules. The Queensland Fire Service has scheduled Department of Transport machinery inspections for all operational vehicles at least once per year across the State.

**237. Sir Leslie Wilson Youth Detention Centre; Mr B. Read**

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Family and Community Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Status of Women—

With reference to the appointment of Mr Bruce Read to the position of Centre Co-ordinator at the Sir Leslie Wilson Youth Detention Centre—

As he subsequently responded to my Question of 15 September 1995 in the House and has described Mr Read as being involved in an incident, will he fully explain the details surrounding this 'referred to' incident and describe precisely what disciplinary action, if any, was initiated against Mr Read as a consequence of this incident?

Answer (Mrs Woodgate):

As this incident occurred while Mr Reid was under the employ of the Corrective Services Commission, it is not a matter over which I have jurisdiction.

**238. Palmwoods-Keil Mountain Road and Old Gympie Road Intersection**

Mr TURNER asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to the continuing traffic safety problems at the intersection of Palmwoods-Keil Mountain Road and Old Gympie Road—

When will action be taken to install either traffic lights, a roundabout or overpass to overcome this traffic blackspot?

Answer (Mr Elder):

The project is on the approved 1995/96—1999/2000 Roads Implementation Program for construction in 1997/98 financial year.

Investigations into Queensland Transport's North Coast District is currently investigating the most appropriate intersection treatment.

**240. David Low Way**

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

How many motorists have been fined by the Police for exceeding the speed limit on the David Low Way this year to date between (a) the Maroochy River and Yaroomba, (b) Yaroomba and the Peregian roundabout, (c) the Peregian roundabout and Marcus Beach and (d) Marcus Beach and Noosa Heads?

Answer (Mr Braddy):

The Police Service does not keep records of the statistics sought. However, Queensland Transport may be able to assist and accordingly, the Honourable member may care to re-direct his question to the Minister for Transport.

**242. Police Resources, Mackay Police District**

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to the fact that the road death toll in Mackay Police District is six above that of the corresponding period in 1994—

Will he consider (a) increasing the Traffic Branch numbers back to the 1993 level of eight officers and (b) increasing overtime available in all branches to enable full and effective policing to continue throughout the region?

Answer (Mr Braddy):

(a) Central Police Region statistics show that for the period 1 January to 25 October 1994 there were 15 fatal crashes in the Mackay Police District resulting in 18 deaths. Statistics show that for the corresponding period during 1995, there were 17 fatal crashes resulting in 20 deaths.

Since the Fitzgerald Inquiry the deployment of Police Officers is determined by the Queensland Police Service, not politicians. The Assistant Commissioner, Central Region, in consultation with the District Officer, Mackay District, after assessing policing needs and overall regional resource requirements, decided that the staffing model allocation for Mackay District Traffic Branch would be established at seven.

(b) The Mackay Police District overtime budget, delegated from regional level, for the financial year 1994/95 was 6,792 hours. The District Officer is responsible for allocating the district budget and during that financial year, 85 hours in overtime was allocated to Mackay District Traffic Branch. Similar amounts have been allocated for the financial year 1995/96.

Regional strategies are directed at achieving objectives relating to the corporate programs of the Service, including those directed at effective use of information, physical, human and financial resources; as well as strategies directed at best management and work practice.

Management of overtime and resources within a police district and actions directed at achieving program outcomes, including those relating to road safety, are ones for district management within the context of available resources and strategies directed at achieving program objectives.

**243. South Coast Motorway**

Mr WOOLMER asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

Is Queensland Transport or any other Queensland Government authority acquiring land in or near that part of the last preferred route (as at June 1995) of the proposed South Coast Motorway which lies within the Springwood electorate, with a view to proceeding to construct a road or permit the construction thereon of a road; if so, what is the planned route, specifications and construction timetable for such road?

Answer (Mr Elder):

No property is being acquired in or near that part of the last preferred route (as at June 1995) in the electorate of Springwood for the purpose of constructing a future road.

However commitments to purchase on the grounds of hardship are being finalised where the owner wishes to proceed with the sale, notwithstanding advice that there will be no motorway through the koala habitat.

#### 244. Building Industry

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Administrative Services—

With reference to difficulties being experienced in the State's building industry, including some builders involved in State Government work—

- (1) How many building companies have gone into receivership in Queensland in (a) 1994-95 and (b) 1993-94?
- (2) How many of those firms were working on State Government projects at the time of going into receivership and what were their names?
- (3) How many sub-contractors and suppliers have been left unpaid as a result of building firms (a) going into receivership during 1993-94 and 1994-95 and (b) going into receivership while working on State Government projects?
- (4) How much money is owed to sub-contractors and suppliers from the collapse of such firms?

Answer (Mr Milliner):

(1) I advise that the details requested are not held within my Department. The Honourable Member may be able to obtain that information through the Australian Securities Commission.

(2) I am only able to respond with respect to State Government projects administered by my Department and not those projects falling within the responsibilities of my Ministerial colleagues.

- (i) I advise that during 1993-94 2 building companies went into liquidation whilst working on major construction projects administered by my Department. Those companies were:
  1. Evamist Pty Ltd; and
  2. A & P Constructions Pty Ltd
- (ii) I advise that during 1994-95 no building contractor went into liquidation whilst working on major construction projects administered by my Department.

I note that on 7 October 1994, a contract with Prentice Builders Limited was terminated by mutual consent. Later, on 27 October 1994 an administrator was appointed to Prentice Builders Ltd. A liquidator was appointed 8 December 1994.

I would further note that on 19 July 1995 a provisional liquidator was appointed to ACN 058 566 233 Pty Ltd (formerly G.W. Chalmers Pty Ltd).

This response has not included consideration of minor works. Information in this regard is unsourced and an accurate response is not possible. A major investigation of all departmental regional offices would be required throughout the State with the completeness of such information being very uncertain due to the large turnover of minor works.

(3) In answer to part (a), I advise that the details requested are not known by my Department. Again, I suggest that the Honourable Member may be able to obtain that information through the Australian Securities Commission.

In answer to part (b), I advise that the information held by my Department relates solely to the number and value of subcontractor charges claimed by subcontractors pursuant to The Subcontractors' Charges Act 1974 .

With respect to Evamist Pty Ltd 17 subcontractors claims from 17 subcontractors are currently active. The total charge value is \$325, 634.62.

With respect to A & P Constructions Pty Ltd 3 subcontractors claims from 3 subcontractors are currently active. The total charge value is \$58,928.36.

With respect to Prentice Builders Limited no claims are currently active.

With respect to ACN 058 566 233 Pty Ltd (formerly G.W. Chalmers Pty Ltd) 37 subcontractors claims from 27 subcontractors are currently active. The total charge value is \$519 577.61.

It is emphasised that the foregoing information is in respect of major construction projects being carried out for my Department.

(4) See previous answer to Question 3(b).

In general, the total monies owed to subcontractors and suppliers is unknown.

I would refer the Honourable Member to the liquidators of failed companies who should be in the best position to provide complete information, with respect to money owed to subcontractors and suppliers. It is anticipated that all outstanding claims will be finalised following the completion of the relevant projects.

#### 245. South Coast Motorway

Mr CARROLL asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

Is Queensland Transport, or any other Queensland Government authority, acquiring land in or near that part of the last preferred route (as at June 1995) of the proposed South Coast Motorway which lies within the Mansfield electorate with a view to proceeding to construct a road or permit the construction thereon of a road; if so, what is the planned route, specifications and construction timetable for such road?

Answer (Mr Elder):

No property is being acquired in or near that part of the last preferred route (as at June 1995) in the electorate of Mansfield for the purpose of constructing a future road.

However commitments to purchase on the grounds of hardship are being finalised where the owner wishes to proceed with the sale, notwithstanding advice that there will be no motorway through the koala habitat.

**246. Director, Johnstone College**

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

- (1) What were the circumstances surrounding the recent removal of the incumbent Director of the Johnstone College?
- (2) Was this officer asked to apply for the position in 1992 after serving on the Director-General's staff?
- (3) Were grievances lodged about this appointment from experienced officers?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

(1) The Director of the Johnstone College was not removed from the College. She was invited to undertake a role at the Brisbane Institute of TAFE and accepted, for which she had technical expertise.

- (2) No.
- (3) No.

**247. Police Resources, Caloundra and Kawana Police Stations**

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

- (1) How many police officers are allocated to (a) Caloundra Police Station and (b) Kawana Police Station?
- (2) What is the breakdown for the number of police on duty for (a) Caloundra Police Station and (b) Kawana Police Station?
- (3) What are the opening hours of (a) Caloundra Police Station and (b) Kawana Police Station?

Answer (Mr Braddy):

(1) (a) Caloundra Police Station has a staffing model strength of 18 police officers. As at 1 October 1995, the actual strength of the station was 20. The station strength is supplemented by three unsworn staff members.

Further, there are four Criminal Investigation Branch officers based at Caloundra Police Station. These officers are a District resource.

(b) Kawana Police Station has a staffing model strength of 18 police officers. As at 1 October 1995 the actual strength of the station was 21. The station strength is supplemented by an unsworn staff member.

Further, there are three Juvenile Aid Bureau officers and two Dog Squad handlers based at Kawana Police Station. Again, these officers are a District resource. Police numbers in the Sunshine Coast Police District have increased by 50% since 1989, from 166 to 254.

(2)&(3) Caloundra and Kawana Police Stations are 24 hour stations. Officers perform shift work over each 24 hour period and are deployed to best advantage. Their rostering is intelligence-driven which allows target policing of problem areas at particular times. Provision is also made in rosters for officers to respond to calls for assistance to ensure optimum

service delivery to the public. As already stated, both Caloundra and Kawana Police Stations operate on a 24 hours basis. However, instances occur during night hours when, in the interests of operational efficiency and effectiveness, police undertake mobile patrols. In this manner, policing is primarily proactive, rather than reactive.

Adjacent to each station's entrance is a telephone with direct access to the District Communications Centre at Maroochydore Station. When mobile crews are absent from their stations on patrols, they are able to be contacted by the Communications Centre which deploys them as required to attend to public calls for police assistance.

**248. Board of Management Meeting, Cairns**

Mr J. N. GOSS asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

- (1) How many departmental officers recently flew from Brisbane to Cairns for a Board of Management meeting?
- (2) What was the cost to the taxpayer for travel and accommodation for the overnight stay?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

(1) Nine departmental officers flew from Brisbane to Cairns to attend the first TAFE Board of Management meeting held outside of South East Queensland in almost three (3) years of operation of that forum.

(2) The cost of travel and accommodation was \$6101 and \$1008 respectively. All travel was economy and/or discount rates.

**249. Financial Management, Cairns and Townsville TAFE Colleges**

Mr HARPER asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

- (1) Have two comparatively inexperienced TAFE staff recently been sent north to investigate and rectify recurring financial management problems at Cairns and Townsville TAFE campuses?
- (2) What specific qualifications do these two officers have in relation to the investigation and rectification of substantial financial management problems?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

- (1) No
- (2) Not applicable.

**250. Investigation of Senior College Manager**

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

- (1) In 1992, did the Director-General instigate an investigation into a senior college manager?

- (2) Was the allegation against the officer that "he raised his voice to a cleaner"?
- (3) Had the cleaner concerned been instrumental in victimising an Aboriginal worker at the college concerned?
- (4) Were two separate investigations carried out by no less than five senior departmental officers?
- (5) Did the officer under investigation lodge a grievance with the PSMC?
- (6) Was the officer asked to drop the grievance and in return the department would withdraw its 'threatened' action and offer a voluntary severance deal?
- (7) Did the PSMC's Grievance Tribunal make a number of adverse comments on the conduct of the department?
- (8) Does she agree that the Director-General has failed to maintain the high ethical standards required from his office?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

(1) The Director-General did not instigate an investigation into a senior college manager in 1992. However an assessment was undertaken of the plan that Townsville TAFE had devised to control a projected expenditure blowout of \$720,000.

- (2) Not applicable
- (3) Not applicable
- (4) Not applicable
- (5) Not applicable
- (6) Not applicable
- (7) Not applicable
- (8) Not applicable

### 251. Officer in Charge, TAFE International Programs

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

With reference to the appointment of an officer who was recently attached to Mr Foley's staff to head Queensland TAFE's International Programs—

- (1) On what basis was the appointment made?
- (2) What international experience does this officer bring to the position?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

(1) The officer was appointed in accordance with the Public Sector Management Standard for Recruitment and Selection.

(2) The officer brings to the position a wealth of international experience as the officer has lived, worked, and studied in the field as follows:

- three years living in an offshore location;
- three years employment in various roles in the private sector in an overseas country;
- management of international projects while employed in the vocational education system

in Queensland and Western Australia, spanning 10 years;

successful completion of international projects on behalf of TAFE Queensland for private sector clients in Malaysia, Papua New Guinea and Tonga;

management of the International Student Program at the former Kangaroo Point College of TAFE as well as hosting overseas delegations as part of this role;

studies to Masters Degree level which included studies on international education systems; and

travelled to overseas countries (Papua New Guinea, Canada, the United States of America, Mexico) to study their vocational education and training systems over a five month period.

### 252. Rabbit Virus

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

With reference to the "escape" of a very deadly rabbit virus in South Australia—

- (1) Has he inquired into the circumstances surrounding this occurrence?
- (2) If so, what are the results of those inquiries and what are the implications for native fauna in Queensland in respect to the potency of the virus within the rabbit population?

Answer (Mr Barton):

(1) Yes. My Department has been involved in the development of a national Environmental Impact Assessment program for the release of Rabbit Calicivirus on to mainland Australia and has been provided with regular updates of project. This includes all matters relating to the research being undertaken, such as the trials on Wardang Is, off the coast of South Australia. My department has been kept informed of the circumstances surrounding the breach in quarantine and actions taken by the responsible agencies (CSIRO, Primary Industries South Australia) to deal with the incident.

(2) There are no major implications for native fauna from the "escape" of the virus other than potentially positive ones related to expected decrease in rabbit numbers. Rabbit calicivirus causes disease (abbreviated to RCD) only in European rabbits. This introduced species is one of the most significant pests in Australia both in terms of the damage it does to the environment and to our rural industries. Other animals are not affected by RCD.

RCD has spread from Asia to Europe and killed millions of rabbits. My Department informs me that there have been no reports in the scientific, or medical literature that RCD has affected any other animal species that have come in contact with rabbits infected with RCD.

For rabbit calicivirus to qualify as a biological control agent in Australia it must not infect species other than rabbits. A list of animals for testing that



represented a range of Australian fauna was developed in consultation with the Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council (ANZECC). Animals tested included:

Domestic animals: horses, cattle, sheep, deer, goats, pigs, dogs, cats and fowls.

Introduced pest animals: foxes, hares, ferrets, rats and mice

Australian native mammals: bush rats, spinifex hopping mouse, plains rats, dunnarts, bandicoots, bettongs, tammar wallabies and brushtailed possums.

Birds: corellas, pigeons, silver gulls, brown falcons and emus

Reptile: common blue-tongued lizard.

None of these 28 species was susceptible to the virus, or showed any effects from inoculation with it.

Some scientists have postulated that there may be short-term problems with predators switching onto native prey if rabbit numbers crash. My Department will be closely monitoring the situation and will put into place follow-up fox and feral cat control programs in environmentally sensitive areas where necessary. It is generally believed that in areas heavily infested with rabbits and introduced predators that native fauna will greatly benefit from a crash in rabbit numbers as it is likely that predator numbers will decline rapidly soon after. Any impact on native fauna at this stage will be more than compensated by the longer term depression of predator numbers.

Therefore, in the long term the only implications for native fauna in Queensland are those related to the positive benefits that will accrue if this disease is successful in reducing the numbers of this invidious pest in Australia.

### 253. Water Supply, Calliope Shire

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

What protection or compensation will be given to residents in the Bracewell district of Calliope Shire who are now being affected by not only drought but the apparent neglect by the Department of Primary Industries to monitor data outlining the effects on groundwater levels and quality, as per undertakings given by the department when the mine was established?

Answer (Mr Gibbs):

The Mining operations of Queensland Cement Limited (QCL) at East End/Bracewell are administered by the Department of Minerals and Energy. Under the mine lease terms, QCL has collected data and monitored the mine impacts on groundwater.

QCL is required by the lease to provide an alternative supply where mining has caused depletion of a groundwater supply that has injuriously affected the owner of that supply. Some such arrangements are already in place.

The lease terms provide DPI with the role as final interpreter on groundwater issues as well as

arbitrator of disputes to ensure impartial dealings on water issues.

In May the DPI initiated a public review of monitoring by QCL to clarify current interpretations of the relative impacts of continuing drought and mine watering. This review is proceeding with landholder input.

Individual concerns as they arise will be dealt with by the DPI to ensure residents are suitably protected as a result of the effects of the mine.

### 254. Child Abuse

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Family and Community Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Status of Women—

- (1) What are the figures for the Sunshine Coast area for reported cases of suspected child abuse on a yearly basis since 1989?
- (2) What are the State-wide figures?
- (3) How many child protection workers have been allocated to the Sunshine Coast area on a yearly basis since 1989?
- (4) What are the State-wide figures?

Answer (Mrs Woodgate):

(1) The Sunshine Coast area, serviced by the Sunshine Coast Area Office (formally Maroochy Area Office), received the following number of notified cases of suspected child abuse and neglect in the years 1988/89 to 1994/95:

1988/89:	365
1989/90:	363
1990/91:	376
1991/92:	311
1992/93:	274
1993/94:	375
1994/95:	424

(2) The corresponding State-wide figures for the years 1988/89 until 1994/95 are as follows:

1988/89:	10,255
1989/90:	11,190
1990/91:	11,390
1991/92:	9,296
1992/93:	8,496
1993/94:	11,100
1994/95:	13,900

The rate of increase in notified cases of suspected child abuse and neglect in the Sunshine Coast area in the period 1988/89 to 1994/95, is half as much as the area's population growth over the same period. It is also half the notification rate for the rest of the state.

(3) The Department of Family and Community Services uses the title 'Family Services Officers' (formally 'Child Care Officers') rather than child protection workers. These officers perform a range of services including child abuse investigation, support for young offenders, and adoption and alternative care services.

Prior to the restructure of the Department in 1990, the Brisbane North Region of the Division of Protective Services and Juvenile Justice held 49 established Child Care Officer positions. Maroochydore Area Office, servicing the Sunshine Coast area, held five of these positions.

The 1990 restructure instigated a change of name (from Child Care Officers to Family Services Officers) and an increase in established permanent positions. Brisbane North Region now have 63 positions; the Sunshine Coast Area Office (formally Maroochydore Area Office) has seven positions.

(4) Prior to the 1990 restructure, the State-wide figure for permanent Child Care Officer positions was 223. There are currently 237 Family Services Officer positions. In percentage terms the number of Child Care Officer positions at the Sunshine Coast Area Office have increased at a greater rate than for both Brisbane North Region and the remainder of the state.

**255. Land Acquisition, Redlands Electorate**

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

Will he give details of all properties in the Redlands Electorate owned by, or being purchased by negotiation by, Queensland Transport, including street number, street/road name and suburb and owner's name if in the process of negotiation?

Answer (Mr Elder):

Details of all properties where agreements have been reached or purchases completed as at 24 October 1995 are listed below.

Owners Name and Property Address

Frieberg PD and VJ, 1924-1936 Mt Cotton Rd, Carbrook  
 Goodwin W and SM, 1950 Mt Cotton Rd, Carbrook  
 Campbell AB and LRE, 1952 Mt Cotton Rd, Carbrook  
 Chiapetta N and VW, 182 Stern Rd, Carbrook  
 Loughridge JP and CH, 34-42 Erwin Rd, Carbrook  
 Cox RE and JS, 35-61 Erwin Rd, Carbrook  
 Miller LD, 254-264 West Mt Cotton Rd, Cornubia  
 Ayres J and S, 266A West Mt Cotton Rd, Cornubia  
 Tincknell DP, 368-372 West Mt Cotton Rd, Cornubia  
 Morgan KA and RE, 26 Coorang Rd, Cornubia  
 Smith JB McE and A, 56-64 Coorang Rd, Cornubia  
 Adams RG and IA, 36-44 Wuduru Rd, Cornubia  
 Pinzger AJ and A, 66 Wuduru Rd, Cornubia  
 Baker J & Martin-Chew K, 356 West Mt Cotton Rd, Mt Cotton

**258. Police Beat Shopfront Program, Currumbin**

Mr WOOLMER asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to the Government's pre-election commitment to establish in Currumbin a permanent police shopfront in "The Pines", Elanora—

- (1) When will the shopfront be established?
- (2) What will be its hours of operation?

- (3) What will be its staffing level?
- (4) Will it be the base for police foot patrols throughout the Palm Beach area which have all but disappeared since election day?

Answer (Mr Braddy):

The Government gave absolutely no commitment to establish a police beat shopfront at "The Pines". The Government did give a commitment to build a new police station at the southern end of the Gold Coast within the next ten years. This continues this Government's commitment to improving police resources in the Gold Coast since 1989. Police numbers have risen by 40%, from 327 to 458. The budget has risen by 68%, up to \$23 308 000.

**259. Advertising of Vacancies, DEVETIR**

Mr RADKE asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

With reference to advertising of departmental positions, the department is still referred to as DEVETIR—

Do the officers responsible for these advertisements realise that her predecessor took the 'IR' part of the department with him when he left?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

The Department of Employment, Vocational Education, Training and Industrial Relations (DEVETIR) reports to Minister Edmond in respect of her Principal Ministerial Responsibilities of—

Education including—

- Technical and Further Education
- Vocational Education Training and Employment

Health and Safety including—

- Workplace

Industrial Relations including—

- Public Service Matters
- Awards Management

Public Service Management Operations including—

- Base Grade Recruitment
- Human Resources Management System
- Redeployment
- Workers' Compensation

DEVETIR reports to Minister Foley in respect of his Principal Ministerial Responsibilities of—

Industrial Relations excluding—

- Public Service Matters
- Awards Management

As a consequence, positions in the Department are correctly being advertised under DEVETIR.

**262. Police Resources, Toowong**

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to the answer to a Question on Notice he provided on 28 September in which he refused to provide operational numbers for the patrols in the Toowong cluster for the comparison periods April and May, 1994 and 1995—

Given you have previously provided specific details with respect to expected police patrols (reference your letter to me on 31 March 1993 concerning multi-divisional policing concept), I again request the actual patrol numbers and times for the comparison periods April/May 1994 and April/May 1995?

Answer (Mr Braddy):

I must point out to the Honourable Member that there is a significant difference between the information about the minimum number of patrols expected to be rostered at any given time provided to him in my letter of 31 March 1993, and the actual patrols deployed at given times, which is the information he is again requesting in this question.

To provide details of the actual patrols deployed at the relevant times requested would reveal sensitive and confidential information about the patterns and priorities of the rostering and deployment of operational police in particular areas at specific times. This information should not be disclosed if maximum operational effectiveness is to be ensured.

### 263. Executive Contracts

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Rural Communities, Minister for Rural Communities and Minister for Provision of Infrastructure for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities—

- (1) How many executives are on packages over \$100,000 per annum?
- (2) How many have renewed their contracts in the last six months and, of those, how many were dated prior to 15 July?
- (3) What was the duration of each contract?
- (4) What safeguards does he have to stop contracts being backdated?

Answer (Mr Mackenroth):

- (1) Seven.
- (2) None.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) Not applicable. All appointments to the Senior Executive Service are approved by the Governor in Council. Appointment dates cannot precede this approval.

### 266. Coastal Protection and Management Bill

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

When is it intended to have maps and information available for control districts under the Coastal Protection and Management Bill?

Answer (Mr Barton):

Control districts will be declared as part of a regional coastal management plan. These plans will be

prepared with a two stage public consultation process.

Firstly, there will be a notice of a proposal to prepare a plan, where the public will be invited to make submissions on any aspect of coastal management and where control districts should be declared.

Secondly, a draft regional coastal management plan will be prepared and published for another period of public consultation. It is at this time that maps of draft control districts will be available. Based on the submissions received on the draft, a final plan will be prepared. When that plan is approved by the Governor in Council the control districts will be declared.

Priority areas for regional coastal planning are; the wet tropical coast, the Whitsunday coast, the Great Sandy coast and Southeast Queensland. Other coastal regions will be planned subsequently.

In these priority regions the notice of a proposal to prepare a plan should be issued approximately July/August 1996 and the draft plans released in mid to late 1997. This schedule is based on the need to allow sufficient time for the public and interest groups to make detailed submissions on the proposals.

The Bill provides that the existing Erosion Prone Areas and Coastal Management Control Districts declared under the Beach Protection Act 1968 are saved as control districts. The relevant maps of these areas are currently available in Council and Shire offices.

The Bill also proposes that control districts may be declared by regulation in areas where no regional plan exists, if the Minister is satisfied that it is necessary. Districts declared in this manner will also be subject to a period of public consultation. The declaration of control districts by regulation will only occur if circumstances are brought to the Minister's attention, which require action prior to the scheduled preparation of a regional coastal plan.

In an emergency, the Minister can declare control districts by notice. This notice automatically expires in six months. Whenever a control district is declared all landholders within the district will be notified.

### 268. Youth Unemployment

Mr PERRETT asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

With reference to the recently released ABS unemployment statistics for the month of September which reveal that (a) the rate of youth unemployment in the Wide Bay Burnett region is 41.1 per cent and (b) there are 1,189 registered for Job Search, New Start, and youth training in Kingaroy—

What evidence can she provide that programs administered by the Queensland Government are alleviating this serious situation in South Burnett?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

The Queensland Government acknowledges the unemployment problem in Wide Bay-Burnett and has a number of strategies in place to tackle this issue.

The unemployment rate for youth of 41.1 per cent is an estimate which the ABS acknowledges has a large standard error indicating that the estimate is subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses.

DEVETIR, through Training and Employment Queensland (TEQ) employs 5 Youth Employment Consultants in the Wide Bay-Burnett region: two in Bundaberg, two in Maryborough and one in Gympie. Their primary focus is the provision of employment placement assistance to young people aged 15-24. In 1994/95 more than 600 youth were assisted, of whom 340 were placed into jobs and 230 into job training programs. Of those assisted 321 (52%) were women. To date this year 218 young unemployed have been assisted. Seventy four (74) have been placed into jobs and 16 into training.

During the last three years under the Youth Jobs Plan (part of the \$150 million Jobs Plan), some 900 people received assistance in the Wide Bay region of which 473 gained employment. Of those assisted 322 (36%) were women.

Training and Employment Queensland (TEQ) has allocated more than \$630,000 in 1995/1996 for grants to community agencies in the Wide Bay area under the Community Jobs and Training program. This will enable community groups to identify local labour market needs and to deliver relevant employment programs. Unemployed individuals are also able to apply for interest free loans under the Self Employment Venture Scheme (SEVS) to establish new small businesses.

The South Burnett College of the Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE has been successful in winning contracts through competitive tendering arrangements to conduct a range of labour market programs and access courses. These courses are aimed at assisting the long term unemployed people in the South Burnett area. Since 1994 the South Burnett College has conducted programs for approximately 488 students at an estimated price of \$290,934.20.

**269. Sports Funding**

Mr VEIVERS asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for Tourism, Sport and Youth—

With reference to the fact that country Queensland has historically been a prolific breeding ground for champion athletes across the spectrum—

What assistance is being given to young and talented sports people to develop their athletic potential, whose families are suffering tremendous hardship caused by drought and general chaotic economic conditions prevailing throughout country Queensland and the State in general?

Answer (Mr Burns):

This Government has done more for country and city athletes than any previous Government in Queensland.

The Queensland Academy of Sport is contributing to the development of country-based athletes. The squad programs for Athletics, Basketball, Cycling,

Athletes with a Disability, Hockey and Rugby Union all include rural based athletes who have outstanding talent.

Under the new Talent Search program, a National talent identification program that seeks to uncover outstanding athletic talent, thousands of Queensland's secondary school students will be screened in the program's initial year. Talent Search will involve schools from all the major rural population centres across the State. It is an ambitious program, but one the Academy feels will particularly assist in identifying our rural talent. Athletes identified will then be linked by sports to their development programs.

For example: The Darling Downs area has suffered in the drought. Last week 16-year-old Karen Smith was named on the National Women's Hockey Olympic Squad, which is currently rated No. 1 in the World. Karen trains regularly at home in Toowoomba under the Regional Coaching Director, She is assisted by the QAS to travel to Brisbane for extra training. The Regional Coach is also assisted to seminars that will keep him abreast of international best practice.

The State-wide Sports Development Program is designed to assist eligible State sporting organisations and industry peak bodies to administer and develop sport at all levels efficiently and effectively. The program also aims to maximise participation and excellence in Queensland sport.

Last year \$7 million was allocated under this program. Funding was based on priorities outlined in each organisation's three year development plans. Based upon these priorities, approximately 80% (\$5.627 million) of funding has been allocated to employ leadership personnel in 74 organisations:

- 74 State administrators (part and full-time)
- 54 State directors of coaching/State development officers
- 129 Regional directors of coaching/regional development officers
- 10 Technical officials development officers
- 2 Equity development officers
- 269 Funded positions

**270. Emergency Response Group, North Queensland**

Mr STONEMAN asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Consumer Affairs—

With reference to his statement on Channel Ten Television News from Townsville this week in relation to the financial structure of the North Queensland Emergency Response Group—

- (1) On what information did he base his comment that the group 'went broke' when in fact it is very well known that the group finished operations with a very healthy account and was supported by a wide range of community and commercial organisations?
- (2) Was the basis of his assertion anything to do with the fact that the Chairman of the NQERG is a well known and public supporter of the National Party?

- (3) Will he be making a public apology to those affected by his grossly defamatory and inaccurate statement?

Answer (Mr Davies):

(1) The National Safety Council of Australia (NSCA) Victoria Division first established an aviation base in Townsville in late 1983.

Following the collapse of the NSCA in 1989 the previous Government purchased the following assets:

KingAir Aircraft—\$1.312M  
 Bell 412 Helicopter—\$3.023M  
 Hyperbaric Chamber—\$0.075M  
 Aircraft Hangar Lease—cost unknown  
 Plant and Equipment—\$0.285M

The North Queensland Emergency Response Group (NQERG) was formed in May 1989, and in September of that year negotiated a commercial Deed of Agreement with the previous State Government. Under this Agreement NQERG leased the KingAir aircraft, hyperbaric chamber, hangar complex and plant and equipment from the Government at a cost of about \$490,000 per annum for the purpose of providing an emergency response capability in Townsville.

No agreement was ever reached regarding the Bell 412 helicopter and as such NQERG had free use of the asset, the lease being valued at about \$700,000 per annum.

In 1990/91, NQERG recorded an audited loss of \$105,000. This trend continued into the next financial year, with the Group recording a loss of \$291,000 for the first six months of the financial period, ie to 31 December 1991. The major cause for this loss was given as under utilisation of both aircraft, mainly because of the rate NQERG charged for use of the aircraft.

These recorded losses would have been even greater had NQERG been required to pay lease costs for the use of the Government-owned Bell 412 helicopter (\$700,000 per annum).

Following these financial results, NQERG approached the former Bureau of Emergency Services (BES) for financial assistance early in 1992, suggesting the following:

a four month moratorium on lease payments for the KingAir aircraft (\$29,000 per month); and

a dollar for dollar subsidy payment (maximum \$250,000 per annum).

It was clear from these discussions and the recorded financial statements that the operation was in financial difficulty.

An agreement regarding increased financial assistance from the Government was not reached, and NQERG was subsequently unable to meet its financial obligations with regards to lease payments. For the first three months of 1992, NQERG was only

able to pay part lease payments totalling approximately \$19,000, leaving an outstanding balance of \$85,000 for that period.

In March 1992 the Government decided that:

the current arrangement with NQERG would cease immediately;

NQERG should continue emergency response operations to 30 June 1992 with Government support; and

BES would call for proposals from interested parties to lease the Townsville facilities, provide an emergency response in North Queensland, and be free to operate commercially with the emergency response constraint.5.

Despite the Government approving financial support to 30 June 1992, NQERG chose to cease its operation on 20 April 1992.

It is obvious from these facts that NQERG was not able to sustain the operation of the Townsville base, resulting in the need for the Queensland Government to assume responsibility for the service.

(2) No comment was made about any person.

(3) The question is based on a false premise.

## 272. Agroforestry

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

With reference to the increasing importation of timber and wood products into Australia and the State Government's allocation of funding for farm forestry—

(1) When will money be available in sufficient quantity to give advice and offer expertise to enable private land owners to be involved in agro-forestry programs?

(2) Will the State Government give an assurance that forestry plantations on private land will be harvested for commercial purposes?

(3) Bearing in mind that eucalypt plantations take in excess of 40 years to start to reach maturity, will he ensure that thinnings from these plantations be classified as primary production and harvested accordingly?

Answer (Mr Gibbs):

1. Advice is already provided to private landowners who seek information on growing plantations of timber species for a commercial return. This information is available from scientists of the Forest Research Institute, foresters at district offices throughout the State and Resource Management Extension Officers located in the regions. In recognition of the extra demand for information that will arise out of interest in the Government's recently announced share-farming initiative, additional funding of up to \$100,000 annually will be made available from 1995/96 for regional extension support.

2. The Queensland Forest Directions Statement released in May 1995 stresses this Government's strong commitment to the expansion of plantation forestry in Queensland, especially within the private sector. The Government has made a commitment in the Statement to create secure rights to harvest plantations established for timber production purposes.

3. Different Local Authorities have different classifications and land rates valuations for tree planting for wood production. Some regard it as primary production, others do not. This was identified as an impediment to private forestry in the Government's Tree Planting for Production and Natural Resources Management Policy Options Paper released for public discussion in November 1994. The Government is attempting to remove this impediment by working with and providing advice to Local Authorities on ways to ensure land use planning, ratings and other policies do not act as disincentives to properly planned plantation investment.

### 273. Remote Area Drug Program

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Consumer Affairs—

With reference to the Remote Area Drug Program which I understand has proved to be of great benefit to patients in the south west of Queensland and is proposed for adoption by the Queensland Ambulance Service—

Is it his intention to adopt this proposal for use in all remote areas of Queensland; if not, why has the program been rejected?

Answer (Mr Davies):

The Remote Drug Program allows selected ambulance officers in remote areas of Queensland to administer a range of drugs to patients after consultation by telephone or radio with the local doctor. This is needed because of the time delays in getting the patient to the doctor.

The main emphasis in the development of Queensland Ambulance training over the last year has been the development of the Advanced Clinical Training (Paramedic) Program. This will allow ambulance officers to give some drugs without the need for medical consultation.

However, as the first intake of paramedic trainees have just commenced training, the remote drug program will continue to be expanded, to provide proper patient care in these areas. There is also an associated need to have such officers trained in intravenous cannulation.

The Queensland Ambulance Service will be making the Remote Drug and intravenous cannulation programs available to all remote areas of Queensland.

The development of a program to introduce this will be a priority as soon as the current paramedic course is established.

### 274. State Government Employee Housing Scheme

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Administrative Services—

With reference to the Government Employee Housing Scheme—

- (1) How many Government employee houses have been sold since the end of 1994-95?
- (2) How much revenue has been earned as a result of these particular property sales?
- (3) What departments have had to surrender properties to the Administrative Services Department for disposal?
- (4) What have been the locations and individual yields from the properties sold by the Administrative Services Department since the end of 1994-95?
- (5) What is the projected number of sales of Government employee housing to the end of 1995-96?
- (6) What is the expected revenue to be raised from the projected sales of these properties for 1995-96?

Answer (Mr Milliner):

- (1) There have been forty two (42) completed sales since the end of 1994/95, including three (3) houses for removal from site and one (1) vacant block of land.
- (2) After all fees and charges the revenue received from these sales totals \$3,385,695.
- (3) All departments are subject to the rationalisation policy. To date, ASD, Education, Family Services, Corrective Services, Police, Transport, DPI and DEVETIR have contributed houses for rationalisation.
- (4) Refer to attached summary (Completed Contracts 1995/96) for details of locations and individual yields from sales.
- (5) GEHS policy protects tenants from eviction and therefore houses are disposed of only as they are vacated through normal procedures. Under these circumstances it is difficult to be confident of the number of sales in 1995/96. However, the estimate is that 190 properties will be sold in 1995/96.
- (6) The estimated net revenue to be raised from these 190 sales is \$13.1M.

Street Address Received	Town/Suburb	Owned By	H/L or HO, LO	Net \$ Received	Date	\$
Main St	Beenleigh	ASD	LO	\$266,800	15 Sep 95	
Norwell Rd Jacobs Well	Beenleigh	DOE	H/L	\$93,863	7 Jul 95	
Inala Avenue	Brisbane	DOE	H/L	\$50,477	19 Oct 95	
12 Thabeban St	Bundaberg	ASD	H/L	\$67,145	31 Aug 95	
14 Maynard St	Bundaberg	ASD	H/L	\$65,320	15 Sep 95	
40 Hurst St	Bundaberg	ASD	H/L	\$58,816	15 Sep 95	
33 Bradman St	Caboolture	DOE	H/L	\$80,061	7 Aug 95	
16 Hillview Cres	Cairns	ASD	H/L	\$151,370	5 Oct 95	
55 Mansfield St	Cairns	ASD	H/L	\$133,438	31 Aug 95	
14 Hartman St	Gladstone	ASD	H/L	\$80,832	15 Sep 95	
2 Scartwarter	Collinsville	DOE	H/L	\$10,070	7 Aug 95	
Rosebud St	Eudlo	DOE	H/L	\$95,680	7 Aug 95	
25 Gore St	Gladstone	FAM SVC	H/L	\$70,615	25 Sep 95	
27 Gore St	Gladstone	FAM SVC	H/L	\$70,752	19 Oct 95	
6 Drummer St	Gladstone	ASD	H/L	\$68,080	7 Jul 95	
18 Drummer St	Gladstone	ASD	H/L	\$72,680	7 Jul 95	
7 Barramundi St	Gladstone	ASD	H/L	\$75,440	7 Jul 95	
28 Herbertson St	Gladstone	ASD	H/L	\$79,120	7 Jul 95	
14 Salmon St	Gladstone	ASD	H/L	\$103,500	7 Jul 95	
27 Glen Eden Dve	Gladstone	DEVETIR	H/L	\$110,403	31 Aug 95	
7 Pine St	Killarney	ASD	H/L	\$53,257	7 Jul 95	
Heifer Crk Rd	Ma Ma Creek	DOE	H/L	\$46,350	27 Sep 95	
7 Goldsmith St	Mackay	ASD	H/L	\$111,627	18 Sep 95	
160 Kippen St	Mackay	ASD	H/L	\$81,880	7 Jul 95	
5 Goldsmith St	Mackay	DOE	H/L	\$107,783	18 Sep 95	
1 Harbour Rd	Mackay	POLICE	HO	\$4,760	9 Oct 95	
2 Harbour Rd	Mackay	POLICE	HO	\$2,320	9 Oct 95	
30 Herbertson St	Mareeba	CORR SVC	H/L	\$89,435	19 Oct 95	
24 Maryborough St	Maryborough	ASD	H/L	\$74,555	31 Aug 95	
29 Smith St	Maryborough	ASD	H/L	\$64,410	31 Aug 95	
9 Coral St	Millaa Millaa	ASD	H/L	\$70,840	7 Jul 95	
36 Macgregor St	Rockhampton	ASD	H/L	\$84,560	31 Aug 95	
46 Gillinder St	Rockhampton	ASD	H/L	\$29,300	31 Aug 95	
41 Hooper St	Maryborough	ASD	H/L	\$122,777	31 Aug 95	
27 Hicks St	Maryborough	ASD	H/L	\$88,567	15 Sep 95	
45 Jenkins St	Maryborough	ASD	H/L	\$92,003	7 Aug 95	
12 Falcon St	Maryborough	ASD	H/L	\$115,000	31 Aug 95	
150 Bedford St	Rockhampton	DOE	H/L	\$58,378	19 Oct 95	
17 Woomera Cres	Southport	ASD	H/L	\$41,940	7 Jul 95	
7 Krause Cres	Toowoomba	ASD	H/L	\$87,170	7 Aug 95	
5 Morrell St	Townsville	ASD	H/L	\$143,520	7 Jul 95	
46 School Rd	Yandina	DOE	HO	\$10,800	9 Oct 95	
			42	\$3,385,695		

H/L = House and Land

H/O = House Only (for Removal)

L/O = Vacant Land

### 278. Police Rostering

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to the memorandum dated 18 July 1995 signed by Deputy Police Commissioner, Mr Bill Aldrich, and sent State-wide on the matter of the 19 per cent shift allowance for police which came into effect on 27 May 1995 to allegedly allow for flexible rostering during the prime crime times of nights and weekends—

(1) Did this memorandum state, and I quote, "It is fair to say that, in the majority of Districts, the implementation of the 19 per cent has not delivered the desired and/or anticipated benefits" and does he agree that this

assessment could be reasonably described as an admission that the scheme had been a failure overall?

- (2) What changes to the existing scheme were decided at the emergency meeting on 27 July 1995 at Police Headquarters announced in that memorandum?
- (3) What have been the results of the State-wide audit of rosters by Superintendent K Flynn and Inspector N Raward also announced in that memorandum?
- (4) Will he release, on a district-by-district basis, rosters for the full week prior to 27 May 1995, and the rosters for the week immediately prior to the 15 July 1995 election to allow for a

public testing of his claims about how effective this scheme is?

Answer (Mr Braddy):

(1) The introduction of flexible rostering has not been a failure. The Deputy Commissioner's assessment was made at the end of one four-week roster period after the implementation of what was a huge change in long standing practices in the Service. Change of this magnitude warrants a "bedding-in" period during which all uncertainties can be removed and during which employees operating the system are able to become familiar with the change.

(2) The intention of the meeting at Police Headquarters on 27 July 1995 was to gather those responsible for implementing flexible rostering in order to accelerate the bedding-in process. No changes were made to the existing scheme.

(3) The audit role of Inspector Raward and other officers of the Inspectorate is to be ongoing, undertaken together with other audit functions carried out by the Commissioner's Inspectorate. The entire State may take a full year to complete. The audits carried out to date indicate that the new scheme has generally been applied equitably with some difficulties experienced in interpreting the Enterprise Bargaining Agreement.

(4) The cost of extracting the rosters nominated cannot be justified in terms of their value. An accurate assessment of the new shift work and rostering arrangements will require longer term study.

### 279. Transport Department Land, Coorparoo

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to the old driver testing centre at Coorparoo, now the campaign headquarters for the ALP candidate for Griffith and Premier's Department officer, Kevin Rudd—

- (1) Is this site still owned by the Department of Transport; if so, what are the terms of agreement with Mr Rudd in conjunction with this lease?
- (2) Over what term is the lease?
- (3) What rental is payable?
- (4) What arrangements have been made with Mr Rudd in the eventuality of a buyer for the site being found?

Answer (Mr Elder):

The property known as the old driving testing centre at Coorparoo was excess to the department's requirements and submitted to public auction on 15 December 1994 by the Department of Lands. Knight Frank Hooker handled the auction. The property was sold at the auction to a third party, for a figure in excess of the reserve price. Settlement proceeded on 16 February 1995.

### 280. Moura Mine Disaster; Mine Safety Inspections

Mr GILMORE asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

With reference to an answer to a Question on Notice on 30 March 1995, in which he indicated that in the six months immediately prior to the Moura No. 2 mine disaster, there had been a total of 192 inspections in coal mines served by the Central Queensland Mines Inspectorate and to an answer to a question during the Estimates Committee in which he indicated only 158 inspections had been carried out by the same Inspectorate in the six months to 31 May 1995—

- (1) How many inspections were carried out by his Coal Mines Inspectorate in Central Queensland between 1 June 1995 and the anniversary of the Moura No. 2 disaster?
- (2) Does he consider that a reduction of 34 inspections in the six months after the disaster is an acceptable level of inspection and likely to maintain safety in Queensland mines?

Answer (Mr McGrady):

I am informed that 55 inspections were carried out by the Coal Mines inspectorate between 1 June 1995 and 7 August 1995.

The reduction of 34 inspections in the 6 months after the Moura disaster has resulted from the need for some inspection staff to be diverted to the critical task of investigating the incident and in assisting the Warden's Inquiry. After a disaster such as Moura No. 2, it is vital that the matter is fully investigated. This procedure not only provides an accurate record of the incident whilst people's memories are fresh but it also assists in the rapid transfer of safety issues identified by the investigation to the rest of the industry.

Accident statistics since the Moura incident have continued to show a consistent improving trend. Lost Time Injury Frequency Rates in underground mines for the 94/95 period were 68 lost time injuries per million manhours worked. This compares with 74 in 1993/94 period.

Mine inspections constitute only a part of the duties of inspectors of mines. Other activities include participation in risk assessments, training programs, introduction of new technology and mining systems as well as investigating incidents and accidents.

### 282. Client Survey, Workers Compensation Board

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

Will she provide the results of the Workers' Compensation Board of Queensland "Client Satisfaction Survey" which required answers by 24 February 1995 and, in particular, the accurate statistical responses to Questions 1 to 8?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

In December 1994 and January 1995 a client satisfaction survey was distributed by the Workers'



Compensation Board of Queensland to gauge client satisfaction with the Board's services.

Two surveys were designed: one for injured workers and one for employers. A total of 500 surveys were mailed. 250 surveys were mailed to a random selection of injured workers and 250 surveys were mailed to a random selection of employers.

A total of 76 surveys were returned by injured workers, representing a 28.4% response rate.

A total of 70 surveys were returned by employers, representing a 28% response rate.

It is important to note that not all respondents answered all questions which resulted in the variable response rate to some questions.

Specifically, in relation to questions 1 to 8, the following responses were received:

#### EMPLOYERS

Q1. 78.9% of respondents believed that the benefits and services provided by the Workers' Compensation Board met their expectations "adequately to very well".

Q2. 62.3% of respondents indicated that the staff of the Board were "reasonably helpful to very helpful".

Q3. 82.1% of respondents rated the efficiency of the Board as "satisfactory to very good".

Q4. 70% of respondents had not needed to contact the rehabilitation section. 26% of respondents rated the service of the rehabilitation section as "satisfactory to very good".

Q5. 69.8% of respondents believed the Board provides sufficient information on its operations.

Q6. 43.5% of respondents were aware of the workplace rehabilitation training courses for Queensland employers offered by the Board.

Q7. 91.2% of respondents were aware of the Board's recent campaign and the theme "getting back to work sooner is the best medicine".

Q8. 81.4% of respondents believed that the Board's marketing campaign encouraging workplace rehabilitation and the early return to work of an injured worker was "quite effective to very effective".

#### INJURED WORKERS

Q1. 89.4% of respondents believed that the benefits and services provided by the Workers' Compensation Board met their needs "adequately to very well".

Q2. 69.5% of respondents received workers' compensation cheques on time "frequently to always".

Q3. 50.7% of respondents believed that information available on the workers' compensation system in Queensland was "sufficient to more than sufficient".

Q4. 85.7% of respondents understood the content of the information "reasonably well to perfectly".

Q5. 81.7% of respondents found the staff of the Board "reasonably helpful to very helpful".

Q6. 50% of respondents had not needed to contact the rehabilitation section. 46% of respondents found

the services received from the rehabilitation section "satisfactory to very good".

Q7. 88% of respondents rated the quality of the services provided by the Board as "satisfactory to very good".

Q8. This question sought written comments.

#### 283. Research Stations, Primary Industries Department

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

What are the Department of Primary Industries future plans for the Applethorpe and Hermitage research stations including (a) strategic plans, (b) staffing contingent and (c) research programs?

Answer (Mr Gibbs):

In line with the Government's aim of promoting the more efficient use of DPI's research assets, a critical review of DPI's facilities has been undertaken. Following the completion of this review, the issue of how best to service the Department's current and future research needs will be considered. This assessment will be undertaken in consultation with industry.

At this point, no decisions have been made regarding the conclusions and recommendations of the review. Strategic decisions regarding research facilities will be a part of these recommendations.

Details of staff and programs at the specified stations is as follows:

Hermitage: The RD&E program, directed to issues of industry competitiveness and market access, includes:

- major plant breeding programs in each of Barley, Grain, Sorghum, Soybeans and Navy beans;

- support programs for Adzuki beans, Lima beans, and Chickpeas; and

- physiology programs for Grain Sorghum and Cotton.

There are 34 staff at Hermitage, including 23 research and technical support staff, 8 farm staff and 3 admin support staff.

Applethorpe: The RD&E program, directed to issues of industry competitiveness and market access, includes

- production systems work in apple breeding and agronomy;

- market requirement through stonefruit breeding; and

- integrated pest management systems for apple, stonefruit grape and vegetable industries to reduce chemical use and enhance industry viability

There are 23 staff at Applethorpe, including 15 research and technical support staff, 2 extension staff, 4 farm staff and 2 admin support staff.

**285. Options Paper, TAFE Colleges**

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

With reference to a recent article in the *Courier-Mail* which refers to a discussion by TAFE's senior executive forum of a formal paper outlining future options for the organisation—

Will she table (a) the letter by the Director-General, distributed to all TAFE institutions the day after the article appeared in the *Courier-Mail*, (b) a copy of the minutes of that executive forum meeting which discussed the options, (c) a list of those senior executives who attended that meeting, (d) the name(s) of the officer(s) who prepared the options paper and (e) the name(s) of the officer(s) who approved its preparation and presentation?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

There was no formal paper outlining future options for TAFE Queensland as referred to in a recent article in the *Courier Mail*. A draft discussion paper was prepared by TAFE providing a number of possible considerations in terms of the future of TAFE Queensland. As the letter by my Director-General to all TAFE staff states, this paper has no status beyond that of a draft discussion paper which has not been proceeded with beyond that position.

(a) I table the Director-General's letter to all TAFE staff.

(b) There was no discussion regarding the draft paper at any TAFE executive forum meeting

(c) The TAFE Executive Forum is comprised of the Executive Director, TAFE Queensland, and Institute and State Office Directors.

(d) and (e) Not relevant.

**286. Enterprise Agreement, TAFE Colleges**

Mr J. N. GOSS asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

How many hours of staff time were required and what were the costs involved in the attempts to reach an Enterprise Agreement in Queensland TAFE?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

The productivity savings to be achieved through the TAFE Queensland Enterprise Agreement and the Cleaning Services Enterprise Agreement are estimated at \$18.6 million over the life of the Agreements.

This is to say nothing of the qualitative achievements through such initiatives as enhanced client service and greater accessibility to TAFE services through more flexible work practices achieved under enterprise bargaining.

All these workplace reform achievements can be translated into a reduction in the cost of delivery from \$8.50 per student contact hour in 1989 to \$7.24 in 1994, expressed on a 1989/1990 base. Preliminary statistics soon to be released by the Australian

Committee on Vocational Education and Training Statistics (ACVETS) show that in 1994 the Queensland Vocational Education and Training System achieved:

the lowest cost of delivery per curriculum hour of any State

the best value for money of any State achieving:

the lowest per hour cost for successful modular completion;

the lowest cost for successful modular completion;

the second lowest cost per award completion.

Full details of these data were tabled in answer to Question No 182.

A Workplace Reform Task Force, comprising three (3) officers from TAFE Queensland, was formed in September 1993, to drive the workplace reform agenda in TAFE Queensland. The salary cost for these officers was \$171,000 per annum. The Task Force was disbanded in 1995 following the certification of the Enterprise Agreement.

Approximately \$64,000 was expended in operating costs by the Workplace Reform Task Force each year.

Enterprise bargaining negotiations formed only one part of the work of the Task Force. Other workplace reform initiatives in which it was involved included:

the implementation of benchmarking exercises; classification review;

the supply system review;

client satisfaction surveying;

establishment and training of workplace consultative committees;

the preparation and distribution of newsletters and a journal on workplace reform issues;

networking of best practice initiatives;

enhancements to the CAP (computer) system to enhance student enrolment procedures;

Institute formation and management restructuring;

training for union delegates to implement the recommendations of the Cleaning Review;

middle management development;

Because of the breadth of initiatives that fall under the workplace reform agenda, it is not possible to ascribe a specific time allocation or costs to the enterprise bargaining portion alone.

**288. Eungella National Park**

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

With reference to Eungella National Park, which includes the Finch Hatton Gorge, which is the cornerstone in the further development of a sustainable and growing tourist industry in the Pioneer Valley—

- (1) Why have no extra resources and manpower been allocated to the park to enable further development and the re-opening of trails which closed more than two years ago, ie Wheel of Fire?
- (2) Will authority be given to the Broken River kiosk operator to undertake a basic caretaking and maintenance role, together with departmental authority to take appropriate action in the case of emergencies as in the past?

Answer (Mr Barton):

1. \$25,000 was allocated in the 1994/95 Capital Works program to upgrade the Wheel of Fire walking track. Work has been completed on some 40% of the track. materials have been purchased and work on the track will continue this financial year with the involvement of the Youth Conservation Corps.

2. Caretaking and maintenance functions are undertaken by existing staff.

Park staff live on site within Eungella National Park and are generally contactable in the event of an emergency. The assistance of the kiosk operator, within the limits of his training and experience, would be welcomed in such an event. Departmental authority to provide such assistance would not appear to be necessary for the Kiosk operator or any other member of the public.

### 290. Tourism Summit, Tokyo

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for Tourism, Sport and Youth—

With reference to the Japan Australian Tourism Summit which is being held in Tokyo during the week ending 21 October 1995—

- (1) What has been the involvement of the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation (QTTC) in the steering committee meetings at Cairns and on the Gold Coast preceding this summit?
- (2) What is the involvement of the QTTC at the summit in Tokyo?

Answer (Mr Burns):

The Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation (QTTC) assisted the Australian Tourist Commission (ATC) in the planning of the Cairns and Gold Coast steering committee meetings. The QTTC's Director of Marketing, Maree Tetlow, attended the Gold Coast meeting.

The QTTC's Regional Director—Japan, Toshio Watanabe, worked closely with the ATC to organise the involvement of Japanese outbound tourism stakeholders.

Mr Watanabe acted as Chair of one of the sub-committee workshops during the summit and was an observer at the summit.

Mr Geoff Donaghy (a QTTC Board Member) was also an observer, representing the Cairns Convention Centre.

The QTTC has had a long standing involvement in Japanese outbound tourism. Japan is Queensland's largest international market and 75 per cent of all Japanese visitors to Australia visit Queensland.

The QTTC is currently re-drafting its Japan Strategy to reflect the changing environment and is working closely with both the Gold Coast Tourism Bureau and the Far North Queensland Promotion Bureau to ensure that these two key destinations maintain and expand their strong foothold in the Japanese market.

### 291. Riparian Buffer Zones

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

- (1) Has the Department of Environment and Heritage sought to have riparian buffer zones enshrined in legislation or encompassed in a State planning policy or any other planning directive?
- (2) Has it been proposed by departmental staff that these buffer zones be as follows: (a) first and second order streams (watercourses and gullies)—50 metres from top bank of outer stream channel, (b) third and fourth order streams (creeks)—100 metres from top bank of outer stream channel, (c) fifth and sixth order streams (rivers)—250 metres from top bank of outer stream channel and (d) wetlands—250 metres from maximum flood level?
- (3) If this is not the formula, what is?
- (4) Has the Department of Environment and Heritage had any discussions with other Government departments or internally on how riparian zones should be imposed and regulated on private land; if so, will he give details?

Answer (Mr Barton):

(1) to (4) The Department of Environment and Heritage is well aware of the environmental significance of riparian zones and particularly of their importance as wildlife corridors, for stream bank stability and for the maintenance of water quality. The scientific evidence available indicates that excessive and indiscriminate clearing of riparian vegetation has contributed to such major problems as blue green algae outbreaks and siltation leading to the destruction of seagrass communities in adjacent marine waters.

The Draft State Guidelines for Broadscale Tree Clearing on Leasehold and other State Lands, released by the Government for public comment in March 1995 and currently the subject of a major consultation program with rural communities, recommend the following buffer widths for riparian areas:

1st and 2nd order streams—50 metres

3rd and 4th order streams—100 metres

5th and 6th order streams—200 metres

These proposals have received in principle support from rural industry groups but some ability to vary these widths for management purposes has been sought.

Local tree clearing guidelines are being developed based on these draft State guidelines. Once complete they will be applied by the Department of Lands under the tree clearing permit provisions of the Land Act 1994.

### 293. Air Conditioner Gas

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

- (1) What review is in place to allow equitable access by users to a choice of refrigerants given that CFCs are justifiably being phased out?
- (2) As HC12A compares more than favourably with 134A in the areas of flammability, toxicity, carcinogens and environmental impact and is more efficient and additionally does not require retrofitting of vehicles to compensate for pressure differentials as required by 134A, why have operators and consumers been denied the choice of a comparable product?

Answer (Mr McGrady):

A review of the use of flammable hydrocarbon gases as refrigerants is currently under way as there are serious safety issues arising from the unregulated replacement of the non-flammable R12 with flammable hydrocarbon refrigerants. Following a public meeting held on 1 September 1995 at which these issues were discussed, a proposed set of approval requirements has been drafted and released for public comment. Submissions received are now being considered.

The claims made about the relative merits of HC12A and R134A are not universally recognised as scientifically proven fact. Currently, neither operators nor consumers have been denied choice as far as replacement refrigerants are concerned and, subject to proper safety controls, there is no intention to do so in the future. The Government will support the use of any type of refrigerant, but will only do so where the safety of the industry and the community can be assured.

### 294. Police Resources, Smithfield

Ms WARWICK asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

- (1) Is he aware of the community concerns over the staffing levels at Smithfield Police Station as this station, with a staff of around 16 police officers, often has only two officers on duty to serve an estimated 30,000 residents?
- (2) Will he make a commitment to bring staffing levels to a point which reflects the population and workload of the area?
- (3) While acknowledging that there is a very good community relationship with the Smithfield police, is it now time for this station to be seen,

not as an annexe of the Cairns station, but as a stand-alone police station with a 24-hour capability; when this will occur?

Answer (Mr Braddy):

(1) The Smithfield Police Station has a permanent staffing level of 16 officers. This is one more than the number allocated by the Queensland Police Service Staffing Model. It also currently has two first year Constables working from the station and two staff belonging to the Criminal Investigation Branch.

The Cairns Traffic Branch, Juvenile Aid Bureau, Dog Squad and the District Drug Squad regularly perform duties within the Smithfield area. Assistance is also provided by general duty officers from Cairns when required. The Cairns Task Force also patrols the Northern Beaches during peak periods, that is Friday and Saturday nights.

(2) The current staffing level exceeds the allocation of the Police Service's Staffing Model, which was developed to ensure an equitable distribution of personnel Statewide.

(3) The Smithfield Police Station currently has a 24 hour capacity on a stand-alone basis. By utilising the Cairns Communications Centre and watchhouse, and with the assistance of other units as outlined in my response to Question 1, Smithfield avails itself of the optimum use of resources within the District.

### 295. Blood Donors, Inglewood

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Is he aware that blood donors in the Inglewood area are now unable to access facilities to donate all types of blood at Goondiwindi, a facility they have accessed since 1988, when the service at Inglewood was withdrawn?
- (2) Why has this move been necessary?
- (3) What measures are to be taken to ensure that these dedicated blood donors are able to perform this very vital community service?
- (4) What is the future for current blood donation facilities at both Warwick and Stanthorpe?
- (5) Does he agree that any move to scale back blood donation services is contrary to publicity which seeks to ensure an adequate supply of blood products and donors?

Answer (Mr Beattie):

(1) Blood donors in the Inglewood area still have access to facilities within the Blood Bank at Goondiwindi. However, a decision was taken by the Convenor of the Blood Bank in Goondiwindi to convert the Inglewood blood donor group to an emergency donor panel. The Honourable Member appears completely out of touch with his own Electorate. Goondiwindi itself has been operating very successfully as an emergency donor panel for at least five years, but has been collecting whole blood from donors arriving from Inglewood prior to this decision as this appeared to be their preference.

(2) Experience showed that whole blood collected from Inglewood donors invariably was stored and

often became outdated due to lack of demand. It was considered inappropriate and possibly unethical to systematically and regularly collect units of blood from willing donors if the likelihood of its use was remote. Hence, the conversion of the group to an emergency donor panel. Where a local blood bank has high outdated rates, the community is not being well served in terms of an invasive medical procedure performed on donors and in terms of blood wasted. The concept of an emergency donor panel is that willing blood donors are able to donate in emergency situations providing they have had collected within the previous three to six months a sample of blood which has been fully tested for all infectious markers by the Blood Bank laboratory in Brisbane. In this way donors are not bled unnecessarily, while at the same time this allows dedicated members of the community to contribute in a very positive way in their area by being available to donate in an emergency.

(3) To participate in an emergency donor panel does not in any way reduce the vital service to the community provided by donors. Indeed, their contribution to society could be seen as being much greater in so far as full units of blood collected from them will invariably be utilised immediately rather than sitting on a shelf in a refrigerator, outdated and subsequently being destroyed with no benefit being derived by other members of the community. In any case, blood donors from Inglewood, being situated mid-way between Goondiwindi and Warwick, continue to have the choice of either belonging to an emergency donor panel in Goondiwindi or donating blood for storage and subsequent transfusion in Warwick.

(4) There are no plans to alter the current blood donation facilities in Warwick and Stanthorpe as the majority of blood collected in both areas is utilised with low rates of outdated.

(5) This is not a scale back in blood donation services. Instead, it is good management to prevent excessive waste of a valuable community resource, while at the same time providing for emergencies when blood is vital for medical treatment.

Publicity is carried out throughout Queensland to encourage people to supply blood but it is necessary for such services to be appropriate for the situations and areas served. It has always been possible to utilise blood collected in major centres more widely due to greater demand and the ability to produce blood components. However, this does not mean that blood supplies in areas of relatively small population are any less valuable. A donation is only less valuable when it is collected and not used due to it passing its 'use-by' date or does the Honourable gentleman advocate the collection of blood that is then not used? The contribution by dedicated blood donors is much greater for these communities if they join an emergency donor panel.

#### **296. Police Resources, Clermont**

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to the reduction in staffing from four to three and the recent transfer of one of the remaining officers at the Clermont Police Station and as the current situation is unsuitable, unworkable and very stressful to the two remaining officers—

- (1) Will he ensure regular relief police to ease the stressful situation the officers and staff are currently enduring?
- (2) When will a new officer be appointed to fill the vacant position in Clermont?

Answer (Mr Braddy):

(1) Since the Fitzgerald Inquiry the deployment of Police Officers is determined by the Queensland Police Service, not politicians. The District Officer at Mackay, after assessing the overall resourcing and policing priorities in the Mackay Police District, and in view of the fact a replacement Constable arrived at Clermont on 8 November 1995, decided that no relief would be provided at the Station.

(2) The transfer of Constable Dobinson from Mackay to Clermont was published in the Police Gazette on 20 October 1995.

#### **297. Papaya Fruit Fly**

Mr TURNER asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

With reference to the presence of the papaya fruit fly in the Torres Strait—

- (1) On what date did the department first become aware that the papaya fruit fly had arrived on Torres Strait Islands?
- (2) What monitoring and eradication measures were taken?
- (3) When were these measures taken and on which Islands?
- (4) How many DPI staff were involved?
- (5) What measures were taken in attempting to prevent the spread of the papaya fruit fly from Torres Strait Islands to the mainland?
- (6) What objective means were used to gauge the effectiveness of the measures referred to above?

Answer (Mr Gibbs):

1. The papaya fruit fly was first detected in March 1993 in Australian Territory on the islands of Saibai, Boigu and Darnley adjacent to the Papua and New Guinea coast and on Stephen and Dauan Islands close to the centre of Torres Strait.

2. Monitoring by trapping has been maintained since 1993 over most inhabited islands of Torres Strait and the northern tip of Cape York. Eradication measures employed were protein bait spraying and male annihilation. Eradication on Stephen and Darnley Islands was successful. The protein bait suppression program continues on Boigu, Dauan and Saibai Islands.

3. The measures taken during 1993 were on Stephen, Darnley, Saibai, Boigu and Dauan Islands.

4. Four Department of Primary Industries (DPI) staff worked under the Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy in the islands with backup support provided by an additional four staff in Brisbane and in North Queensland.

5. Intensive monitoring was conducted in Torres Strait islands so that any movement of the pest was readily detected and eradication undertaken. Specimens identified by DPI experts indicated that the fly has not been moving towards the Queensland coast through the Torres Strait islands.

6. Regular trapping has continued with monthly trap catches examined and fly species identified.

### 298. Papaya Fruit Fly

Mrs WILSON asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

With reference to the heavy infestations of papaya fruit fly in the City of Cairns and given that Cairns is a major entry point for air travellers from the Torres Strait and a popular destination for road travellers from Cape York—

- (1) What procedures were in place (a) 18 months ago, (b) 12 months ago and (c) six months ago to detect the possible arrival of the papaya fruit fly?
- (2) How long do departmental experts believe the fly took to reproduce to the numbers now present in Cairns?

Answer (Mr Gibbs):

1. Quarantine services have been in place in North Queensland for many years providing quarantine barriers at air and sea ports and mail centres. In North Queensland, regular quarantine services have been supplemented by the Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy (NAQS) which undertakes quarantine surveillance of outgoing aircraft in the Torres Strait and monitoring of quarantine pests in northern Australia. These activities have been directed by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) and my Department has been involved operationally and with provision of technical and policy input. Operational activities reverted to AQIS in August of this year.

2. Resource input has been increased with increased traffic through international airports in North Queensland. Recently, sniffer dogs have been part of the activities.

Trapping was also conducted for papaya fruit fly in the Cairns area between July and September 1994 with no flies being detected.

3. There is no clear indication of how long the pest has been on the Australian mainland. Based on the numbers of papaya fly being detected in the vicinity of Cairns, and on the breeding cycle of between four and five weeks, it is apparent that there have been a number of generations bred in the locality to reach the populations that are indicated by the trapping.

### 299. Papaya Fruit Fly

Mr CARROLL asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

With reference to the arrival and establishment of the papaya fruit fly—

- (1) How many staff with the necessary skills to detect and combat the papaya fruit fly were employed in positions which would allow them to do so in 1990 and at 30 June 1995?
- (2) How many staff with those skills have left the department since 1 January 1990?
- (3) How many staff with those skills have been redeployed since 1 January 1990?

Answer (Mr Gibbs):

1. Detection of pests such as papaya fruit fly is conducted as part of the Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy (NAQS). In 1990, there were three NAQS inspectors on Thursday Island. One of these positions has been abolished but an additional six quarantine assistants have been appointed to outer islands in the Torres Strait. The staff necessary to combat the fruit fly are based in Brisbane and North Queensland. There were four in 1990 and three in 1995.

2. One.

3. One.

### 300. Pumicestone Passage

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

With reference to the recent decision to close Pumicestone Passage to commercial fishermen—

- (1) Has his department allocated funds to compensate these fishermen for loss of income; if so, how much?
- (2) Has he, as the Minister responsible, set a deadline for the finalisation of compensation for the fishermen affected by the closure?

Answer (Mr Gibbs):

1. The Government has no legal obligation to pay compensation to the commercial fishers who previously operated in Pumicestone Passage. It is also important to note that these fishers all still hold endorsements which enable them to fish elsewhere. The Government has however indicated that it is willing to consider ex gratia payments.

It would be inappropriate to provide any indication of the level of funding which the Government may direct to ex gratia payments.

2. I have asked my Department to finalise this matter as quickly as possible. I am informed that preliminary contact has already been established with legal interests representing the commercial fishers.

### 301. Police Resources, Emu Park

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

Due to population increases in the Emu Park, Kinka, Zilzie, Coowonga, Keppel Sands, Cawarral and Mt Chalmers areas, when will a second officer be appointed to Emu Park to ease the huge workload on the one hard working police officer in the area?

Answer (Mr Braddy):

The police officer at Emu Park is supported by the Rockhampton District Traffic Branch and Criminal Investigation Branch officers from Yeppoon and Rockhampton. Also, patrol units are tasked to the Emu Park area by the Rockhampton Communications Room on a needs basis. Additionally, an extra officer is allocated to Emu Park during holiday periods such as Christmas and Easter.

### 303. Natural Resource Management

Mrs McCAULEY asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

With reference to the original round of meetings in the Central Burnett area on the subject of natural resource management and as Department of Primary Industries personnel promised the people of Mundubbera that they would have another meeting in Mundubbera before the draft legislation was presented—

- (1) What stage has this consultation process reached?
- (2) When will the people of Mundubbera have their next meeting to discuss this issue?

Answer (Mr Gibbs):

1. The Natural Resource Management (NRM) Policy Council was formed in December 1994 to oversee preparation of the NRM legislation. The Policy Council is representative of rural industry and the community, including the Queensland Farmers Federation, Cattlemen's Union, Queensland Irrigators Council, Queensland Local Government Association, Queensland Conservation Council, Queensland Timber Board, River Improvement Trusts and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission.

The Policy Council has been addressing the concerns and issues raised by industry and the community during the community consultation process. The Policy Council has generally endorsed a document of revised proposals for NRM legislation. However some outstanding issues are still to be addressed by the Council. These include compensation, third party appeals, ownership of boundary watercourses, administrative costs for water, local dispute settlement and linking of NRM legislation with other natural resource legislation.

The document prepared by the NRM Policy Council will be used as the basis for preparing an exposure draft of the NRM Bill during 1996. The Bill will aim to protect the sustainable productive capacity and values of our natural resources and allow their sound economic development, whilst ensuring that any impact of use is consistent with biologically sustainable development principles. It will also ensure fair access and allocation of these resources and provide greater planning certainty. A key element of the Bill will be consultation with stakeholders when making decisions about resource allocation and use.

2. It is proposed to release the exposure draft of the NRM Bill for consultation with the community in late 1996. This will provide for consultation on the draft

Bill before it is considered by the Parliament. The NRM Policy Council has yet to develop the process for consulting with the community on the exposure draft of the NRM Bill. It is likely that the Policy Council will conduct meetings with rural industry and the community at key locations across the State.

### 304. School Uniforms

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to an undertaking by the State Government during the election campaign to provide a \$50 contribution for school uniforms—

When and how will this contribution be made available to parents?

Answer (Mr Hamill):

In accordance with the Goss Government's undertaking during the 1995 election campaign, the Government has decided to provide all principal carers of school age children with a cheque to the value of \$50 for each child, commencing in 1996.

### 305. Fire Service, Suspension of Officer

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Consumer Affairs—

- (1) Was a district officer, Fry, of the Queensland Fire Services based at Nambour, suspended on full pay approximately 12 months ago?
- (2) Is this officer still under suspension and still receiving full pay; if so, on what grounds was he suspended and why hasn't this matter been either finalised or resolved?

Answer (Mr Davies):

(1) Yes, District Officer Fry was suspended on full pay on 28 November, 1994 pending assessment of allegations of unacceptable behaviour by him extending over many years.

(2) Yes, Mr Fry remains under suspension on full pay although assessments based on Human Resource Management advice on equity and natural justice, both disciplinary and administrative, are nearing finalisation.

Given the sensitive and personal nature of the issues surrounding the situation, it would be inappropriate to discuss details. However, the situation has, at all times, been addressed with compassion and consideration for all parties involved.

### 306. Papaya Fruit Fly

Mr STONEMAN asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

With reference to the recent discovery of the papaya fruit fly near Cairns in North Queensland—

- (1) Why haven't an immediate series of roadblocks been put in place to contain the possibility of any movement of contaminated fruit?
- (2) Why was the initial roadblock, which came on several days after the initial discovery, only directed towards heavy transport?

- (3) Why was only minimal security in place at the Cairns airport, and no physical inspection, as late as Tuesday, 24 October, several days after the discovery?
- (4) What assurances will he give the horticultural producers in the Lower Burdekin that their crops are not in direct jeopardy as a result of lax Government action in monitoring all traffic movement on the Bruce Highway which runs from the initial discovery area right through the middle of the Burdekin irrigation area?
- (5) Why were the inland roads via the Atherton Tablelands and Charters Towers/Hughenden not subject to the same controls as ultimately applied to the coastal route?
- (6) What monitoring is being carried out in respect of the thousands of feral or common mango trees throughout Queensland—many on Government land?

Answer (Mr Gibbs):

1. Roadblocks were established at strategic location on highways out of North Queensland to ensure that fruit did not leave the declared quarantine zone unless subjected to appropriate treatments. The roadblocks are manned by Department of Primary Industries (DPI) officers, Department of Transport officers and Police from Silkwood. The roadblock at Silkwood was moved south when the quarantine zone was extended.

2. The first roadblock was established at 7.00am on 27 October on the Bruce Highway at Silkwood, north of Tully and was directed at all vehicles moving out of the area.

3. Disposal bins and prominent signs were in place at the domestic and international airline terminals, bus terminals and the Cairns railway station by 22 October. In addition, announcements were made to all departing passengers of their responsibilities not to take fruit out of the district.

4. The quarantine restrictions which include treatment, certification of treatments and inspections at roadblocks imposed on fruit moving out of the quarantine zone are sufficient to ensure that crops in other horticultural areas are not in jeopardy.

5. The roadblock on the Kennedy Development Road operates in the same way as the roadblock on the Bruce Highway.

6. Monitoring is being carried out in rainforest areas, cities and towns in the quarantine zone and in major horticultural production areas along the Queensland coast.

### 307. Equine Morbillivirus

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

With reference to the continued spread of the horse and human disease, equine morbillivirus—

Will he give a full and detailed explanation of all measures taken to contain and control the disease, first in the Hendra district and now in the Mackay district, with particular emphasis on the period

between the Hendra outbreak and the Mackay outbreak?

Answer (Mr Gibbs):

We must be very clear on two points raised in this question. Firstly, the words "continued spread" infer that this disease is spreading. This is clearly not the case.

Secondly, the question talks of the "period between the Hendra outbreak and the Mackay outbreak". It is important to recognise that while a human death has been associated with this disease recently, the disease in horses appears to have been confined to two episodes within a couple of months of each other, one at Mackay in August 1994 and the second at Hendra in September 1994.

Human health authorities are at present analysing results to determine whether the recent human case was infected through contact with the horses that died over 15 months ago. This is probably what happened. There is no evidence of recent infection in horses at Mackay or anywhere else in Queensland.

When the Hendra horse deaths occurred, the only known viral disease that could cause the disease seen was the extremely serious African Horse Sickness, an insect transmitted disease of horses (but not humans) that has never been recorded in Australia. For this reason control measures were immediately put in place to control the movement of horses from the affected properties and to limit horse movement in an area from Miles in the west to Gladstone in the north.

After African Horse Sickness was ruled out, but while an undiagnosed disease may have existed, wide-ranging movement restrictions on horses continued.

However once equine morbillivirus had been discovered, through much excellent work achieved by officers of the Department of Primary Industries and the Animal Health Laboratory, Geelong working under very difficult conditions, these movement restrictions were able to be streamlined to quarantine of affected premises only.

In the Mackay case, a diagnosis was first made in a human and by rapidly responding to this information, disease was confirmed in one horse and was suspected in a second. A new, but very sensitive test, was used to achieve this diagnosis. This test, only developed in recent months allows virus testing to be done on preserved tissues—which were all that remained from these Mackay horse deaths.

Therefore, quarantine measures could be sensibly limited to the complete restriction of horse movement on and off the Mackay property, supported by an Undertaking under the Stock Act 1915.

Within the past few weeks, a huge amount of effort has been put into tracing movements to and from the Mackay property and in restricting the movement of horses that have been traced.

In addition a large blood testing survey of mainly paddocked horses has been undertaken to backup the survey of nearly 2000 horses conducted in October 1994. It will be some time before all results



are available but the 85 horses now on the Mackay property have returned negative results showing no exposure to the virus.

The significant efforts of officers of the Animal Health and Welfare Bureau have guaranteed that the community and horse industries are given maximum protection from this disease.

### **308. State Government Building, 111 George Street**

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Administrative Services—

With reference to the 111 George Street building—

- (1) How many floors of the building are currently occupied?
- (2) What are the details of the tenants of the floors currently occupied?
- (3) What are the details of the lease or rental arrangements for these existing tenants?
- (4) How many floors of the building are currently vacant?
- (5) Are there any lease negotiations currently underway for these vacant floors?

Answer (Mr Milliner):

1. 111 George Street has twenty six (26) floors of lettable area. All floors are currently occupied.

2. Floor—Occupant/s

Levels 1-14—Department of Housing, Local Government and Planning.

Level 13—Partly occupied by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning with his Department occupying the remainder of the floor.

Level 15—The Arts Division of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General. The balance of the floor is occupied by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Planning.

Level 16—The Arts Division of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General.

Levels 17-18—Parliamentary Counsel, Department of the Premier, Economic and Trade Development.

Level 19—The Department of Housing, Local Government and Planning.

Level 20—Department of Business, Industry & Regional Development and the Queensland Small Business Corporation.

Levels 21-26—Department of Business, Industry & Regional Development.

Level 26—Partly occupied by the Minister for Business, Industry & Regional Development with his Department occupying the remainder of the floor.

3. All tenants currently occupy the building under the terms of a Cabinet approved Memorandum of Understanding. This document sets out the terms and conditions under which they occupy the property. The tenure of the occupying Departments is not subject to a fixed term. This flexible arrangement allows Departments to occupy the

amount of space that best suits their needs over time. The Portfolio Management Unit of the Government Services Group controls the allocation of space in response to agencies' needs. Appropriated Departments, or parts thereof, pay rental rates equivalent to equal quality private sector commercial space. Trust-funded Departments, or parts thereof, have been granted a rental incentive in line with commercial practice in recognition of their commercially based activities. Cleaning and security charges are paid in addition to the rental rates.

4. There are no vacant floors in the building.

5. No. By virtue of the answer to Question 4.

### **309. Nambour General Hospital**

Mr WOOLMER asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the Nambour General Hospital—

- (1) Will there be an increase in the number of psychiatric bed numbers at the hospital; if so, when and how many?
- (2) Will there be a new detoxification unit set up?
- (3) Will there be increased staffing in the physiotherapy, occupational therapy and X-Ray departments?
- (4) When will the promised Magnetic Resonance Imager (MRI) be delivered to the hospital?

Answer (Mr Beattie):

(1) Yes.

(2) The detoxification unit currently is located in a ground floor ward at Nambour General Hospital.

(3) Yes.

(4) The time frame for the development of an MRI service at Nambour General Hospital is a matter under consideration by Government.

### **311. Bus Services, Toowoomba**

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

What progress has been made in contract arrangements for Toowoomba's bus services and when does the three month period begin for the successful contractor to negotiate with other existing operators who are not a party to the agreement, before the matter can go to arbitration?

Answer (Mr Elder):

The four existing Toowoomba bus operators were invited to submit offers to provide services under the Toowoomba Commercial Service Contract.

These operators are:-

Hagan's Bus Service

Bellingham's Bus Service

Picnic Point Charter Bus Service

Stonestreet Coaches Pty Ltd

The only offer received was from Hagan's Bus Service.

The offer from Hagan's Bus Service has been evaluated and the Department of Transport is currently negotiating with them over the final terms of the contract. It is not expected that this process will be completed before the end of November 1995.

Should these negotiations be successful and the contract awarded to Hagan's Bus Service, the three month period referred to by Mr Healy will start from the date of commencement of the contract, which is not expected to be before 1 January 1996.

However, negotiations between Hagan's Bus Service, should they be the preferred operator, and the other operators regarding appropriate compensation could commence before that date.

### 312. Papaya Fruit Fly

Mr PERRETT asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

With reference to the presence in North Queensland of the papaya fruit fly—

- (1) What were the locations of suitable fly traps between the tip of Cape York and Mossman (a) 18 months ago, (b) 12 months ago and (c) six months ago?
- (2) Who was responsible for maintaining and checking the traps?
- (3) When were the traps checked in each area?
- (4) Were any papaya fruit flies found in the traps?
- (5) If papaya fruit flies were found, when were they found?

Answer (Mr Gibbs):

1. Continuous trapping is undertaken around the tip of Cape York and at Bamaga. No traps have been in place between the tip of Cape York and Mossman during last eighteen months. Some traps were placed in the Cairns area between July and September 1994 by my Department.

2. The traps on the tip of Cape York are maintained and checked by inspectors under the Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy. The traps in Cairns were maintained and checked by DPI entomologists in North Queensland.

3. Traps on Cape York are checked on a regular monthly basis and the traps in Cairns were checked on a two-weekly basis.

4. No papaya fruit flies were found in any of these traps on the mainland.

5. None were found.

### 313. Baillie Henderson Hospital

Mr FITZGERALD asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the deinstitutionalisation program for Baillie Henderson Psychiatric Hospital—

- (1) Are on-going records kept on the individual progress of discharged patients?
- (2) How many patients have been deinstitutionalised in the last 12 months?

- (3) How many patients have been readmitted to Baillie Henderson or a similar tertiary psychiatric hospital?

Answer (Mr Beattie):

(1) Every patient who is discharged from Baillie Henderson Hospital and who requires ongoing mental health follow-up is referred to the appropriate service. That service maintains confidential clinical case records regarding that person whilst they remain with the service.

Occasionally a person is discharged from hospital and does not require ongoing mental health follow-up but requires follow-up (case management) by another service, e.g. Department of Family and Community Services (Intellectual Disability Services). This is arranged as appropriate.

The Darling Downs Mental Health Service, which includes the Baillie Henderson Hospital, community-based services, rural mental health workers and the Acute Psychiatric Unit at the Toowoomba Base Hospital, provides follow up services to approximately 1100 persons in the Darling Downs community.

(2) The core business of Baillie Henderson Hospital is to admit patients for periods of treatment and rehabilitation extending over several months or years and enable people to leave hospital and return to live in their communities. This process of admission and discharge has been ongoing since the hospital first opened over 100 years ago.

In addition to this ongoing work, funds were allocated to the Hospital in the 1993/1994 financial year for a specific project to move a group of 27 older people back to the community. These were people who were ready and willing to return to the community but who could not because of a lack of community support services.

The project involved intensive pre discharge programs, the establishment of ongoing community support and monitoring services and has been successful.

- (3) Of this group of 27 people there have been:

three short term readmissions who have now been discharged; and

three readmissions who are still inpatients.

Unlike the Kennett Government in Victoria the Labor Government in Queensland have sought to embrace the benefits of deinstitutionalisation responsibly. The funds allocated to clients in the institutional setting will be quarantined to follow clients moving back into the community. Many Conservative Governments have exploited the highly valuable process of deinstitutionalisation for some clients to slash health spending.

The previous Government seem quick to forget that deinstitutionalisation has been occurring since the late 1960's. The difference under the Nationals was that many thousands of people were discharged from Queensland psychiatric hospitals without any follow up or community support whatsoever.

### 314. Discrimination against Department of Primary Industries Employees

Mr GILMORE asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

Why are long-term, loyal and dedicated employees of the Department of Primary Industries (DPI), such as Mr W J Henderson, Forest Nursery Manager at Walkamin, being discriminated against by senior management in the following cases (a) senior DPI management's refusal to acknowledge and thereby act on the constraints imposed on Mr Henderson by the Human Resource Management Branch in regard to the non-negotiable, minimum six-year commitment required for the position of Nursery Manager, Walkamin, undertaken in September 1990, (b) the persistent refusal to accept the Forestry Adult Trainee qualifications as the continued equivalent of the Forest Trainee qualifications when, prior to 24 November 1994, they were deemed to be the equivalent, (c) failure to provide applicants with a definition for the term "equivalent" in the position descriptions (NR 31/95 and NR 32/95), invalid and inconsistent determination of equivalent qualifications given that the responsibility rests with the Public Sector Training Council (Director General 23 August 1995), (d) failure to investigate the grievance, as per the procedures outlined in Corporate Services Standard for Submitting and Handling Grievances (HR 8.001) and (e) failure to address recommendations by the Executive Director, Forest Service in a memo to Executive Director, Corporate Services dated 30 November 1994 (ref 234-53) which stated "it is my opinion that it would be seen as discriminatory if other overseers with similar qualifications were not provided with the same opportunity. Also there seems little to be gained in discriminating against these overseers at this point in time."?

Answer (Mr Gibbs):

The Department places a high value on its employees and has fully recognised and considered the dedication and loyalty of Mr Henderson throughout the investigation of this issue. Under current boundaries of legislation and public sector wide standards there is little flexibility to address Mr Henderson's concerns. Throughout this investigation the Department has identified options for acknowledging officers skills, experience and knowledge through the "Recognition of Equivalence of Qualifications" initiative, currently being introduced throughout the Sector. This option was provided to Mr Henderson but was declined.

In relation to the specific issues raised:

1. Current legislation and public sector standards do not place any impediments on officers applying for positions. No commitments in relation to tenure in positions are placed on officers under current legislation and standards.
2. The Forest Trainee qualification and Adult Trainee qualification are not considered equivalent. The differences are recognised in a paper on Forestry Technical Education in Queensland 1930-1987 produced in November 1988. The differences relate to the formal qualifications required for the Forest

Trainee Scheme and the fact that the Adult Trainee Scheme is both less intensive and is an abridged version of the Forest Trainee Scheme.

3. The definition of the term "equivalent" was not specifically included in the position descriptions (NR 31/95 and 32/95). However, this information was provided to the Chair of the panel managing the selection process for these positions. The information was provided to Mr Henderson and other applicants by the Chair throughout the selection process.

4. This grievance has been fully investigated and duly dealt with under the DPI Corporate Standard for Submitting and Handling Grievances.

5. The paragraph quoted, as recommended by the Executive Director, Forest Service, refers to overseers who have completed the Forest Trainee Scheme and similar schemes deemed to be equivalent to the mandatory qualification requirements. The document containing this paragraph, from the Executive Director, Forest Service, clearly indicates that the Adult Trainee Scheme does not meet the qualification requirements for the technical stream and is set apart from the Forest Trainee Scheme in so far as no educational prerequisites or formal examinations were required.

### 316. Ministers' Travel Expenses

Mr BEANLAND asked the Treasurer—

With reference to expenses of Ministers for 1994-95—

- (1) What (a) was the name of the Minister, (b) were the dates of travel, (c) was the primary purpose of the travel, (d) were the number of days for which the Ministers were travelling, (e) was the centre or area at which the Minister spent the majority of the journey, (f) was the cost details for each journey, (g) was the total entertainment costs, (h) was the total accommodation costs, (i) were the names and details of other members of the Legislative Assembly whose travel, accommodation or entertainment costs were met by the Minister or his department and (j) were the names and details of other persons whose travel, accommodation or entertainment costs were met by the Minister or his department?
- (2) With respect to charter flights, for each one undertaken, what were the full details of (a) the journey, (b) the names of all passengers in relation to each journey and (c) the cost?
- (3) With respect to travel on Government aircraft (a) what was the journey, (b) what were the names of all passengers in relation to each journey and (c) what was the cost?

Answer (Mr De Lacy):

- (1) This Government has put in place a set of guidelines for the operations of Ministerial Offices which are far more onerous than anything ever attempted by previous Queensland Governments. These Guidelines cover not only accountability requirements for ministerial expenditure, but also a

reporting framework which includes the tabling in Parliament of the details of all overseas travel undertaken by Ministers, the annual tabling of Ministers statements for public disclosure, and publication of Ministerial budgets, by portfolio, in the Treasurer's Annual Statement. In addition, Ministerial expenditure is fully audited by the Auditor-General.

This accountability regime provides assurance to Parliament and the people of Queensland that Ministerial expenditure is proven to be valid and legitimate expenditure incurred by Ministers in the performance of their Ministerial duties.

#### Overseas Travel

All overseas travel is undertaken in accordance with Section 5.9 of the Guidelines for the Financial Management of the Office of the Minister. Under this section, Ministers are required to table a written report in Parliament within one month of return which details most of the information being sought and is available to the honourable member.

In addition, the Statements of Public Disclosure for each Minister were tabled in the house on November 15. These statements detail each Ministers' expenditure by category, including domestic travel, overseas travel, and charter costs.

#### Domestic Travel

The principal purpose of all domestic travel is for ministerial business as set out in the Guidelines. The costs incurred on domestic travel are brought into account through the Ministerial Services Branch of the Treasury Department, which ensures that all expenditure complies with the Guidelines. As stated previously, Ministerial expenditure is audited by the Auditor-General and controls are in place to ensure that a high level of accountability is maintained.

A break-up of costs incurred by Ministers has been tabled already in the house. The ledgers kept by the Ministerial services branch do not provide the level of detail requested by the honourable member as they are designed to report in terms of the requirements of the guidelines. I am not prepared to expend the considerable staff resources required to amass the onerous level of detail required by the honourable member, however should the honourable member seek details of a particular trip then he should direct his request to the relevant Minister. If the honourable member wishes to raise a particular concern, I will undertake to seek out the detail and advise accordingly.

MLAs travelling with Ministers are responsible for their own commercial travel and accommodation expenses.

#### (2) Charter

Charter costs are included in the Ministers' Statements for public Disclosure. As with all other travel undertaken by Minister, the purpose of charter flights is Ministerial and costs are authorised in accordance with the Guidelines.

#### (3) Government Aircraft

A responsibility of Treasury and therefore I am not able to respond.

### 317. AUSTA Electric

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

With reference to the AUSTA Electric Report for January to June 1995 and, in particular, the closing balance of Non-current Liabilities—borrowings, which was made up of loans from QTC for \$1,230,263,000 and as this balance is \$718,667,000 greater than the \$511,596,000 of debt originally transferred to QTC as disclosed in the Directors Report—

- (1) What non-current assets did this \$718,667,000 finance, when were they purchased or constructed, and what was their value?
- (2) Was any of the remaining balance effectively used to fund other expenses, payments or commitments; if so, for what purposes and what were the amounts for each purpose?

Answer (Mr McGrady):

The amount of \$718,667,000 represents the balance of the non-current debt of \$789,060,000 owing to Queensland Treasury Corporation, transferred from the Queensland Electricity Commission's Generation Business Unit to the Queensland Generation Corporation on 1 January 1995, reduced by redemption payments over the period January to June 1995.

This debt is the balance of borrowings outstanding from previous years which were raised to finance various generation projects such as Tarong and Callide Power Stations. The debt forms part of the total capital structure of the QGC and is not attributable to any specific non-current assets, other expenses, payments or commitments.

### 318. Police Resources, Gregory Electorate

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to current police numbers at all stations in the Gregory Electorate—

Will he give an assurance that these stations in question will retain their respective numbers and there will be no cutbacks to existing staffing levels?

Answer (Mr Braddy):

At present, there are no plans by the relevant regional Assistant Commissioners to recommend reductions in the authorised strengths of the subject stations.

### 320. Welding Fumes

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

- (1) What investigations have been made into the impact on workers of welding fumes as there appears to be a body of evidence which suggests that allergies and sensitisation is occurring in many workplaces?
- (2) Bearing in mind the need to contain costs to employers, what information or plans has the

Workplace Health and Safety Division developed to address this problem?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

(1) While no specific investigations have been made by the Division of Workplace Health and Safety into the impact on workers of welding fumes, the potential effects of welding fumes are well known to health and safety professionals. The Division and its Inspectors are aware of this information and know the techniques needed to control these risks. Inspectors, employers and workers have access to information through specialist advisers employed by the Division in all regions and through the Division's Technical Reference Database which is online in all District Offices throughout the State.

(2) This Government is fully aware of the costs of workplace accidents to industry. Here in Queensland alone workplace injuries and disease cost up to \$1.2 billion. Wherever an employer produces a hazard or hazardous substance from a process at the workplace, that employer has an obligation to control the risks arising from exposure to that hazard or substance. The Division provides guidance on how employers should choose control procedures, including methods such as substituting substances or processes, isolating procedures, using ventilation extraction equipment, limiting the time workers should be exposed, and finally the wearing of personal protective equipment. With respect to welding operations, in particular cases, ventilation or air filtering is the solution, in others it is substitution of welding rods according to the materials being welded, and in certain instances it is the provision of personal protective equipment such as respiratory protective devices. Often a combination of controls will be required to meet the obligation. The Code of Practice for the Management of Hazardous Substances and the Code of Practice for Selection, Provision and Use of Personal Protective Equipment, whilst not welding-specific, provide appropriate guidance for employers to meet their workplace health and safety obligations with respect to the control of risk arising from welding.

### 323. Physical Violence on School Grounds

Mr HARPER asked the Minister for Education—

How many reported incidents of persons entering school grounds throughout Queensland and physically abusing or attacking staff and/or students have occurred in (a) 1992-93, (b) 1993-94 and (c) 1994-95?

Answer (Mr Hamill):

People may enter the school to

raise community issues which are not directly related to the school. related

address a specific school based issue about which they are feeling aggrieved e.g. they believe their child has been unfairly dealt with by a staff member or another student.

commit a crime such as vandalism or an attempt to interfere with or abduct a child.

Data of the occurrence of these types of incidents is not collected by the Department of Education at either a Central Office or Regional level. Individual schools would manage these incidents as they see appropriate. The response would depend on the perceived seriousness of the incident. This might be—

a warning to the people or person concerned issues by the Principal,

notifying the police,

asking a respected community member to counsel the offenders,

the development of a school policy which describes the behaviour as unacceptable and offers an alternative way of stating a grievance.

Gang related and criminal activity would be reported to the police who may have some idea of the incidence rate. Anecdotal reports indicate that there are a number of incidents of these types each year. They are not easily predictable or preventable. Schools are best able to cope when they have a simple plan to follow when crisis incidents of these types occur.

In some communities, angry parents seeking redress for their children or themselves is a reasonably common occurrence. Schools where this is an issue usually try to build good rapport with all parents and to demonstrate a commitment to having child's best interests at heart.

Treating parents concerns seriously and modelling appropriate ways of resolving conflict are long term strategies for reducing the occurrence of such incidents.

In the short term, good conflict management skills and a planned process for responding to such events can help to calm rather than escalate the potential for violence. Police may be involved if the school personnel feel threatened and the situation is repeated or escalates.

### 324. Papaya Fruit Fly

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

(1) What range of alternatives are available to growers who, through no fault of their own, have to ensure the papaya fruit fly is contained in quarantined areas?

(2) Is the Department of Primary Industries leaving no stone unturned to evolve the most effective and least disruptive method of treating uninfested produce in quarantined areas to meet the requirements of other States and the export market?

Answer (Mr Gibbs):

1. Producers located within the declared quarantine zones are required to treat their fruit before the fruit is transported out of the zones. There are a range of alternative treatments available and my Department is assisting in establishing the treatment facilities and has agreed to waive inspection fees relating to the supervision of these treatments.

2. Yes. From experience gained in the development of treatments against Queensland fruit fly, my Department is a leader in this field. Treatment regimes developed by my Department are accepted by a number of importing countries of Queensland horticultural produce.

**327. Newspaper Place, Maroochydore**

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

With reference to a report by Rafter and O'Hagan, Sunshine Coast valuers and commercial property consultants, where they refer to the State Government's purchase of the old Newspaper Place Property at Maroochydore for \$5.7m in December 1994, after it had been bought and sold only four months earlier for \$3m and I quote "The second sale (bought for conversion to a TAFE building) represented an extraordinary premium over its realistic value. The second sale could not be supported by comparable evidence and, in our view, represented a massive windfall to the vendors."—

- (1) In light of these comments, how does the Government explain paying \$5.7m when people in the market place are saying the value was closer to \$3.5m-\$3.75m?
- (2) Will she release the Government's own valuation of the site undertaken before purchasing this building?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

(1) The opinion of the firm Rafter and O'Hagan in relation to the cost of the building is one which has been arrived at in isolation of the needs of the TAFE Institute. The price paid by the Government for the Newspaper House Building was based on a valuation of the building provided by the Department of Lands and subsequent consideration of the value to the Government in relation to its intended use as a TAFE Campus.

(2) I indicated in my answer to Question on Notice Number 84 that I was prepared to release professional advice regarding the cost of the building taken before the purchase. I now table the Department of Lands final valuation undertaken before purchase of the building.

**328. Queensland Building Tribunal**

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Rural Communities, Minister for Rural Communities and Minister for Provision of Infrastructure for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities:

With reference to the Building Tribunal—

- (1) Have extra judges been appointed?
- (2) Have judges' sitting times been increased?
- (3) Are judges appointed on the basis of appropriate knowledge of the building industry?

- (4) Is the tribunal trying to reduce the Building Services Authority mediation process in favour of tribunal hearings?
- (5) Is the increase in tribunal actions as a result of the failure of the mediation process; if not, what is the cause?
- (6) What percentage of fines imposed by the tribunal are collected?
- (7) What were the reasons the balance was not collected?

Answer (Mr Mackenroth):

(1) The Tribunal commenced on 1 July 1992 with one full-time Chairperson, retired District Court Judge, His Honour Judge P.V. Lowenthal. In December 1992 six (6) part-time Members were appointed. On 12 February 1993, Judge Lowenthal resigned and was replaced on 15 February 1993 by Mr Cotterell. Five (5) additional part-time Members were appointed in July 1993 taking the number to ten (10) and in December 1993 the number was increased to sixteen (16). In December 1994 the number of part-time Members was further increased to twenty-nine (29) part-time Members which is the present number.

The increased number of Members was required to cope with the growth in applications to the Tribunal as shown in the following Table. The number of applications increased by 92.7 per cent in 1994 compared with 1993. Of more significance was the increase in the number of domestic building dispute applications by 38.5 per cent. These applications took up about 80 per cent of the Tribunal's resources in 1994 despite being only 47 per cent of the applications. They will consume approximately the same level of resources in 1995.

Queensland Building Tribunal Applications  
July 1992 to October 1995

Application Type	1992	1993	1994	%Change 1994 Over 1993	1995 (to 31 October)	1995 Projected	Projected Change 1995 Over 1995
1994							
Domestic building disputes	138	581	805	+38.5	694	833	+3.47
Disciplinary Review	37	197	790	+301	242	290	-63.29
	48	105	107	+1.9	113	136	+27.1
Total	223	883	1702	+92.7	1049	1260	-25.97

(2) Since the Tribunal increased its number of hearing rooms in Brisbane from two (2) rooms to five (5) rooms by leasing 40 Tank Street, Brisbane from 1 April 1995, the sitting times of Members have been increased from an average of 46 hearing days per month in the period July 1994 to February 1995 to an average 87 hearing days per month in the period March 1995 to October 1995.

In addition, since February 1995 the Tribunal has used differential case management, which has involved the use of a short hearing process for applications involving claims and counterclaims which do not exceed \$5,000, where the witnesses required are approximately four in total and where the issues are not legally complex. These applications which do not resolve at mediation can now be resolved at a hearing within approximately

one month of the mediation. Other matters which require longer preparation of the application for a hearing should now be able to be disposed of within three to four months of the mediation depending on the minimum time required by the parties for preparing the matter and their compliance with the Tribunal's orders.

The introduction of differential case management by the Tribunal has meant that whereas it took an average of seven months to dispose of applications at hearing in 1994 it is currently taking an average of four months. Similar reductions have occurred in the time taken to dispose of review and discipline applications.

(3) All Members are required to be a lawyer of not less than five (5) years standing or a retired judge of any Australian court (See Section 76 of the Act). Most of Members have had considerable legal experience related to the building industry. The rest have had considerable Tribunal or Court experience and have the ability to understand the technical aspects of a building dispute presented by expert witnesses.

(4) The Tribunal is independent of the Building Services Authority and has no ability to influence the Authority's mediation process.

(5) If "the increase in Tribunal actions" is a reference to the 92.7 per cent increase in applications received by the Tribunal in 1994 compared with 1993 then the increase was due to a greater awareness of the Tribunal's existence and the buoyant economy which existed in the building industry throughout that period. If "the increase in Tribunal actions" is a reference to an increase in the number of Tribunal hearings being conducted then this has resulted not from any failure of the Tribunal's mediation process but from the increased number of applications received by the Tribunal combined with the increased resources (part-time Members and hearing rooms) made available to the Tribunal which have enabled it to increase the number of hearings conducted per month. As stated above, only 40% of domestic building dispute applications received proceed to hearing.

(6) The Tribunal imposes penalties and not fines. Penalties imposed by the Tribunal are payable to the Queensland Building Services Authority and collected by the Authority. In 1994/95, 76 per cent of penalties imposed were collected by the Authority which accounted for 56 per cent of their total value of \$357,000. This compares favourably with the outcome for the previous year.

(7) The balance was not collected because many of the persons upon whom the Tribunal imposed penalties for unlicensed contracting were itinerants and could not be located while others penalised for more serious breaches of the Act opted for bankruptcy or liquidation. In some cases outstanding penalties are still being pursued.

### 329. Dr K. Rudd

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Premier and Minister for Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to the employment status of former Cabinet Office Director-General, Kevin Rudd—

- (1) What is Mr Rudd's current salary?
- (2) What other entitlements does Mr Rudd enjoy?
- (3) What are his current tasks and does he continue to work standard Public Service hours?
- (4) What special arrangements have been made to allow Mr Rudd to campaign for the Federal Election?

Answer (Mr Goss):

(1) The question of Mr Rudd's salary was answered during Estimates Committee A hearings on 30 May this year.

(2) Since standing down as Director-General of the Office of the Cabinet, Mr Rudd has been receiving the standard public service entitlements for his classification level. This question was also answered during Estimates Committee A hearings.

(3) Mr Rudd is currently on Long Service Leave which accrued during service with a number of government departments.

(4) None. As indicated above, Mr Rudd is currently on approved Long Service Leave.

### 330. Health Capital Works Projects, Toowoomba

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the theatre and critical care capital works projects at the Toowoomba General Hospital and the Community Health Centre at Toowoomba—

Will he advise the stage at which each of these projects is now, including (a) detail of appointed consultants, (b) their project role and (c) anticipated dates for construction commencement and completion for each of the two projects?

Answer (Mr Beattie):

Both projects have been included within the \$1.725 billion 10 Year Hospital Rebuilding Plan implemented by this Government from 1 July 1993 to rebuild, re-equip and modernise hospitals across the State to address the rundown condition of health care facilities.

In answer to questions raised on each, the following details are provided:

#### Toowoomba Hospital Redevelopment

The construction of a new theatre complex at Toowoomba Hospital in the 1992/93 financial year provided for a discrete Day Surgery Unit comprising two theatres and one procedures room. This Unit is located on the ground floor of the complex with the first floor being constructed as a "shell" to allow for the provision of five new operating theatres to replace three existing theatres.

As a result of a submission from the Darling Downs Health Region, this project was approved in principle on 17 May 1993 by the Government with an indicative project budget of \$6.422 million. Upon review of the proposal when preparing a Project

Definition Plan (PDP-Design Brief), the Region realised that considerable benefit would result through the amalgamation and or integration of a number of critical care areas within this complex. Consequently, a revised proposal was submitted, reassessed and subsequently approved by the Government on 23 May 1994 with an increased project budget of \$13.352 million. In support of the proposal independent consultants were engaged and confirmed that recurrent cost savings of some \$1.4 million per annum were achievable.

This phase of redevelopment (Stage I) provides for the relocation of Accident and Emergency, Intensive Care and Coronary Care Units, Central Sterilising Supply Department, Medical Records from other locations within the hospital as well as collocating the Day Surgery Unit from the ground floor to the new theatre suites, the provision of a High Dependency Unit, the upgrading of lifts in the surgical block, central plant and minor works within the boiler house.

Bligh Nield Pty Ltd, architectural consultants, have been engaged to undertake design and documentation of this phase. In addition, an interim Project Director to co-ordinate and manage the project has been engaged—Project Strategies/Solutions Pty Ltd. The consultants are currently preparing schematic designs in keeping with service needs as outlined. Some difficulties have arisen through substantial escalation of estimated costs and reviews are being carried out to ensure that all aspects are within planning and cost parameters.

The Government recently allocated further funds totalling \$50 million to undertake additional work at Toowoomba Hospital, which includes funding for the Stage I component. In keeping with the approved process of planning and implementation, it is essential that master planning be undertaken of the hospital campus. At this stage, evaluation of submissions from a group of select consultants is nearing finalisation. The successful consultant will be required to undertake an Asset Review, Functional Plan and Master Plan to prioritise and address a number of inadequacies at the hospital. The Master Plan will also impact on the Stage I Redevelopment.

Initial milestone targets for this project have been extended and it is now expected that master planning services will not be completed until early in the new year. However, it is expected that the Stage I Redevelopment component will be progressed concurrently with this activity. In order to advance the project, I have agreed to undertaking early packages involving the upgrading of lifts, and the upgrading of the central energy plant to include new emergency generators. It is expected that such action will ensure that considerable progress with the overall redevelopment of the Toowoomba Hospital will be achieved within the next two years.

Toowoomba Community Health Centre

To date no consultants have been engaged for this project. In fact, the Region is required to submit a revised PDP which will incorporate core community based services for the establishment of a new

Community Health Centre on a site purchased some time ago located at the corner of Kitchener and Margaret Streets, Toowoomba.

Some delay has occurred with the project but it is expected that design and documentation will be completed by 30 June 1996 followed by the invitation of tenders and the commencement of construction in the second half of 1996. I have taken action to ensure that progress of this project reflects a facility meeting core community health needs, readily accessible to the community and is in keeping with the project budget provided by this Government of \$4.872 million. The expected completion of this new facility will be within the first half of 1998.

The Opposition Spokesman's continued attacks on the Government's attempts to rebuild the Toowoomba General Hospital have been detrimental to the efforts of the hard working health professionals working to give the people of Toowoomba access to the best possible health facilities.

### 331. Special Needs Students

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) Why has the department decided against allocating extra secondary teacher numbers to permit the establishment of further special needs support units?
- (2) How can he justify this decision in the light of the Government's much advertised platform of providing extra resources for the education of students with disabilities?
- (3) Why will the high school in my electorate, given that it has undertaken an extensive ascertainment process which has indicated an urgent need for such a unit to support initiatives that the school has already developed, be further disadvantaged by the proposal to not allocate extra secondary teacher numbers to permit the establishment of a special needs support unit at that school?
- (4) Will he give an assurance that redeployment of existing numbers will not be given serious consideration?

Answer (Mr Hamill):

1. The current allocation of teacher numbers is undertaken on a priority basis. The allocation of extra teacher numbers to Special Needs Support Groups not be undertaken at this time. However, strategies have been put in place to address the needs of Special Needs Support Groups. This is highlighted by the appointment of a projects officer to review the delivery of specialist services in Metropolitan East Region. The department has also implemented initiatives to address the needs of students with disabilities which is covered in the following answers.

2. Special Needs Support Groups are not set up for students with disabilities ie: students who are ascertained at level 4,5 and 6 (the low incidence areas). Special needs Support Groups are



established to meet the needs of students in the high incidence areas eg. Students with learning difficulties and gifted students etc.

3. There were eight (8) extra teacher numbers across the state allocated to Special Education this year. These numbers went into the disability component for students with low incidence disabilities because there was a much higher demand in this area.

Wellington Point State High school is currently allocated a Resource Teacher to ensure the support needs of students at the school are accommodated.

4. The department is not able to create new Special Needs Support Groups at this time. The department could only relocate a current Special Needs Support Group however there would need to be a significant decline in a particular location for this to occur.

To meet the needs of students with disabilities the department is currently in the process of establishing special classes and units in secondary and primary schools. This is expected to take some pressure off Special Needs Support Groups.

### 332. Ipswich TAFE College

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment and Training And Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

With reference to the 4cm thick pile of largely irrelevant (and frequently illegible) documents supplied to me in response to Question on Notice No. 121—

- (1) As it appears that the college and TAFE head office Financial Management Section both lost or mislaid key documents relating to a contract (reportedly worth approximately \$200,000) for the supply of corporate uniforms to the Ipswich and West Moreton Building Society, have any investigating officers (Internal Audit, Criminal Justice Commission or Auditor-Generals) asked the building society if they could make their correspondence with the college or their copy of contract documents, available; if not, why not?
- (2) As there is nothing to link the mass of part-time teaching claim forms and casual administration claim forms to the contract, how does she justify the cost of producing this mass of material? (One such claim is actually for an Adult Education course, others are illegible)
- (3) Was the principal of "The Training Post" paid in excess of \$6,000 for managing this project; if so, why was this necessary when the college had qualified, experienced staff available to manage the project?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

(1) My Department has written to the Ipswich and West Moreton Building Society, and I will provide the document if it becomes available.

(2) Mr Santoro requested the tabling of wages and part time salaries approvals relating to the issue. I tabled that documentation.

(3) Yes. None of the officers involved in the decision are currently working within my Department, and as the records are incomplete, I am unable to comment further.

### 333. Ipswich TAFE College

Mr J. N. GOSS asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

With reference to a document attached to his response to Question on Notice No. 120—

- (1) As the document is a formal request of "authority to refer debtors to Crown Law Division", why is the bottom section signed but not completed and dated?
- (2) Does she check documentation for adequacy and relevance before it is tabled, as answers to other questions relating to Ipswich TAFE contained documents including unsigned copies of letters from a previous director relating to a promotional video, an unsigned lease (apparently prepared by the same director) and completely illegible copies of other documents?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

(1) The Associate Director, Administration and Resource Services, Bremer Institute signed the document but did not complete and date the document. This was an error. However, the original request of authority to refer debtors to Crown Law Division was attached to the relevant invoice and referred to Crown Law.

(2) Yes. Documentation is checked. However, copies of documentation are provided on the basis of openness and accountability. They are not edited to rectify errors which may have occurred at the time of preparation. The Institute is currently implementing Quality assurance procedures with a view to reducing the frequency of error and ensuring that quality copies of all documentation are maintained.

### 334. DEVETIR Selection Panels

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

With reference to her answers to Question on Notice No. 55—

- (1) Does her combined answer to parts 4, 5 and 6 of this question actually mean that DEVETIR selection panels are not accountable for their decisions and that, where candidates lacking essential knowledge and skills are appointed on the basis of a selection panel's recommendation, it is the responsibility of Institute Directors to utilise PSMC standards, including the one for "diminished work performance", to obtain effective work performance from such appointees?
- (2) In short, does her response mean what it says?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

(1) No. As stated in my answer to parts 4,5 and 6 of Question On Notice 55, the role of the interview panel in the selection process is to nominate a person for appointment to a position based on satisfaction of key selection criteria contained in the Position Description and the person's skills, experience and merit in comparison to other applicants. The members of the panel are accountable for implementing the Public Sector Management Standard for Recruitment and Selection. If a person, once appointed does not perform at the required level, that person will be managed in accordance with the Public Sector Management Standard for Diminished Work Performance. All officers' performances are monitored through the application of various Public Sector Management Standards, including Performance Planning and Review, Training and Development, and Diminished Work Performance.

(2) Yes.

### 335. PSMC Appeals by TAFE Officers

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

With reference to the last paragraph of her response to Question No. 57 and as there appears to be some discrepancy in the information given to her by her Departmental officers—

- (1) Will she draft another response to the question; if not, will she list the names of those TAFE officers who have lodged and proceeded with PSMC appeals in (a) 1992-93, (b) 1993-94 and (c) 1994-95?
- (2) On that list, will she indicate those officers who were subsequently classified as redundant?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

1. There is no discrepancy in the information given by the Departmental officers in that there was one person who lodged a number of appointment appeals with the PSMC and whose classification as redundant immediately followed the lodgement of an appeal.

2. There were 37 appeals lodged with the PSMC by TAFE Queensland officers between July 1992 and June 1995. Two appellants were classified as redundant between 3 months and 2 years and 2 months from lodgement of the appeals and have since left the organisation.

### 336. Criminal Justice Commission; Comments by Senator Ray

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for the Arts—

With reference to the Federal Justice Minister's call for the Queensland Ministry to take the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) to task, and the unjustified attack on the Commission, its Chairman, and officers by Senator Robert Ray—

- (1) Will he assist his Federal colleagues in their attempts to nobble the CJC?
- (2) Alternatively, will he endorse the professionalism and commitment of the CJC in its role as lead investigator into Operation Wallah, which has raised disturbing questions about the role of Federal Labor figures in frauds on the Commonwealth and illicit dealings in weapons technology?

Answer (Mr Foley):

(1) and (2) The Question asked by the Honourable Member is phrased in almost exactly the same way as the Question he asked of my predecessor on 30 March 1995, the Answer to which Question (No. 164) was provided to the House on 24 April 1995. I have nothing further to add to the Answer given on that occasion as identical issues are raised by this Question.

### 337. Peppan Land Trust

Ms WARWICK asked the Minister for Lands—

With reference to the Peppan Land Trust—

Will he supply (a) a copy of the Trust instrument, (b) information as to the type of Trust established, (c) information as to who the beneficiaries are, (d) information as to how the Trust income is distributed, (e) information as to how the trustees are appointed and replaced and (f) an account of profits for the past three years of the Trust's operation?

Answer (Mr McElligott):

(a) No. I do not have a copy of any such document and do not have the power to obtain a copy if one exists. The Peppan Land Trust is a body corporate which is regulated in most respects by the Aboriginal Land Regulation 1991 (ALR) and the Trusts Act 1973. Part 3 of the ALR sets out the requirements for land trusts. By Section 19(1) of the ALR, the grantees are incorporated as a land trust when a deed of grant of land is granted under the Aboriginal Land Act 1991 (ALA) for the benefit of the group of Aboriginal people for whose benefit the land was granted. The trustee in this instance is shown on the deed of grant as the Peppan Land Trust.

(b) The Peppan Land Trust is a statutory land trust set up under the ALR. The gazette notice for the Peppan Land Trust was published in the Queensland Government Gazette on 27 June 1992. The gazette notice specified the name of the land trust, the description of the land and an address for service of documents on the land trust. The function of the land trust is to provide a legal entity by which the grantees of transferred land may perform their functions.

(c) The beneficiaries of the Peppan Land Trust are Aboriginal people and their ancestors and descendants.

(d) No. I have no knowledge as to the distribution of trust income and no power under the ALR to obtain such information.

(e) Under the ALA I appoint such persons as I consider necessary to be the grantees, as trustees for the benefit of Aboriginal people, of the land the

subject of the relevant deed of grant. A land trust for an area of land consists of all the grantees for the time being for the area of land. The grantees are appointed at my discretion after lengthy consultation with Aboriginal people particularly concerned with the relevant land and in doing so I am required, as far as practicable, to act in a way consistent with any Aboriginal tradition applicable to the land concerned. Under the ALR a grantee may resign by writing delivered to me. The resignation does not take effect until it is accepted by me. Under the ALA, I may remove or suspend trustees and may appoint other persons as trustees. Again, before removing or suspending trustees or appointing other persons as trustees, I must consult with and consider the views of Aboriginal people particularly concerned with the land and must, as far as practicable, act in a way that is consistent with any Aboriginal tradition applicable to the land concerned.

(f) No. I have no knowledge of the existence of an account of profits for the past three years of the Peppan Land Trust and have no power under the ALR to obtain a copy of any such account of profits or require one to be taken.

### 339. Air Conditioner Gas

Mr TURNER asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Consumer Affairs—

With reference to the fact that if hydrocarbon refrigerants are banned in Queensland, car owners will be faced with a cost of between \$500 and \$1,000 to convert the mechanisms of car refrigerant units from CFC to a non-ozone depleting refrigerant—

Is he aware that many air conditioning service agents are advertising these conversions for a cost of \$200 which industry representatives say is misleading and is regarded as "bait" advertising?

Answer (Mr Davies):

Firstly, Mr Speaker, I would like to clarify that the proposed action to regulate the safety of hydrocarbon refrigerants is not being taken by Consumer Affairs, but by the Department of Minerals and Energy under the Gas Act. Public comment on draft legislation has been sought by that Department's Chief Gas Examiner, and proponents of hydrocarbon refrigerants should have taken advantage of that opportunity to make their views known.

Secondly, I share the Member for Nicklin's concerns about the costs to motorists who need to upgrade their air-conditioning systems to take new generation refrigerant gases. As Members would be aware, Australia is signatory to an international agreement to phase out ozone-depleting gases such as chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) in favour of more environmentally friendly technologies.

Come 31 December this year, CFCs which have been used for many years as refrigerants in car and building air-conditioners, refrigerators and cooling plants will no longer be able to be imported or manufactured. After this date as supplies of CFCs dry-up, car air-conditioners needing re-gassing or

repair will eventually need to be modified to take an alternative refrigerant.

My Office of Consumer Affairs has been cognisant of the environmental implications in its dealings with proponents of hydrocarbon refrigerants. These refrigerant gases, I am told, are non-ozone depleting, do not contribute significantly to greenhouse emissions and are highly efficient refrigerants. However, Mr Speaker, their potential benefits must be considered rationally and logically in the context of consumer safety, and these gases are apparently quite flammable. Over the last few months, the Office of Consumer Affairs has sought to increase the level of informed debate about hydrocarbon refrigerants, given the obvious consumer interest, through a joint public meeting of stakeholders in conjunction with Minerals and Energy, and a fact sheet about hydrocarbons. A number of unknowns have yet to be resolved, and I issued a press release last month to alert people to this fact. I urged that consumers and businesses first check with manufacturers before putting hydrocarbons in existing cars and refrigeration equipment for which they were not designed..

In relation to converting a car air-conditioner made for CFC's to take non-ozone refrigerants, Mr Speaker, it is impossible to make a blanket statement about how much this will cost in every case. Some motorists will face substantial costs due to the cost of parts; especially if they drive expensive imported cars with air-conditioners in poor condition and needing a major overhaul. Many motorists who cannot afford these costs, or consider them more than their cars are worth may simply opt to have their air-conditioning disconnected.

For more common makes of cars with air-conditioning systems that are in good repair, however, the costs may be as little as \$150 over and above the costs of a normal service.

Finally, Mr Speaker, I am not aware of the particular instances of "bait" advertising alluded to by the Member for Nicklin, however, would like to assure the House that fraudulent, misleading or bait advertising by any businesses will not be tolerated.

These are offences under the Fair Trading Act, and any complaint received by the Office of Consumer Affairs will be treated very seriously. Offenders will face possible prosecution, and the Act provides for stiff penalties up to \$120,000 if convicted.

### 340. Ipswich TAFE College

Mr HARPER asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

With reference to the material supplied in relation to Question on Notice No. 121 relating to the purchase by Ipswich TAFE of a supposedly promotional video—

- (1) Is she prepared to follow the lead of her predecessor and accept that even after continual detrimental reports from the Auditor-General, senior TAFE officers can adequately explain this issue by blandly stating

- that "the records covering the period when the video tape was produced were incomplete"?
- (2) How much was actually paid to Dynamic Vision; \$8,250, \$9,500 (being \$8,500 + \$1,250) or some amount between these two figures?
  - (3) How much was paid to "Image Makers", the other firm involved in this exercise?
  - (4) Why was the department concerned that there might be "a link between the successful tenderer and a member of the college council and that the tendering process may have been distorted to assist the group awarded the contract"?
  - (5) Were such concerns investigated by the CJC, Auditor-General or other appropriate agency?
  - (6) Will she table the appropriate library records indicating the number of times this video has actually been used for promotional purposes, the nature and number of each viewing audience, etc.?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

1. Yes
2. \$8,250
3. \$5070
4. The Department needed to be satisfied that there was no conflict of interest.
5. The Department's Internal Audit Unit investigated the matter and was not able to find evidence which would substantiate a conflict of interest.
6. The Bremer Institute of TAFE Library has had no request for their copy of the promotional video. However the video was used with staff and clients on a number of occasions by the then Director of the College.

### 341. Power Supply, Daintree Region

Mr GILMORE asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

With reference to the installation by the department recently of a number of RAPS systems north of the Daintree—

- (1) Where are they?
- (2) How many are (a) completed and (b) partly completed?
- (3) What is the prime cost of each one?
- (4) What is the estimated/budgeted annual on-cost, ie monitoring and maintenance for each?
- (5) What is the output in KW of each unit?
- (6) Of the completed units, what is the availability and efficiency of each unit and each part of each unit—to date?
- (7) How many hours of sunshine (as a proportion of daylight hours) have there been at each site since installation was completed?
- (8) How many hours (as a proportion of available hours) has each diesel generator operated?

- (9) How much was spent on each site for (a) high efficiency electric appliances, (b) window tinting and (c) insulation?
- (10) What exactly does each unit consist of?

Answer (Mr McGrady):

1) Remote area power supply installations in the Daintree will service domestic residences and commercial operations. Installations are located at Cape Tribulation Tropical Research Station, Alexandra Bay State School and Principal's residence, the Department of Environment and Heritage's Ranger's house and office at Cape Tribulation, and are planned for the Cape Tribulation Store and two domestic premises.

2) All RAPS installations have been completed except the Cape Tribulation store site for which a system has been constructed but is awaiting final signing of the contract by the participant before installation.

3) The prime costs of the remote area power supply equipment for each of the sites are:

Cape Tribulation Research Station—\$ 33,673

Cape Tribulation Store & residences—\$ 48,600

Cape Tribulation Ranger's house & office—\$ 60,955

Alexandra Bay State School and residence—\$ 78,224.

4) The performance monitoring costs of the project are \$1,000 each annually for the Ranger's house and Alexandra Bay State School, nil for the Research Station where monitoring will be conducted by the participant, and is estimated at \$800 annually for the Store and residences. Planned and contingent maintenance costs for each of the remote area power supply equipment at the Daintree sites is budgeted at \$3,000 annually.

5) The kW output of each installed system is as follows:

Cape Tribulation Research Station—1.1 kW of solar; 4.0 kW of diesel generation

Cape Tribulation Ranger's house/office—2.3 kW of solar; 8.0 kW diesel/inverter

Alexandra Bay State School and residence—3.7 kW of solar; 10.0 kW diesel/inverter.

6) The availability and efficiency of each unit to date have not been recorded in detail during this initial period, rather the data has been used to make several changes to the operation and control of the equipment to improve the performance of the system for site conditions. A full range of information is being recorded on, for example, solar contributions and equipment performance. This data will be analysed and a series of reports published.

7) Measurements of 'hours of daylight' are not undertaken as, while this is a useful design figure, much more valuable data is available once the photovoltaic panels are installed, namely, the insulation levels or the energy converted from the sun by the photovoltaic panels is measured. The last download of data shows that just over 5 hours per day of peak insolation of 1000 watts per square

metre have been obtained for the previous fortnight. This is as per predictions made at the time the projects were approved.

8) Since the initial installation and during the optimisation phase, which is now

complete, the diesel generator sets have run on average 12.5% of the available operating time, on average 3 hours per day. Once optimisation was completed last week, the generator sets have run an average of 1.5 hours per day, as a 3 hour period every second day or just over 6% of the available time. Based on performance to date, the Alexandra Bay State School's diesel costs will be only some 10% of what they were using in the old system.

9) The decision to purchase high efficiency appliances has been based on an individual cost benefit analysis for each appliance. In this way the value of demand and energy savings, based on the usage pattern of the participant, were compared against the cost of the appliance. In essence, a high efficiency appliance was purchased where its purchase price was lower than the additional solar or diesel plant, including diesel fuel, to run the existing less efficient appliance. Costs for appliances and equipment at each site are:

Cape Tribulation Research Station—\$ 7,372

Cape Tribulation Store & residences—\$ 3,128

Cape Tribulation Ranger's house & office—\$ 17,470

Alexandra Bay School and residence—\$ 36,020

Of the costs of efficient appliances and equipment installed, DEH and the Education Department will contribute \$5,530 and \$4,000, respectively, annually over the next five years. The program has also included installation of water conservation systems, each costing \$15,000, at the school and ranger's house and an automatic artificial lighting system costing \$35,000 at the school which is being trialled for potential use in other education buildings. No funds have been expended on additional insulation to buildings or solar window film tinting.

10) Each system of RAPS equipment is detailed as follows:

Cape Tribulation Research Station—

4.0 kW diesel generator, diesel fuel tank, battery bank, inverter, 1.1 kW solar panel array and supporting frame, solar regulator, and control, supervisory and monitoring equipment and wiring and safety signage.

Cape Tribulation Store & residences—

7.2 kW diesel generator, diesel fuel tank, battery bank, inverter, 1.1 kW solar panel array and supporting frame, solar regulator, and control, supervisory and monitoring equipment and wiring and safety signage.

Cape Tribulation Ranger's house & office—

3.0 kW diesel generator, diesel fuel tank, battery bank, inverter, 2.3 kW solar panel array and supporting frame, solar regulator, and control, supervisory and monitoring equipment and wiring and safety signage.

Alexandra Bay School and residence—

5.0 kW diesel generator, diesel fuel tank, battery bank, inverter, 3.7 kW solar panel array and supporting frame, solar regulator, and control, supervisory and monitoring equipment and wiring and safety signage.

#### 342. Liquor Licensing Fees

Mrs GAMIN asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for Tourism, Sport and Youth—

- (1) Will he give consideration to monthly or quarterly payment of liquor licensing fees instead of the present annual payment?
- (2) Alternatively, will he consider a system whereby these fees could be paid on purchase?

Answer (Mr Burns):

1. The issue of monthly or quarterly payments of licence fees has been discussed on numerous occasions over a long period of time. With the current payment rate of licence fees being as high as 99%, it is not considered desirable at this point in time to reconsider this issue and to further look at instalment payment systems.

2. I am advised that the Queensland Government cannot sanction a scheme of licence fees being paid on invoice as such a scheme would be precluded in terms of the Australian Constitution. The celebrated National Duplicators case heard by the High Court confirms that, due to the Australian Constitution, fees cannot be collected in this way.

#### 344. Bremer Institute of TAFE; Skillshare, Ipswich

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

With reference to the "Memorandums of Agreement" tabled in response to Question on Notice No. 56—

- (1) Is the practical outcome of such agreements the situation where Bremer Institute of TAFE no longer competes against Ipswich Skillshare/YUPI for training funds from DEET, but acts as a subcontractor for training programs won by Ipswich Skillshare/YUPI?
- (2) What total amount of program funds has Skillshare/YUPI so far deducted for "brokerage"?
- (3) Do the arrangements set out in these documents have the approval of (a) the Trade Practices Commission, (b) the Crown Law Office, (c) the Minister and (d) funding agencies such as DEET who are now paying for training and "brokerage"?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

(1-3) I table a copy of "A Guide for Organisations Seeking NWO Funding" produced by an Internal Auditor from the Department of Employment, Education and Training which funds these programs. The purpose of this report is to highlight desirable

operational and organisational characteristics for organisations delivering a range of contracted services and programs to DEET.

As DEET is the funding source, further questions on this matter should be directed to the Commonwealth Minister for Employment, Education and Training.

### 345. AUSTA Electric

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

With reference to the AUSTA Electric Report for the period January to June 1995—

- (1) Were there any opening and closing balances for coal purchased to be on-sold to NRG Gladstone Operating Services Pty Ltd; if so, what were the values of such coal inventories?
- (2) Why was the cost of coal sales \$5,973,000 greater than the revenue received on coal sales to NRG Gladstone Operating Services Pty Ltd?
- (3) What specific terms and conditions of the agreement with NRG Gladstone Operational Services Pty Ltd permits or effectively requires the result specified in (2) above?

Answer (Mr McGrady):

(1) No.

(2) Prior to the sale of Gladstone Power Station by the government in March 1994, AUSTA Electric's predecessor, QEC, purchased coal for Gladstone Power Station from three sources, Blackwater, Callide and Curragh.

The Blackwater supply is based on the 1965, 1970 and 1974 special conditions of Blackwater's mining leases which require Blackwater "tops" coal to be supplied to the Minister for Minerals and Energy for use in the State's power stations. The Blackwater "tops" coal is supplied to the Minister at the cost of mining ie. at substantially below market price for that type of coal.

The Callide and Curragh coal contracts cover coal supplies to Callide B and Stanwell Power Stations as well as Gladstone.

After its sale, Gladstone Power Station could no longer be considered a State owned power station and the Blackwater coal has since been sent to Stanwell Power Station.

As part of the arrangements for the sale of Gladstone, QEC/AUSTA Electric was required to enter agreements with the owners of Gladstone Power Station for the on-sale of coal from Callide and Curragh.

These on-sale arrangements were such that the owners of Gladstone would only pay QEC/AUSTA Electric the price paid by QEC/AUSTA Electric to the coal supply companies. In addition, the price of the Blackwater equivalent tonnage of Curragh coal supplied to Gladstone would be discounted to reflect the lower price of the Blackwater coal that had traditionally been supplied to Gladstone but was no longer available for that station.

In AUSTA Electric's report for the period January to June 1995, the difference between the revenue received from Gladstone and the cost to AUSTA Electric for the coal on-sold is the result of Curragh coal being on-sold at a discounted price in lieu of the Blackwater coal previously supplied to Gladstone Power Station.

(3) The terms and conditions for the on-sale by AUSTA Electric of Curragh coal at a discounted price to Gladstone Power Station are provided for in confidential Gladstone Power Station sale documentation.

### 346. Diploma of Applied Science

Mr RADKE asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

With reference to course CNK34 Associate Diploma in Applied Science (Community and Human Services) and its replacement by CNN76 Diploma of Applied Science (Community and Human Services)—

- (1) Were students consulted about this change at any stage?
- (2) Were students given the option of completing the original program for which they had enrolled?
- (3) As one institute conducting this program, Bremer, has experienced a number of staff changes in the welfare area in the last 12 months (a) has the VETEC course registration kept pace with these changes and (b) if not, what urgent action is she taking to address this issue?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

(1) CNN76 Diploma of Applied Science (Community and Human Services) was developed in close consultation with industry to ensure that the learning outcomes were aligned to the employment needs of industry.

(2) Students enrolled in CNK34 were given a direct credit transfer to the subjects in the CNN76 Diploma course. Students were not disadvantaged as there were no extra modules required to be undertaken in the Diploma course. Students would be eligible for a Diploma as opposed to an Associate Diploma award.

(3)(a) Yes. (b) Not applicable.

### 347. Police Beat Shopfront, Noosa Heads

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to the police beat shopfront planned for Hastings Street, Noosa Heads and its proposed staffing levels—

- (1) What hours will the shopfront be manned each day?
- (2) How many days per week will it be open?
- (3) How many police officers will be assigned to the shopfront?

- (4) What hours of the day will the police officers be rostered for duty?

Answer (Mr Braddy):

(1-4) An Administrative Officer will staff the Shopfront and the duty of police will be to patrol the area. The Administrative Officer will perform duty from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. Two police officers have been assigned to the Shopfront. They will not necessarily be restricted to the hours worked by the Administrative Officer, and may also be required to perform duty on Saturday or Sunday. The hours and days of operation of the police officers will be negotiated between the Noosa Council and the District Officer, Sunshine Coast District.

### 348. Rainbow Harbour Project

Ms WARWICK asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

With reference to the 1992 Petition signed by approximately 12,000 constituents of Barron River and Cairns objecting to the size of the proposed Rainbow Harbour Project and its impact on the recreational qualities of Richters Creek and surrounding beaches—

Will he honour the commitment made in April 1995 by his predecessor, Molly Robson, to not entertain any request for a further extension of these approvals and to not make any further recommendations in that regard to Executive Council?

Answer (Mr Barton):

Pinebridge Pty Ltd currently holds a provisional approval to construct canals at the Rainbow Harbour Development near Cairns.

It is a requirement of the Canals Act that the applicant take and do all such steps and things as are prescribed for obtaining final approval of the Governor in Council within a time limit prescribed in the provisional approval.

The existing provisional approval will lapse on 31 December 1995.

An application seeking a further extension of time was lodged by agents for Pinebridge Pty Ltd on 7 November 1995.

The developer has until December 31 to conform with my predecessor's April 1995 requirements.

### 349. Rural Fire Brigades

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Consumer Affairs—

With reference to the fire units provided at a subsidised rate to rural fire brigades—

- (1) Is he aware that the fittings for fire fighting equipment on these vehicles are not compatible with the fittings on vehicles of permanent and auxiliary fire units?
- (2) Will he undertake to investigate this complaint and ensure the problem is overcome immediately?

Answer (Mr Davies):

(1) The problem was identified in the Bushfire Strategy Report where it was found that the urban and auxiliary units were out of step with all the other significant land and fire management agencies.

The Rural Fire units are compatible with DPI, QNP & WS, Lands Dept., Dept. of Transport and most local Governments.

Adaptors are held in stock at the Queensland Emergency Services Store and various fire stations and are readily available to all QFS units. I refer the Member for Western Downs to page 9 of the Queensland Bushfire Strategy Report.

(2) Due to the co-ordinated and successful approach adopted by the Goss Government there is no compatibility problem to investigate.

### 350. Ms R. Matchett

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Family and Community Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Status of Women—

With reference to the resignation of Ruth Matchett, the former Director-General of the Family Services Department—

- (1) What are the complete details concerning this matter?
- (2) What reasons were provided by Ruth Matchett for her resignation?
- (3) How much was paid to Ruth Matchett in redundancy payments?
- (4) What are the complete details of any other payments made to Ruth Matchett as part of the contractual obligations of her employment?

Answer (Mr Woodgate):

(1) In accordance with the provisions of her contract of employment, Ms Matchett advised in writing that she did not seek a renewal of her contract. Her position was subsequently advertised in the national press and filled following a merit selection process.

(2) Ms Matchett provided no written reasons for her decision. No reasons are required under the contract provision.

(3) Ms Matchett was paid the standard provisions under Clause 8 of her contract. Her entitlements were two weeks per year of service, the same as for any other public sector employee. She had 22.44 years of service at the completion of her contract. In addition as is standard for any employee leaving employment she was paid for all accrued recreation and long service leave. In addition she would have had an entitlement under the superannuation scheme. She received no residual payment as the contract had reached its conclusion date and hence no residual payment was due.

(4) There are no further entitlements under the contract of employment for Directors-General and Ms Matchett received only her due entitlements as outlined above.

**351. Greyhound Racing Authority**

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

With reference to the 1995 Annual Report of the Greyhound Racing Authority which reveals in the financial statements that \$49,670 was paid in 1994 as legal fees for one case and that legal expenses for 1994 were \$8,894, rising to more than double that total in 1995 to a total of \$19,459—

- (1) What are the full details of the one case in 1994 which cost the authority \$49,670 including all disbursements of that amount?
- (2) To whom, and for what purpose, were legal fees paid by the authority in 1994 and 1995?

Answer (Mr Gibbs):

The abnormal expenditure in 1993-94 of \$49,670 related to a case brought against the Board of the Greyhound Racing Authority (GRA) and its Chairman by Mr P Raynor.

As a result of a penalty of being warned off for six months and a \$2,000 fine imposed by the Board of the Authority against Mr Raynor, Mr Raynor instigated a Judicial Review through the Supreme Court on the basis that he believed such a penalty was excessive. The penalty had been imposed following an inquiry concerning alleged use of insulting and defamatory words by Mr Raynor, As a licensed person, against the Chairman and a member of the Board.

The matter went to the supreme court whereby the recorded costs were incurred.

A breakdown of this Disbursement is:

Legal Fees	\$34,170
(Paid to Mr S Keim, Hill & Taylor, and Power & Power)	\$1,150
Awarding of costs to Mr Raynor	\$28,253
	\$4,767
TOTAL	\$15,500
	\$49,670

Other Legal Expenses incurred by the GRA in 1993-94 were:

Legal Fees—Toowoomba Greyhound Racing Club (Paid to Hill & Taylor)	\$5,222
Freedom of Information (Paid to Holland & Holland)	\$ 135
Stewards Appeal (Paid to Holland & Holland)	\$1,300
Contract Preparation (Paid to Power & Power)	\$512
Legal Fees—Metropolitan Greyhound Racing Club (Paid to Power & Power)	\$285
Legal Representation (Paid to Power & Power)	\$4,938
Legal Representation (Paid to Holland & Holland)	\$750
Judicial Review (Paid to Holland & Holland)	\$100
Less 1992-93 Accruals (Paid To Hill & Taylor)	(\$4,075)
TOTAL	\$8,894

A Breakdown of Legal Expenses Paid by the GRA in 1995-95 is:

Legal Fees—Metropolitan Greyhound Racing Club (Paid to Gilshenan & Luton)	\$5,022
Legal Fees—Capalaba Greyhound Racing Club (Paid to Gilshenan & Luton)	\$768
Stewards Appeals (Paid to Gilshenan & Luton)	\$5,583
Legal Advice—Toowoomba Greyhound Racing Authority(Paid to Gilshenan & Luton)	\$933
Miscellaneous Administration Costs (Paid to Gilshenan & Luton)	\$1,254
Legal Representation (Paid to Holland & Holland)	\$5,513
Legal Representation (Paid to Hill & Taylor)	\$386
TOTAL	\$19,459

**354. Ipswich TAFE College**

Mr J. N. GOSS asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

With reference to Parts 7 and 8 of her response to Question No. 21—

Did she supply to Crown Law a blank copy of the form "EV210 Vocational Education, Training and Employment Corporation—Agreement to Hire Facilities", for their opinion and advice; if so, will she forward to Crown Law my question and the specific document referred to in that question, so that they may consider its legal adequacy?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

Yes. My Department has referred a blank copy of the form EV210 Vocational Education, Training and Employment Corporation—Agreement to Hire Facilities" to Crown Law for their opinion and advice. Following Mr Goss's Question on Notice, my Department has now also referred his question and the specific agreement to which it related to Crown Law for advice.

**355. Casemix Funding, Hospitals**

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Health—

Will he detail the method in which Casemix is being introduced into Queensland hospitals, including (a) the total amount of Casemix funding for 1995-96 and estimates for 1996-97 and the extent to which Casemix funding will be used for determining hospital budgets, (b) the formula by which Casemix is introduced into hospital budgets, (c) the list of Queensland hospitals which will be subject to Casemix, (d) the timetable of Casemix introduction and (e) any special arrangements in Casemix funding for tertiary hospitals?

Answer (Mr Beattie):

Casemix is being introduced in Queensland as a Commonwealth / State initiative. Casemix is being introduced in Queensland within the existing policy framework of regionalisation, program management, population based funding, regional self sufficiency, global budgeting, the departmental planning process, capital works program and the principles of social justice. Casemix will be used as an



intra-Regional tool to achieve micro-economic reform through improved management of our public hospital system.<sup>2</sup>

(a) The casemix model is used to determine hospital budgets, which in 1995/96 totalled approximately \$1.7 billion. Of this allocation, that component which revolves around the type of cases a hospital sees, ie. its casemix, equated to approximately 44% of the total budget for casemix funded hospitals, representing approximately \$639 million. In 1996/97, it is anticipated that just over 65% of the budgets for these hospitals will be allocated on the basis of the hospitals' output, as ambulatory, sub-acute and non-acute patients will be funded on a casemix basis in addition to the acute patients who are currently funded in this manner. In current dollars this would represent approximately \$944 million.

However, in the context of phasing in casemix over a number of years, a transition payment for hospitals has been established as a balancing item to offset changes in existing budget allocations as a result of the introduction of casemix based funding. In effect, this reduces the impact of casemix funding on hospitals whose budgets have historically been higher than would be the case if funded on a casemix basis.

In addition, a further \$31.8 million in 1995/96, \$21.3 million in 1996/97 and \$21.3 million in 1997/98 has been made available under the Casemix Incentives Strategy to target specific elective surgery initiatives and to support and enhance improved linkages between hospitals and community based health services.

(b) Under the current model of casemix funding, hospital budgets are formulated on the basis of a fixed and a variable payment. The fixed component of the budgets include payments for various functions including teaching and research, infrastructure, special grants, Commonwealth grants, State new initiatives and designated psychiatric and rehabilitation units. The variable payments include components for acute inpatients, nursing home type patients and ambulatory patients. Currently, acute inpatients are funded on the basis of an average Statewide benchmark price for the relevant diagnosis related groups (DRGs) treated by the hospital. In other words, these patients are funded on a casemix basis. It is anticipated that ambulatory, sub-acute and non-acute patients will also be funded on a casemix basis in 1996/97.<sup>3</sup>

In determining hospital budgets, hospitals' historical budgets and their budgets calculated on a casemix basis are compared. This comparison results in either a transition payment, where the hospital is inefficient relative to the Statewide average, or a relative efficiency index, where the hospital is relatively efficient compared to the Statewide average. Where a transition payment has been identified for a particular hospital, this will be reduced by one third in 1995/96, in line with the decision to implement casemix based funding over three years.

(c) I'm advised that those hospitals being funded on a casemix basis in 1995/96 are:

The Prince Charles Hospital, Riverton, Royal Brisbane Hospital, Royal Children's Hospital, Royal Women's Hospital, Logan, Mater Adult, Mater Children's, Mater Mothers', Princess Alexandra Hospital, QE II, Redland, Wynnum, Biloela, Gladstone, Mt Morgan, Rockhampton, Longreach, Chinchilla, Dalby, Gatton, Goondiwindi, Stanthorpe, Toowoomba, Warwick, Mackay, Proserpine, Atherton, Cairns, Cooktown, Innisfail, Mareeba, Mossman, Thursday Island, Tully, Beaudesert, Gold Coast, Charleville, Roma, St George, Caboolture, Caloundra, Gympie, Nambour, Redcliffe, Ipswich, Bundaberg, Maryborough<sup>4</sup>, Hervey Bay, Kingaroy, Cherbourg, Townsville, Cloncurry, Bowen, Ingham, Charters Towers, Mt Isa, Ayr, Kirwan.

In addition, other hospitals not funded through the casemix funding model are required to use the management opportunities that casemix offers. Furthermore, Queensland Health will be monitoring the number of hospitals which are funded on a casemix basis and this may vary over time.

(d) Casemix based funding is being introduced in Queensland within the context of a comprehensive risk management strategy over three years. Effectively, this strategy includes the establishment of a transition payment which offsets changes to existing hospital budgets due to the introduction of casemix funding. These transition payments are being reduced by one third each year, resulting in full implementation of casemix by 1997/98.

(e) Currently, hospitals classified as "Major Teaching Hospitals" receive a higher payment per occasion of service for ambulatory patients, than non-tertiary hospitals. In addition, components for funding teaching and research have been included in the casemix funding model. Prior to the finalisation of the casemix policy for 1996/97, a number of issues which potentially may effect specialist hospitals will be assessed, to determine whether further refinements need to be built into the funding methodology.

The Queensland Government's approach to Casemix is in stark contrast to the Conservative Government in Victoria where the additional funds provided by the Commonwealth for Casemix Implementation were used to drastically cut State based funding for the public health system.

It is important to differentiate the introduction of Casemix in Queensland to what happened in Victoria which has led to the current situation where they are experiencing medical workforce industrial action.

### **356. Police Resources, Albert Electorate**

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to his reply to my Question on Notice of 14 September 1995 regarding staffing levels, supply of a four wheel drive vehicle to be positioned at Coomera and full 24-hour operational services—

- (1) Do staffing levels at Coomera Police Station only allow for two officers and one car to service all accidents and emergencies, home invasions, robberies, muggings and domestic

violence situations, etc. between the hours of 12 midnight to 8am, Monday to Friday every other week?

- (2) Does having to share the above staff and vehicle with Runaway Bay station effectively double the area serviced by these officers?
- (3) Is it true that between the hours of 8am Saturday and 8am Sunday all calls would be diverted to Broadbeach Station, making any immediate response impossible?
- (4) Of the two four wheel drive vehicles in the Gold Coast Police District, is one allocated to the Water Police, based on Seaworld Drive, The Spit, and the other located at Mudgeeraba attached to the Dog Squad?
- (5) Is it correct that both these are vehicles not 'immediately' available, but 'if and when' available, and require a transfer crew both to and from location?
- (6) Does this level of support reflect fully the pre-election promises of the Goss Government to the dedicated police officers and the constituents of the Albert Electorate?

Answer (Mr Braddy):

(1)&(2) Coomera Station provides two officers for the hours in question each alternate week. One officer from Runaway Bay Station and another from Coomera Station are provided for the other week. A police vehicle and two police officers serve both Divisions. It is pointed out that the two officers on duty are able to contact the Gold Coast Operations Centre by radio to seek assistance from other police in the Gold Coast District should the need arise. Support is also available from officers attached to the Criminal Investigation Branch, Juvenile Aid Bureau, Traffic Branch and other specialist squads in the District.

Prior to the current arrangement, Coomera and Runaway Bay Divisions were generally policed during the hours in question by a patrol from Southport. The current arrangement enhances the policing service provided to both Divisions. Given that Coomera and Runaway Bay officers previously were not routinely rostered to perform duty at the relevant times, it is not possible to make the comparison sought by the Honourable Member.

(3) All telephone calls between the specified hours are diverted to officers at the Gold Coast Operations Centre, Broadbeach, who are able to contact the patrol vehicle by radio, thus enabling an immediate police response to be provided when appropriate.

(4) Yes.

(5) The availability of these vehicles to divisions on the Gold Coast is determined on a priority basis. Accordingly, they would be immediately available in an emergency. An officer is required to drive these vehicles to the job. A recent District Fleet Review has been conducted and it has been recommended that a four wheel drive vehicle be allocated to Coomera Station when funds become available. It has also been recommended that the Officer in Charge investigate the possibility of replacing one of

the Station's sedans with a four wheel drive vehicle when such a sedan is next due for replacement.

(6) Prior to the election the Government promised a new Police Station at Jacob's Well within five years at a cost of \$1.5 million. This continues the Government's commitment to the Gold Coast. Since 1989 There has been a 40% increase in police numbers, from 327 to 458, there has been a 68% increase in the Budget, from \$13 810 000 to \$23 308 000. Coomera Station was completed in 1991 at a cost of \$1.4 million.

### 357. TAFE College Vehicles

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

With reference to her answer to Question No. 110, she has provided figures which indicate that at (a) Gold Coast Institute, (b) Brisbane Institute of TAFE, Ithaca Campus and (c) Vocational Education and Training directorate, the daily business usage of departmental vehicles would total less than 1,200 km per month, during 1994-95—

- (1) Will she table the written justification, from the director of each of the above units, for retaining the current number of under-utilised vehicles?
- (2) What is the average daily business usage at each of the TAFE institutes and units in the State?
- (3) Does she accept, as part of the justification for retaining any vehicle, its non-business usage (ie the number of kilometres accumulated by officers driving that vehicle to and from work?)

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

(1) In accordance with departmental policy for the use of vehicles leased from Q Fleet as outlined in Departmental Administrative Instruction No. 15, the criteria for the retention of vehicles is that they are expected to travel at least 40,000km over two years. Additionally the DEVETIR Corporate Management Group in May 1995 agreed that:

the approval of the Director-General was to be sought for the retention of vehicles not averaging at least 1,200km per month, including business and non-business usage.

Executive Directors were required to review those vehicles which logged lower than 70% business usage.

On these criteria there was one vehicle at the Brisbane Institute of TAFE and three vehicles at the Far North Queensland Institute, Cairns College whose monthly average usage in 1994/95 was below 1,200km per month. In all but one of the cases, improved resource management, including the distribution of vehicle usage across the Institute, has ensured that the 1,200 km per month criterion is now met. In the fourth case, the vehicle is attached to the Faculty of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies at the Cairns College of the Far North Queensland Institute of TAFE. The Director-General has approved the retention of this vehicle on the

basis that increased usage in excess of 1,200km per month will be achieved through rotation of the vehicle with a more heavily used vehicle at the Institute. I now table the written justification for the retention of this vehicle located at the Cairns College of the Far North Queensland Institute.

(2) Based on departmental data the recorded average daily business usage of vehicles at each of the TAFE Institutes and units in 1994/95 was as follows:

Barrier Reef Institute of TAFE	98.72%
Bayside Community College	85.82% *
Brisbane Institute of TAFE	85.82%
Central Queensland Institute of TAFE	93.22%
Cooloola Sunshine Institute of TAFE	93.92%
Far North Queensland Institute of TAFE	96.53%
Gold Coast Institute of TAFE	81.70%
Bremer Institute of TAFE	98.87%
Logan Institute of TAFE	88.05%
Mt Gravatt TAFE	73.93% *
Mt Isa Institute of TAFE	91.42%
North Point Institute of TAFE	96.10%
Open Learning Institute	77.51%
Southbank Institute of TAFE	80.34%
Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE	95.92%
Wide Bay Institute of TAFE	94.93%
Yeronga Institute of TAFE	81.35%
TAFE Queensland State Office	72.15%
Brisbane Regional Office	47.64%**

Overall Average—TAFE Queensland 80.14% \*\*\*

\* The Mt Gravatt/Bayside Institute of TAFE, now known as Moreton Institute of TAFE was

established in April 1995 incorporating the former Bayside Community College and Mt Gravatt College of TAFE.

\*\* The Brisbane Regional Office was disbanded on 23 December 1994 and vehicles transferred

to Institutes within the Brisbane area.

\*\*\* This data excludes SES vehicles.

(3) My Department has promulgated a standard that requires vehicles achieve a minimum of 70% business usage. Under this standard vehicles may be used for non-business usage, where it does not exceed 30% and the usage complies with the criteria established for home garaging as detailed in section 4 of Departmental Administrative Instruction No. 15. Private use of vehicles is restricted to SES level officers in accordance with their conditions of employment.

TAFE Queensland is implementing strategies aiming to further increase the business usage of its non-SES vehicles in excess of this standard to 80%.

### 358. Workers Compensation Fund

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

With reference to the current financial disaster that is known as the Workers' Compensation Fund and, in particular, the \$270m turnaround in the profitability of the fund—

- (1) What are the full financial reports on a quarterly basis from July 1994 to September 1995, inclusive?
- (2) Will she include within those figures the Profit and Loss account and the Balance Sheet, both on a quarterly basis, including a Cash Flow analysis, also on a quarterly basis?
- (3) What are the dates upon which she and her predecessor received these accounts?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

1. There are no full financial reports produced on a quarterly basis.
2. Not applicable, see (1).
3. Not applicable, see (1).

### 359. Air Conditioner Gas

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Consumer Affairs—

- (1) Is he aware that a clause in the draft legislation requires prior written authorisation from the original car manufacturer for hydrocarbon refrigerants to be used?
- (2) Is it correct that the purpose of this clause is to prevent the use of hydrocarbons therefore restricting consumers to only one gas, the cost of which many consider to be excessive?
- (3) Has he considered the cost to consumers for a conversion from CFC to HFC type gases in their car refrigerant units?

Answer (Mr Davies):

Mr Speaker, I am advised that the draft legislation to which Mr Elliott has referred in his question is a draft order made under section 108A of the Gas Regulation 1989 by the Chief Gas Examiner of the Department of Minerals and Energy, which is within the portfolio of the Minister for Minerals and Energy.

I am further advised that the Chief Gas Examiner has sought public comment on the draft order, and that he has consulted with staff of my Office of Consumer Affairs on several occasions.

Mr Elliott would need to direct questions concerning specific aspects of the proposed order to my colleague the Minister for Minerals and Energy, Mr McGrady.

### 361. Workers' Compensation

Mrs WILSON asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

What are the amounts of Common Law claims on Workers' Compensation from employees working for (a) Government departments, (b) semi Government-associated organisations and (c) private employees?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

(a) Prior to 1 July 1995 there were no Common Law claims costs applied against the Workers' Compensation Fund for employees of Government Departments, listed in the attached.

Since 1 July 1995 Government Departments are covered by insurance contracts with a separately managed Fund. There is no cross subsidisation between the general Workers' Compensation Fund and the separate Government Department Fund.

(b) Government authorities or Trust funded organisations are classified by the industry type to which they belong and are premium rated accordingly, eg the Workers' Compensation Board is insured and premium rated as part of the Insurance Industry and Health Authorities as part of the Hospital Industry.

Data is collated by Industry and not by the legal status of the employer. As a consequence the data requested is not available.

(c) Common Law claim payments, inclusive of legal and associated costs, against the Workers' Compensation Fund for 1994/95 were \$141,343,700.00 and for the period 1 July 1995 to 30 September 1995, \$44,473,142.00.

### 362. Yeppoon Hospital

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Health—

What moves are in hand to enhance, improve and increase services for the people at the Yeppoon Hospital?

Answer (Mr Beattie):

A Draft Regional Services Plan has been prepared by the Central Regional Health Authority following a process of extensive consultation and analysis of projections of future demand for health services. This Draft Plan is currently being assessed within Queensland Health.

The plan indicates that current facilities at the Yeppoon Hospital, including visiting specialist services from the Rockhampton Base Hospital, will meet the projected demand for services until 2001.

Infrastructure for Health services within the Rockhampton area generally have improved remarkably under Labor compared with the National Party Government of which the Honourable Member was a senior Minister. In those days we had the poorest funded Health system in Australia which adversely affected people throughout Central Queensland.

### 363. Power Station Operators

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

With reference to a memo from the manager of Swanbank and Hydro power stations expressing concern at the high levels of overtime at Swanbank and, in particular, this financial year, the overtime rate has jumped to 2 hours and 20 minutes a day. Given the added cost to electricity users, the need to promote employment in this State and the manager's comments that these practices promote greed, dishonesty and inequity—

- (1) What is the annual cost of overtime for power station operators at all power stations across the State?

- (2) What is the total number of hours of overtime being worked in each power station by power station operators?
- (3) What is the projected cost of overtime for Queensland's power station operators in 1995-96?
- (4) What has he done to reduce the number of hours of overtime being worked by power station operators to improve productivity as well as safety for plant and personnel?

Answer (Mr McGrady):

- (1) Operator overtime costs for 1994/ 95

Stanwell	\$10,316
Callide	\$107,850
Tarong	\$428,594
Swanbank	\$915,981

- (2) Operator overtime hours for 1994/ 95

Stanwell	232	1.3%
Callide	2189	5%
Tarong	6914	8.8%
Swanbank	17510	16.4%

- (3) 1995/ 96 Budget

Stanwell	\$5,000
Callide	\$128,000
Tarong	\$240,000
Swanbank	\$900,000 **

\*\*Maximum amount is budgeted because of uncertainty of system requirements.

- (4) The overall strategy of AUSTA is to minimise the exposure of staff to shiftwork and associated overtime. This is progressing satisfactorily by the automation of power station equipment and the introduction of changed work practices.

In general, overtime is worked to cover absences due to sickness and leave, but in recent times there has been a significant increase in overtime to cover meetings evolving from consultative issues. In addition, shiftwork tasks are being reviewed to delete work that can be done on day work.

Stanwell: Stanwell has the most advanced control systems in Australia which allows the station to operate with only two or three people per shift. A separate industrial agreement allows work practices which maximise productivity and minimise overtime.

Callide: Efforts to minimise overtime will continue with reviews of staffing requirements that reflect plant status and condition.

The next round of enterprise bargaining will address the cost of overtime.

Tarong: Tarong has an ongoing program to control overtime costs. This includes an agreement with the operators to "man to workload" as well as a current program of restructuring the entire workforce (including the shift operators) to Work Teams. This latest initiative is part of the EBA and should lead to reduced costs over a range of areas including shift overtime.

Swanbank: The production from Swanbank has been significantly above budget over the past 12 months.

These increases are achieved by running more units, for longer periods and at higher loads.

Swanbank will continue to be a peak load station where unanticipated production is called for to meet system requirements. This may vary from no operation to full operation.

The current number of permanent shift operators matches the current staffing requirements for three 'B' Station units running five days x three shifts and for two 'A' Station units running five days x two shifts. When production demand exceeds this unit commitment, overtime is necessary. Scheduled weekend operation must of necessity be performed on an overtime basis. The higher than forecast production from Swanbank has meant overtime levels are higher than forecast.

The number of permanent shift positions existing at Swanbank is considered adequate to meet the long term needs of the station.

A core of permanent shift operators supplemented by permanent day workers trained as operators provides the flexibility and productivity to meet to the variable workloads of peak load operation. The number of such staff was increased from four to eleven in September. A reduction in overtime will be evident when the additional seven have been trained (approximately two months).

The purpose of the memo which was circulated to staff at Swanbank regarding overtime was to address high levels of overtime across the station. In the case of operators, overtime can be reduced by reviewing practices related to shiftwork staffing. These practices have been changed in newer stations and, now that the automation has been commissioned at Swanbank, this issue will be progressed.

### 364. Workers' Compensation

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

- (1) How many public sector employees received Workers' Compensation for work-related stress in the financial year that the Goss Government came to power and what was the cost?
- (2) How many public sector employers received workers compensation for work-related stress in the latest financial year and what was the cost?
- (3) Why are the personal lives of stressed employees being examined and blamed for a work-related problem caused by mismanagement, constant reviews, restructuring, downsizing, readvertising of employees positions, threats of redundancy, privatisation and budget cutbacks, and the completely ineffective operation of grievance procedures?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

- (1) In 1989/90 102 workers' compensation stress claims for employees of Government Departments, (listed in the attached) were received. The total cost

of these claims as at 31 October 1995 is \$961,753.00.

(2) In 1994/95 1,072 new workers' compensation stress claims for employees of Government Departments were received. The total cost of these claims as at 31 October 1995 is \$9,971,602.00.

(3) Section 6 of the Workers' Compensation Act defines the meaning of "injury" and requires that employment be a significant contributing factor to the injury. The same requirement applies whether it be a back injury, stress condition or any other injury or disease. This imposes a statutory obligation to ensure that the employment is a contributing factor. To do otherwise would be irresponsible.

### 365. Bremer Institute of TAFE

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

With reference to the situation at Bremer Institute of TAFE, where a threatening letter had been sent to someone who had not attended a course at the Bremer Institute of TAFE demanding that they pay the enrolment fee for that course or face dire consequences, and to a memorandum, dated 9 December 1993, from a senior staff officer to the director of that institute, together with attachments which include a similar threatening letter from the institute to a student—

- (1) Will she obtain and table a copy of this document in the Parliament?
- (2) Does she agree that the treatment of that student was totally unprofessional, unethical and unwarranted?
- (3) Why did the institute continue to send out such letters until at least 1 June 1995?
- (4) How many other colleges/institutes have seen fit to use such letters?
- (5) As students are not supposed to attend classes unless the appropriate fee has been paid, why have debt-collection procedures been necessary?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

- (1) The Bremer Institute of TAFE is unable to identify any correspondence dated 9 December 1993 in relation to an enrolment fee, from either a student or senior staff member.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) Not applicable.

### 366. Screw-worm Fly

Mr PERRETT asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

With reference to the screw worm fly chrysomya bezziana, which a Department of Primary Industries (DPI) FarmNote reports is endemic in Papua New Guinea—

- (1) What monitoring program is in place to check the spread of the fly to Torres Strait Islands?
- (2) How many DPI staff are involved in such monitoring?
- (3) Are all inhabited Torres Strait Islands monitored?
- (4) Has the screw worm fly been detected on any Torres Strait Island; if so, on which islands?
- (5) How many searches have been conducted to detect livestock movements by boat from Torres Strait Islands to Cape York Peninsula?
- (6) What monitoring program is in place on Cape York Peninsula?
- (7) Has the screw worm fly been detected on Cape York Peninsula; if so, where and when?

Answer (Mr Gibbs):

Monitoring of pests and diseases in the Torres Straits is a direct responsibility of the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service (AQIS) through the Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy (NAQS).

Screw Worm Fly monitoring takes the form of observation for fly strike (maggots) in animals in the area and trapping using the Screw Worm Fly lure traps that were developed by the Queensland Department of Primary Industries.

The NAQS system sensibly utilises the skills of local people in the Torres Straits who are employed as Quarantine Officers and Quarantine Assistants. In addition a full-time entomologist is employed and a number of other officers participate in surveillance activities.

The entomologist and two other scientists (including a veterinarian) who are involved in surveillance are employed by the DPI and these employees are funded by AQIS to perform services for them.

The monitoring strategy undertaken is determined by NAQS but is aimed at maximising the chances of detecting incursions of the fly. All Torres Strait islands may not be monitored in any single period but emphasis is placed on those islands closest to the PNG mainland.

This monitoring has taken place for over fifteen years. During that time, no Screw Worm flies have been detected in the Torres Strait. This is surprising considering the close proximity of some islands (Saibai, Boigui and Dauan) to the PNG mainland but suggests that the threat of an invasion of Screw Worm Fly by way of "island-hopping" is not as great as was originally thought.

The Torres Strait has a special quarantine treaty restricting animal movements south. The local Quarantine Assistants are very aware of potential movements of animals between the islands and are on the spot to prevent them. An on-going extension program is in place to educate the area's people. In addition Coast Watch regularly overflies the Torres Strait and from time to time follow-up is carried out where illegal landings are suspected. Statistics on these activities coordinated by AQIS are not held by the DPI.

A similar monitoring program (maggot submission and lure trapping) takes place in the Cape York Peninsula.

The Screw Worm Fly has never been identified in Cape York Peninsula.

### 367. Bundaberg Base Hospital Dental Clinic

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the situation which currently exists at the Bundaberg Base Hospital Dental Clinic whereby denture waiting lists are currently between 18 to 20 months—

- (1) Will he confirm how much of the \$5.6m initiative announced by the previous Minister for Health, Hon Jim Elder, did the Wide Bay Regional Health Authority, and consequently the Bundaberg Base Hospital, receive by way of recruiting dentists to reduce such waiting lists?
- (2) How many dentists have been employed at the Bundaberg Base Hospital as a means of addressing this situation?
- (3) How many dental prosthetists are currently employed at the Bundaberg Base Hospital?
- (4) Will he admit that the scheme has had little, if any, effect on the length of the existing waiting list?
- (5) Are denture cases being independently assessed on an urgency basis?
- (6) Is it the case that those, on waiting lists, have to be referred to dentists or prosthetists working outside the public system by the public dental clinic?
- (7) How many patients and/or how much denture work in Bundaberg is being 'out-sourced', in this regard?
- (8) What action is proposed to effectively remedy the delays being experienced?

Answer (Mr Beattie):

(1) The Honourable Ken Hayward, when Minister for Health announced a Dental Prosthetic Scheme which allowed Regions greater flexibility in using their total oral health budget and resources to meet local patient need. The Wide Bay Regional Health Authority in the first financial year of the scheme allocated \$100,000 to be utilised in the dentures scheme. \$10,000 of this was allocated for the Bundaberg Health Service.

The initiative was to allow outsourcing full denture patients, who had been waiting longest, to go to the private sector to reduce waiting times for public patients. It was not the primary intention of the scheme to recruit dentists for this service.

(2) In the past two years, dentist numbers within the Bundaberg Health Service have almost doubled from 6 to the current 11. This has improved access not only to prosthetics but all dental care.

(3) Dental Prosthetists are not employed within the Queensland Health public sector.

(4) The greater flexibility to employ additional staff such as dental technicians and use of options such as service contracts with private providers should significantly improve dental services in the Region.

(5) Each patient seeking dentures is assessed by a dentist and those cases deemed to be more urgent are placed on a priority listing while other cases are placed on the normal waiting list. If a patient's circumstances change during the period of waiting, the clinic will reassess the priority status on the presentation of relevant clinical information. Any patient requiring urgent treatment is able to obtain treatment.

(6) Yes, patients have been referred to private dentists and prosthetists as part of the scheme.<sup>3</sup>

(7) In the first months of the scheme in 1994/95 15 Bundaberg patients were referred to the private sector.

(8) The Bundaberg Health Service has successfully recruited two additional dental technicians to allow extra prosthetic services to be provided.

Waiting times for general oral health services have been decreasing across all Regions. The Government is proud of the record number of patients who received treatment at public sector dental clinics in 1994 / 95. This is in sharp contrast to the miserable service offered to the people of Bundaberg under the National Party Government.

Regions have been encouraged to investigate all avenues, including outsourcing to further accelerate reductions in waiting times.

The Honourable Member is quite incorrect in promulgating the claim that nothing has been done. Indeed, since Labor took office from the Nationals in 1989, funding for public dental services have increased from \$34.5 million to \$75 million in 1995 / 96.

The Honourable Member might like to explain to his constituents how the 1.5% reduction for Health as outlined by the Opposition in its Election Policy would have shortened the waiting times for people with oral health problems.

### 368. Papaya Fruit Fly

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

- (1) What dialogue has been held with countries to which Queensland exports as a result of the introduction of the papaya fruit fly?
- (2) What protocols have been put in place to reassure our overseas customers?
- (3) Will he list the countries approached and the responses received?

Answer (Mr Gibbs):

1. Immediately the papaya fruit fly was identified in North Queensland, my Department notified the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS), the responsible agency for international quarantine matters. AQIS immediately notified major trading partners with which Australia has negotiated specific quarantine protocols of the incident.

Japanese and New Zealand quarantine authorities were directly notified and United States (US) authorities were notified through the US embassy.

2. No specific protocols have been developed in relation to this pest at this stage. Discussions are underway with Japanese authorities in relation to their requirements for trade in mangoes with Japan to proceed.

3. Japan have suspended protocols for export of mangoes from Queensland and have requested information on the distribution of the pest in Australia, particularly in relation to exports of squash and citrus.

The US has made no comment at this stage. Kiribati has suspended imports of fruit and vegetables from Queensland and Fiji has requested information on the outbreak. Other countries have not contacted Australian authorities.

### 369. Emerald Hospital

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the promised \$8.5m for the redevelopment of the Emerald Hospital, Stage 2—

With the chronic shortage of mental health facilities on the Central Highlands and the necessary professional people and the back-up support personnel, will this important facet of health care be an addition to this initial upgrade or is it already incorporated in the proposed redevelopment?

Answer (Mr Beattie):

After years of tragic neglect by previous National Party Governments, Mental Health Services within the Central Health Region are being addressed primarily through construction of a new 28 bed acute facility with accommodation for Community Health Outreach Program personnel on the Rockhampton Hospital campus at a cost of \$4.82 million, with practical completion expected to be achieved by February 1996. Recognising the limitations of Mental Health Services in the area and the problems in the treatment and management of patients, the Government is addressing acute facility needs and developing a fully integrated Regional service in accordance with National and State policies for Mental Health. This support is being provided through the recruitment of appropriate health professionals who will enhance the continuity of care and outcomes and form close linkages within the community through an outreach program.

Funding provided for the redevelopment of Emerald Hospital which was allowed to run down under the National Party will ensure that new facilities constructed are able to allow for increases in the level of services to be provided at Emerald and surrounding catchment area. Within the facility, allowance has been made for Outreach Specialist Services to be provided and it would be expected that Mental Health Services will be extended in the Emerald area as one of a number of health care services to meet community needs.

It should be noted that Community Mental Health has been addressed through the provision of additional

staffing within the Central Health Region allowing for improved access to appropriate staff, particularly the community in the Central Highlands.

### 370. Gladstone Hospital

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to written and verbal submissions which were made to him during his recent visit to the Gladstone Hospital—

- (1) What progress has been made toward resolving the critical situation at the Gladstone Hospital with regard to specialist services?
- (2) What flexibility is proposed to be given to the Medical Superintendent (or appropriate person) to offer a competitive employment package to specialists and what consideration has been given to additional funding to enable flexibility?

Answer (Mr Beattie):

(1) The Region is in the process of appointing three fulltime psychiatrists who will provide Gladstone Hospital with a full visiting service.

Gladstone Hospital has been proactive in arranging and negotiating an appropriate position and conditions for a Physician who expressed interest in a Visiting Medical Officer position. The Region is also negotiating innovative ways to attract rural specialists, particularly by assisting them in the early establishment phase of their practice.

(2) The specialist positions offered by Gladstone Hospital are for Visiting Medical Officers. The VMO agreement is currently being renegotiated. To assist in retaining specialists in the public sector improved arrangements are expected under the new agreement. Particular emphasis is being placed on improvements for rural practitioners including on call payments and professional development assistance.

The alternative available to the Medical Superintendent is to offer permanent part time positions which would allow the specialist to take advantage of the recently improved private practice options on a pro rata basis and be eligible for a fuel card.

I am confident that the Masterplanning process which I announced in October as part of the \$4.5 million upgrade of the Gladstone Hospital which suffered years of neglect under the National Party Government will go a long way to addressing the issues referred to me during my 100 Days of Listening.

### 371. Equine Morbillivirus

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

With reference to the latest outbreak of the very serious equine morbillivirus in Mackay—

- (1) Did funding for the Vic Rail Task Force dry up some months ago?
- (2) Does he consider that the health and safety of Queenslanders may have been compromised

in an attempt to minimise the disruption to the racing industry?

- (3) When and where was the initial test on the Preston horse conducted, what were the results and can these tests be replicated?
- (4) Considering that the death in August 1994 of the Preston horse was reported to the authorities, was the testing criteria adopted by the Department of Primary Industries adequate, given that the Preston horse, which subsequently tested positive, was not considered for further testing at the time of the Vic Rail investigation?

Answer (Mr Gibbs):

The "Vic Rail Task Force" that the question refers to was a special structural grouping of officers chiefly from the Animal Health and Welfare Bureau of the Department of Primary Industries. This arrangement is in accord with National and State veterinary emergency plans.

As the tasks required of the Task Force were progressively completed, the work of that group reverted to the Animal Health and Welfare Bureau. Funding of the Bureau has continued. Extra operational expenditure associated with activities during the Rail episode was provided in the 1994/95 financial year through a special grant from Treasury. The government made \$418 000 available for that purpose.

I am satisfied that health and safety of the Queensland public has not been compromised by the activities undertaken. In fact, I believe quite the reverse. Had the work of officers of the Department of Primary Industries not been so professionally completed, this serious viral disease would have gone undiagnosed and no limitation to its spread would have occurred. We would have been entirely at the mercy of the virus.

You will recall that in the aftermath of the episode, seven horses that had been infected by the virus were humanely put down by order of the DPI. This was an unenviable decision but the DPI made it because it considered these seven horses to be an on-going risk to other horses and humans. This tough decision has been vindicated by this recent episode.

Human health authorities are trying to establish beyond doubt when Mr Preston was first infected with the virus, but it seems likely that he was infected during August 1994, that is, prior to Vic Rail's death. The possibility of infection, apparent recovery and relapse is exactly what the DPI was concerned about when it took the decision to destroy the seven horses.

The diagnosis of virus infection in the Mackay horse was made last week by the Australian Animal Health Laboratory in Geelong. A test under development was used to make this diagnosis. This is the first time that this test has been used. The test enables virus remnants in preserved tissues to be identified. The Geelong Laboratory is confident in its diagnosis and while the tests could be repeated, I am sure that the laboratory would see no reason to repeat the test.



The DPI is grateful to the many people who have reported possible cases of equine morbillivirus. During the first five day period over 3000 calls were made to the hot-line established for the Rail episode. Mrs Preston did the right thing in advising of her two horse deaths at that time.

In assessing this report, the facts that Mrs Preston, a veterinarian, had diagnosed the two horse deaths as Avocado leaf poisoning and brown snake bite, and the support given to these diagnoses by a private veterinary pathology laboratory were taken into account. The diagnoses were accepted. There was also no link between those Mackay horses and Vic Rail's stables.

At the time the DPI correctly assessed that a full investigation had been completed and that cause of the deaths had been determined by qualified people.

The Preston horse had died about six weeks prior to the DPI being notified of the Rail horse deaths. At that time of Mrs Preston's report the equine morbillivirus had not been discovered.

Most importantly the only samples that existed for the two Mackay horses were preserved tissues, soaked in formaldehyde and embedded in wax. It was not possible to test exhumed carcasses for virus. It has only been in recent weeks that the technology to test these preserved samples has been available but exhumed samples from dead horses can still not be tested.

With the recent diagnosis of infection in Mr Preston, the DPI promptly obtained the samples from the private pathology laboratory after requesting the Geelong laboratory to use the experimental testing technique on them.

This test is extremely complex to run. While a positive test has been obtained in the case of the colt, Radji (the second horse to die), so far only an inconclusive result has been received for the other horse, Zamien. Zamien is also considered to be a case given its close association with Radji and the signs described, but even now, with the new technology, this cannot be confirmed.

Since the test using preserved tissues is now available, preserved samples from unexplained horse deaths involving respiratory diseases from previous years are being located and will be tested.

### 372. Child Care Assessment

Mr STONEMAN asked the Minister for Family and Community Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Status of Women—

With reference to a recent court case in Townsville, wherein the Magistrate released a grandfather who pleaded guilty to a charge of assault occasioning bodily harm without penalty, and the subsequent removal of a 12-year-old child from the care of the grandfather—

- (1) Is the child being made to attend school by the department, who are now legally responsible for her wellbeing?

- (2) Why did departmental officers consistently advise the child that she did not have to attend school (she has, in fact, not attended school consistently for six months)?
- (3) Why have departmental officers taken a totally 'pro-childs rights' attitude in this case without any discernible concern for the child's future?
- (4) Why would the department be happy to hand the care of the child to her father for ten days when the father has stated he is not a fit person given his problems as an acknowledged alcoholic?
- (5) What monitoring and watch conditions are being applied to the child while she is in the 'care' of the alcoholic father?
- (6) Under what terms could an officer of her department make the statement to the child's mother that it is 'normal behaviour to bring drugs home'?
- (7) Is it 'normal' for departmental personnel to suggest that 12-year-old children be given advice on 'safe sex' and what is the Townsville office doing to ensure that this child is not compromised by such an eventuality?
- (8) Under what criteria do her departmental officers make the assessment that 'some children do not fit into the school system, and what alternatives are offered in these cases?

Answer (Mrs Woodgate):

(1) The child's truancy is a long-standing problem which developed prior to her becoming involved with this Department and her admission to the care of the Department on 13 October 1995. The Thuringowa Area Office staff view the truancy as a significant issue and consequently strategies for addressing the problem have been implemented.

This has included the child being driven to school by a departmental officer, or foster parent, and being personally delivered to school staff. The child, however, has subsequently absconded from the school premises. Once the school became aware that the child had absconded, departmental staff have been informed and police advised. Thuringowa Area Office staff will continue to pursue strategies for resolving the problem of the child's truancy.

(2) At no stage has the child been told by staff that non-attendance at school is acceptable. The Department considers that the child's education is of vital importance to her future and will continue to be involved on an intensive basis with a view to resolving this long-standing and complex problem.

(3) Departmental staff have a responsibility to protect the well-being of children who have been placed in the care of the Department. It is acknowledged that this child has challenging behaviours and the Department plans to continue intensively working to resolve issues such as the child's long-standing truancy problem. The current priority for staff working with this child and her family is to secure a safe placement for her with a caregiver who can provide appropriate responsible guidance. In this context, staff can continue to address the areas of concern which impact on the child's future.

(4) The decision to place the child with her father for a short period was made after careful consideration of the issues involved. An assessment of the father's suitability to briefly care for the child was undertaken by Thuringowa Area Office staff and potential problems were openly discussed. The child's father indicated his willingness to care for the child for a short period and undertook to make arrangements so as to be able to provide the child with appropriate care during this time. The father undertook to refrain from drinking during the period in which he was caring for his daughter. Various safeguards were put in place to ensure the child's wellbeing while in his care.

(5) Thuringowa Area Office staff are having daily telephone contact with both the child and her father during the short period of the child's stay with him. Additionally, the child has been given very clear information to enable her to access assistance if any problems occur.

(6) The Department does not consider that it is 'normal' or acceptable for children to be involved with illegal drugs. The departmental officer working with this child and her family recalls discussing the mother's fears regarding possible drug use by this child with the mother and acknowledging that, in the context of the child's difficult behaviours, it may not be surprising if she were to be exposed to illegal drugs. If a child in the care of the Department was known to be engaging in drug use, strategies would be implemented to address such a concern.

(7) At no stage have departmental staff arranged for this child to be given advice on 'safe sex'. The current priorities for intervention are to secure a safe placement for the child and to continue to work towards a resolution of the ongoing truancy problem.

(8) This child's truancy problem is severe and long-standing. It is apparent that she has not been successfully participating within the school system. Resolution of this problem is a major priority for the departmental officers working with the child and her family. Thuringowa Area Office staff are working closely with the child's school to reintegrate her into school life, within the education system.

### 373. Small Business

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Business, Industry and Regional Development—

- (1) Has the Government completed any surveys about the number of small businesses that have closed due to the combined high cost of environmental protection (green) levies and compliance regulations; if so, will he table them?
- (2) If the Government has not surveyed businesses on the impact already happening, will it undertake to do so?

Answer (Mr Hayward):

(1) No.

As a response to community concern about the protection of environmental values, the Government recently introduced new environmental protection

legislation. The Environmental Protection Act and Regulation, which commenced on 1 March 1995, consolidated a number of pieces of existing legislation.

The Department of Environment and Heritage undertook extensive consultation with all stakeholder groups during development of this legislation. Both community and business groups, including the Motor Trades Association of Queensland, the Queensland Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Local Government Association of Queensland and the Environment Institute of Australia indicated their support for the significant changes made to improve the situation in Queensland.

Extensive consultation with all stakeholder groups is still occurring for the environmental policies being developed under the Regulation.

The new legislation has actually reduced the number of licences required by some businesses—businesses previously required to hold multiple licences for different emissions can now hold a single authority covering all aspects of environmental management of a particular site.

To further lessen the impact on business, there is currently a moratorium on fees payable for environmentally relevant activities devolved to the responsibility of Local Authorities—this will continue until 1 March 1996. Most small businesses would be benefiting from this fee relief.

Local Authorities have been given a reasonable degree of flexibility in setting licence fees and conditions for devolved activities appropriate to the circumstances—as a check, my Department has been given a watchdog role for advising of any anti-competitive fee setting practices of Local Authorities.

The fees for non-devolved activities are broadly comparable to those payable in other States, so most Queensland firms will not be placed at a competitive disadvantage.

In actual cases of financial hardship, the Regulation provides for the waiver of fees.

Work is still continuing to ensure minimum impact on business of the legislation during the period of implementation, through two committees. One of the committees is industry based. The committees are presently considering expanding the existing licensing system towards a performance-based, graded licensing system. This would provide incentives for good environmental management, which would include a lower licence fee. My Department is represented on both of these committees.

Businesses are being given time to develop programs for achieving the required environmental standards, if they are currently operating below this level.

(2) The Department of Environment and Heritage is undertaking many initiatives to assist business in this area, including the development of databases of information about available products and services for reducing emission levels etc.

Based on performance and activity reports submitted by businesses after the first year, fees will be reassessed and an information base will be able to be established regarding level of risk.

A survey of resultant business costs is currently being conducted by one of the industry associations on this issue for a select group of its members. The survey is under the auspices of the Peak Bodies Liaison Scheme funded by my Department. If a more general survey on compliance costs were considered to be necessary at a later date, it is possible that this may be used as a model.

### 374. AUSTA Electric; Stanwell Power Station

Mr CARROLL asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

With reference to monies borrowed or received by the State of Queensland, Queensland Treasury Corporation or AUSTA from an overseas corporation in regard to what has been described as a “lease-back” of Stanwell Power Station—

- (1) What upfront payment is coming to Queensland Treasury Corporation and when will it be paid?
- (2) Who acted as broker for the abovementioned transaction and what commission/retainer was paid?
- (3) What debt existed before the abovementioned transaction?
- (4) What are the other terms of this “lease-back” arrangement?

Answer (Mr McGrady):

To put the Honourable Member's question in context it is necessary that I preface my response with a few words about the relationship between QTC and AUSTA. QTC, in its role as the central financing authority for Queensland public sector entities, represents AUSTA's primary source of funding. In addition, QTC provides AUSTA with a liability management service with a view to minimising AUSTA's cost of funding.

The financial arrangements to which the Honourable Member refers have been entered into by AUSTA directly with QTC as part of this overall relationship. These financial arrangements produce a significant upfront benefit for AUSTA which may be applied in reduction of AUSTA's cost of capital.

Addressing the specific issues which the Honourable Member has raised :-

(1) As QTC is not within my portfolio, it is not appropriate that I respond to this question. However, with respect to AUSTA, as I have already indicated, the financial arrangements between AUSTA and QTC have produced an upfront benefit which has been paid to AUSTA by QTC. It is this benefit which made the arrangements commercially attractive from AUSTA's point of view. That is why the board of AUSTA approved the arrangements.

(2) The financial arrangements between QTC and AUSTA were negotiated directly and did not involve a broker.

(3) The debt funding arrangements which AUSTA has in place with QTC are unaffected by these arrangements with QTC. The arrangements between AUSTA and QTC are all about generating a benefit for AUSTA which can be utilised to reduce AUSTA's overall cost of funds.

(4) The terms and conditions of the financial arrangements between QTC and AUSTA are such that control of, and operational responsibility for, the assets remains with AUSTA. The assets remain on AUSTA's balance sheet, where they always have been and, at the end of the financing term, AUSTA has an unconditional right to effectively collapse the arrangements.

### 377. Power Supply, Giru Sugar Mill

Mr STONEMAN asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

With reference to the proposal to link the CSR Sugar Mill at Giru with the main transmission lines via a 132 kva extension across productive caneland—

- (1) What will be the basis of compensation for farmers who are impacted on by the line as it relates to the tower sites, the visual clutter and the impediment to farming operations?
- (2) What financial incentives have been given to the CSR Company to make the generation of power sufficiently commercially attractive?
- (3) What impact will the additional road transportation of bagasse to the Giru mill have on normal traffic operations on the already busy Bruce Highway?
- (4) What scientific data has been used to assert that the transmission lines will have no impact on human or animal life adjacent to the new link?
- (5) How much of the year will full power output from the mill be available?
- (6) Is this band-aid construction and consequential minimal power supply a clear indicator that there is a serious medium term deficiency in power availability for North Queensland?

Answer (Mr McGrady):

(1) Compensation will be assessed, as it is for all transmission line easements, by registered valuers who will ensure that each property owner is fairly compensated for the effect of the transmission line on his property. Each case will be treated on its merits and will include a consideration of the area of land affected, the value of the land, the effect on the owner's use of that land, as well as the number of poles on the land and their location. Pole sites have been selected in consultation with affected farm owners and the line will be designed to ensure a minimal affect on cane farming operations.

(2) There are no subsidies or financial incentives given to the CSR company in relation to the generation of electricity at Invicta Mill. The purchase price of electricity from Invicta was negotiated on a purely commercial basis and is comparable to the

purchase price of electricity from other large generators in the State.

(3) CSR's new boiler at the Mill will use bagasse produced by the Mill. We have no information on the need for any additional bagasse to be transported in from other Mills in the area.

(4) Transmission lines produce electric and magnetic fields (EMF) as does your home wiring, appliances and tools. Policy responses covering whether EMF affect health are based on the advice of competent health authorities. There have been over 70 authoritative reviews of the entire body of research literature since 1977 including those by such prestigious groups as the American Medical Association, the Radiation Advisory Committee to the Victorian Department of Health, the UK's National Radiological Protection Board, the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection, and the National Safety Board of Sweden. These reviews have all found that there is no convincing support for a connection between EMF and health.

(5) Invicta Mill will generate continuously through the annual sugar crushing season (approximately five months each year) and will be available on call throughout the remainder of the year to provide standby capacity.

(6) The Invicta Mill is currently increasing its generating capacity to produce electricity from bagasse. The agreement to provide year round capacity will involve some storage of bagasse to allow Invicta to get the maximum value from its increased generating capacity.

Generation of electricity from such renewable energy resources represents a major initiative of the Queensland Government Greenhouse Response Strategy and is in no way indicative of power shortages in North Queensland.

### 379. Public Housing, Tablelands Electorate

Mr GILMORE asked the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Rural Communities, Minister for Rural Communities and Minister for Provision of Infrastructure for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities—

With reference to the provision of public housing in the electorate of Tablelands—

- (1) How many houses and other accommodation units in categories (a) (i) 1 bedroom houses, (ii) 2 bedroom houses, (iii) 3 bedroom houses and (iv) 4 bedroom houses, (b) (i) 1 bedroom units and (ii) 2 bedroom units and (c) (i) 1 bedroom flats and (ii) 2 bedroom flats have been provided in the electorate per 1,000 head of population and for each town in the electorate?
- (2) Will he supply waiting lists for the electorate and for each town in the electorate for accommodation in each of the abovementioned categories?
- (3) What is the average waiting time in each town for each of the abovementioned categories?

(4) What is the average waiting time in Brisbane for each of the abovementioned categories?

(5) What is the State average waiting time for each of the abovementioned categories?

Answer (Mr Mackenroth):

1. My Department has a total of 222 public housing dwellings across a range of housing types in the electorate of Tablelands. The electorate is serviced by the Department's Far North Queensland Area Office which is located in Cairns. The total population for the electorate according to the 1991 Australian Bureau of Statistics Census data is 33,275. On the basis of that figure, there are 6.67 public housing dwellings per 1,000 head of population in the region.

2. As at 30 September, 1995 a total of 343 households were registered for public housing within the electorate of Tablelands. The Far North Queensland Area Office holds registered preferences for public housing in Atherton, Malanda, Mareeba, Millaa Millaa, Ravenshoe, Tolga and Yungaburra.

3. The estimated waiting times for public housing across the electorate of Tablelands vary according to availability and demand for different locations, types and sizes of dwellings. Currently, waiting times range from 24 to 60 months.

4. When considering large areas such as Brisbane, it is difficult to accurately estimate an average waiting time. There are many locations within Brisbane where families applying for public housing can list for accommodation. The waiting times in these locations can vary considerably according to the amount of stock in each suburb, the number of applicants on the waiting list, and the turnover of tenancies. An average for Brisbane is therefore an average of the estimated waiting times for each type of dwelling in each location within Brisbane. Average waiting times in Brisbane for each dwelling type in each location range from 25 months for senior units up to 60 months for houses with more than 4 bedrooms.

5. When considering the whole State, it is even more difficult to accurately estimate an average waiting time. This is because of the wide range of locations within Queensland where families applying for public housing can list for accommodation. The waiting times in the various locations are dependent on the amount of stock in the area, the number of applicants on the waiting list, and the turnover of tenancies. An average for Queensland is therefore an average of the estimated waiting times for each type of dwelling in each location within Queensland. Average waiting times in Queensland for each dwelling type in each location range from 24 months for 2 bedroom attached houses to 60 months for houses with more than 4 bedrooms.

### 380. Queensland Small Business Corporation

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Business, Industry and Regional Development—

With reference to the Queensland Small Business Corporation's Annual Report for 1994-95, and in particular to page F10 of the Financial Report, Note 18—

- (1) What is he intending to do about the future of the Queensland Small Business Corporation and when will that be decided?
- (2) Is he keeping the Corporation in limbo on the basis of any particular reason; if so, what is it?
- (3) Is it the Government's intention to (a) sell the Corporation and transfer its operations to another organisation or (b) retain its operation within its present form?

Answer (Mr Hayward):

(1) As the Member for Nerang no doubt recalls, on 15 September 1995 a report on the Review of the Queensland Small Business Corporation was tabled in the House.

The Queensland Small Business Corporation Act will be extended for an initial 6 month period to allow for full consultation on matters raised in the review.

(2) The Queensland Small Business Corporation is not in limbo. It is fully operational and the small business community in Queensland continues to receive assistance and advice through the QSBC programs.

(3) (a) No.

(b) Until all options are investigated to ensure that the small business community in Queensland is supported by an effective, efficient and accountable organisation, no preliminary statements will be made on the potential structure and role of that organisation.

### **382. Women's Crisis Accommodation, Gold Coast**

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Family and Community Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Status of Women—

How much is spent on the Gold Coast on accommodation for women in crisis (from domestic violence, sexual assault or other reasons) and has there been an increase in demand for services?

Answer (Mrs Woodgate):

The Department of Family and Community Services (DF&CS) currently provides funding under the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) to eleven services on the Gold Coast. These services provide support and accommodation to women and women with children who are in crisis and/or escaping domestic violence. Assistance provided includes accommodation, crisis counselling, advocacy and assistance to secure access to related services such as income support and child care.

A total of \$1,804,719 recurrent funding is currently provided to the Gold Coast, under the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP), for these purposes. This is a marked increase on 1989/90, in which year funding for Gold Coast SAAP services totalled \$753,405.

Statistics gathered in relation to SAAP services indicate that the number of instances of use of services has remained steady over the 1992/93 to 1995/96 financial years. There have been minor fluctuations as a result of changes in service models and relocation due to health and safety concerns regarding the building utilised by the services.

Data in relation to domestic violence applications and orders on the Gold Coast over the same period are similarly consistent with the view that demand is remaining steady.

Funding for services for women who have been sexually assaulted are administered through Queensland Health, therefore I am unable to provide information regarding these service types.

### **383. Nambour General Hospital**

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Has Nambour General Hospital limited the supply of spectacles to ten pair per day?
- (2) What progress has been achieved in allowing patients to access spectacles in other parts of the Sunshine Coast Region instead of all applicants having to travel to Nambour General Hospital?

Answer (Mr Beattie):

(1) No, the number of patients currently receiving approval to attend the optometrist and receive spectacles, if necessary, is up to 30 per day.

In the 1995/96 budget, additional funding was made available to reduce the waiting list that had developed in relation to the supply of spectacles to patients.

In an effort to provide more equitable access to the service, the eight month waiting list existing prior to July 1995 has been reduced to four weeks.

The above improvement in service has been achieved by allocating an additional \$70,000 to the Optometrical Service for this financial year. Demand for this service is constantly growing, and so will be monitored throughout the year to ensure it does not exceed budget allocation.

This is in contrast to the Opposition Health Policy which would have slashed Health Expenditure by 1.5% to fund the Efficiency Dividend to pay for Opposition promises in other Portfolios.

(2) Presently, patients can access Nambour, Caloundra, Maleny and Gympie Hospitals to claim benefits under the Optometrical Services Scheme.

The Northern Sector Executive of the Sunshine Coast Regional Health Authority is investigating the cost and feasibility of linking the Community Health Centres into the database system based at Nambour, thus allowing patients to access the service at Noosa and Maroochydore. Software is presently being tested and it is anticipated that a computerised booking system will be in place in the latter half of this financial year.

The cost of achieving such a computerised solution is expected to be approximately \$20,000, including equipment and salaries.

**384. Princess Alexandra Hospital**

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Health—

Will he provide details of the Princess Alexandra Hospital budget figures, including (a) final budget for 1994-95 and actual expenditure, (b) base budget for 1994-95 and 1995-96, (c) details of additional funds budgeted for over and above 1995-96 base budget and (d) hospital expenditure at 31/10/95 and comparison with budget at that date?

Answer (Mr Beattie):

The final budget for 1994-95 and actual expenditure were as follows :

	\$'000
Final Budget :	186,110
Actual Expenditure :	187,421

Details of the budget allocations to the Princess Alexandra Hospital for 1994-95 and 1995-96 are as follows.

	1994-95	1995-96
	\$'000	\$'000
Total	186,110	193,004

Further details regarding the 1995 / 96 Budget will be available at a later date.

It should be noted that the Budgets are Regional and continually amended during the course of the year for items such as Awards, Commonwealth Program funding, Superannuation and other items.

It should be noted that Hospital Budgets would have been slashed by 1.5% to pay for the Opposition's Efficiency Dividend which was conceived to pay for promises they made in other Portfolio areas.

The staff at the Princess Alexandra Hospital are sick and tired of the Oppositions' attempts to publicly denigrate their hospital's world class reputation in the eyes of the community. The staff want the Opposition Spokesman to stop playing politics at their expense.

**387. Emergency Telephone Calls**

Mr RADKE asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to the non-answering of telephone calls forwarded to the police switchboard by 000 Telstra operators—

What measures will be taken to prevent lengthy delays in answering 000 and diverted telephone calls by the police switchboard?

Answer (Mr Braddy):

Telstra has ten direct telephone 000 emergency lines into the Police Communications Centre. Calls on these lines are answered by police officers at the Centre.

Any call not answered within 15 seconds at the first answering point is automatically re-directed to the Police Headquarters switchboard where civilian staff answer and inquire as to the nature of the emergency. If the call relates to a life-threatening

situation, it is transferred to the Communications Supervisor or the Duty Inspector.

Calls of a non-urgent nature are returned to the 000 re-call route. Callers then receive a recorded message informing them that their call will be answered as soon as possible and that, if the nature of the incident changes to one of a life-threatening nature, they should hang up and re-dial 000. These non-urgent 000 calls are answered in turn.

Diverted telephone calls received at the Police Headquarters switchboard from suburban police stations that are closed are answered by the civilian staff on the telephone switchboard. Depending on the nature of the inquiry, the call is either directed to the Police Communications Centre for tasking or, in some instances, to the relevant District Headquarters for matters requiring advice only.

**389. Mining Royalties**

Ms WARWICK asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

With reference to the Government's proposal to amend the Queensland Minerals Royalty regime to a variable rate ad valorem royalty based on the London Metals Exchange (LME) price for each mineral—

- (1) What will be the effect of this change in each of the next four financial years on the amount of royalty raised from (a) existing mining operations, (b) proposed mining operations and (c) total?
- (2) How many existing mining operations will be adversely affected by this change?
- (3) How many companies will benefit from this change?
- (4) What is the date at which the base price for future calculation of variations on the LME will be calculated?
- (5) What are the details of the percentage variation from the base which will trigger changes to the variable rate ad valorem royalty?
- (6) What arrangements have been made to account for futures trading in royalty calculations?

Answer (Mr McGrady):

The existing royalty regime for base and precious metals (ie copper, lead, zinc, silver and gold) whereby the Mt Isa operation pays significantly higher royalties than other producers was no longer sustainable with the imminent development of a number of major base and precious metal mines in the North West of the State. On 19 September 1995, the Government released a royalty proposal to form the basis of consultation with industry. This original proposal was for a variable rate ad valorem royalty with rates varying from 1.5% to 4.5% depending on the prevailing metal prices and applied to the value of payable metal. In response to these industry consultations the original proposal has been substantially revised as follows:

the offer of either a 2.7% fixed ad valorem or the variable rate ad valorem;

revision to the price bands for the variable rate ad valorem each five years and companies given the option at that time to select their preferred royalty scheme for each metal produced;

an upward revision to the price bands for copper, lead and zinc which effectively reduces the royalty rate for these metals by 10% under the variable scheme;

a three year phase in period; and

substantial discounts for downstream processing in Queensland of 20% for copper, 25% for lead, 35% for zinc.

(1) The impact on the royalties payable by the various mines is dependent on the type of royalty scheme chosen (ie fixed or variable rate) the prices prevailing and the amount of downstream processing which is undertaken. Assuming that the prices will be as forecast by the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ABARE), that the variable rate ad valorem is chosen by all mines, and that no additional processing is undertaken in Queensland, the impact of the new system when compared with the existing scheme is as follows:

Existing mines: \$-1.8m in 1996, \$-1.6m in 1997, \$-10.6m in 1998 and \$-10.9 in 1999.

Proposed mines: \$0m in 1996, \$0m in 1997, \$+12.8m in 1998 and \$+12.7m in 1999.

Total: \$-1.8m in 1996, \$-1.6m in 1997, \$+2.2m in 1998 and \$+1.8m in 1999.

(2) The impact on existing mines depends on prices, the level of processing and the scheme chosen.

(3) The new scheme will move all base and precious metal producers in Queensland onto the same royalty footing. This will in general see a reduction in the much higher royalty currently paid by the Mt Isa operation and the impact on other operations will depend on the level of prices prevailing, the amount of processing undertaken, and the scheme which is chosen.

(4) The price bands will be revised each five years at which time the companies can elect for a 2.7% fixed rate royalty or the 1.5% to 4.5% variable rate royalty. The first price band revision will take effect from 1 January 2001.

(5) The rate to be applied will remain at 4.5% for prices above the upper price band and at 1.5% for prices below the lowest price band. Royalty rates in the two intervening price bands will vary on a pro rata basis with price in each of these bands between 1.5% and 2.5% for the lower band and 2.5% and 4.5% for the upper band.

(6) The royalty will be based on the price actually received for the payable metal which takes into account any forward selling.

### 390. Dr A. Keto; Wilderness Society

Mr PERRETT asked the Premier and Minister for Economic and Trade Development—

(1) How much funding and other assistance has the Government given to Dr Aila Keto and the Wilderness Society?

(2) When did it begin?

Answer (Mr Goss):

(1) No funding or other assistance has been given to Dr Aila Keto. The Rainforest Conservation Society Inc, of which Dr Keto is president, has received grants under the Grants to Non Government Conservation Groups program administered by the Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH). The amounts given to the Rainforest Conservation Society are:

1990-91	\$ 7500
1991-92	\$ 8000
1992-93	\$ 9000
1993-94	\$10,000
1994-95	\$14,000

These grants have been provided to assist salary costs for the administration of the Society provided only for this purpose. In 1994-95 a total of some \$170,000 was given to 25 different groups for a variety of activities relevant to their operation, eg administrative costs, wages, equipment and preparation of submissions.

Grant recipients are required to provide DEH with an audited annual financial statement and certificate giving evidence that the grant was used for the purpose allocated. Grants for 1995-96 will be advertised in the near future.

No funding or other assistance has been given to the Wilderness Society.

(2) Funding for the Rainforest Conservation Society commenced in the 1990-91 financial year.

### 392. Police Resources, Noosa Heads

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to current staffing levels at Noosa Heads Police Station—

(1) How many officers are assigned to the station as at 2 November 1995?

(2) How many police officers are rostered on duty this week at the station (week ending 3 November 1995)?

(3) When will a video surveillance system be installed in the watch house at the station?

Answer (Mr Braddy):

(1) There are 23 police officers assigned to Noosa Heads Station as at 2 November 1995.

(2) There were 14 officers on rostered duty for the week ending 3 November 1995.

(3) It is anticipated that tenders will be called for the installation of surveillance cameras in the Noosa Watchhouse this financial year.

### 394. AUSTA Electric

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

With reference to the AUSTA Electric Report for January to June 1995 which discloses loans from QTC of \$1,260,845,000 comprised of \$1,232,068,000 in non-current liabilities at market value and \$28,777,000 in current liabilities and to the Queensland Treasury Corporation Annual Report for 1994-95, which discloses loans from QTC to AUSTA of \$1,282,068,445 (at market value)—

Why does the difference of \$21,223,445 occur?

Answer (Mr McGrady):

The AUSTA Electric Annual Report for January to June 1995 discloses total loans from QTC at book value of \$1,259,040,000 comprised of \$28,777,000 in current liabilities and \$1,230,263,000 in non-current liabilities.

It also discloses the total market value of indebtedness to QTC of \$1,232,068,000. The difference of \$50,000,000 between this market value and the market value disclosed in the QTC Annual Report of \$1,282,068,445 is due to a cheque for prepayment of debt being drawn by AUSTA Electric on 30 June 1995 which was not received by Queensland Treasury Corporation until early July.

The \$50,000,000 is disclosed in Note 7 of the AUSTA Electric Annual Report as a component of the unrepresented cheques of \$53,477,000 and remained invested in AUSTA Electric's name until such time as the cheque was presented.

### **395. Queensland Industry Development Corporation; Mr H. Richardson**

Mrs SHELDON asked the Treasurer—

With reference to an article published in the *Courier-Mail* of 21 October 1995, in which it was stated that the QIDC had entered into an arrangement to borrow funds from Mr Harold Edward Richardson, who was in fact engaged in defrauding people through the mechanism of non-existent loan opportunities—

- (1) Did the QIDC advance any funds whatsoever for whatever purpose to Mr Richardson prior to the borrowing arrangement falling through; if so, how much was advanced, on what dates, authorised by whom and were any of those funds recovered?
- (2) How was Mr Richardson introduced to the QIDC, when and by whom?
- (3) Was the intention to borrow funds from Mr Richardson approved by the Treasurer; if so, when?
- (4) Exactly how and when did the QIDC discover that Mr Richardson was not in fact able to provide the funds?
- (5) Were any face to face meetings with Mr Richardson held; if so, by whom, where and when?
- (6) Were any letters of reference provided to Mr Richardson by the QIDC; if so, when and by whom?
- (7) What were the QIDC documents that Mr Richardson is alleged to have displayed to others to establish his bona fides?

Answer (Mr De Lacy):

(1) QIDC neither advanced funds to, nor borrowed funds from, Mr Richardson.

(2) QIDC had no dealings with Mr Richardson. QIDC dealt with Messrs Patel and Lyons from Pacific Commerce & Finance Limited in this matter.

(3) There was no intention to borrow funds from Mr Richardson. Subject to Pacific Commercial & Finance Limited establishing its bona fides and providing a letter of introduction from Banque Nationale De Paris, the Treasurer's approval for the borrowing of such funds would not have been required under the QIDC Act.

(4) QIDC expressed an interest in the proposal and, on two occasions, wrote to Pacific Commerce & Finance Limited seeking evidence of the bona fides of the lender and a banker's acceptance or guarantee. When QIDC could not so satisfy itself, the proposal proceeded no further.

(5) As far as QIDC is aware, it has had no dealings with Mr Richardson.

(6) There were no letters of reference provided to Mr Richardson.

(7) QIDC understands that the two letters sent to Pacific Commerce & Finance Limited, noting the QIDC's interest in a proposal to borrow \$100M from the company, were used by the company to establish its bona fides. The letters were no more than letters of intent seeking more information from the company. The letters were standard for their type and were non-committal expressions of interest which simply sought further information from the company.

### **396. Senior Management Positions, TAFE Colleges**

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

- (1) What were the individual circumstances surrounding the resignation, removal and retirement of the following senior managers from the Queensland TAFE system (a) Dr Helen Parker, (b) John Seary, (c) Graham Williams, (d) Myles Clacherty, (e) Dr Christine French, (f) Bob McCallum, (g) Col Robertson, (h) Dr David Warner, (i) Rex Lobegeier, (j) Trevor Stirling, (k) Michael McDonald, (l) Jim Thorpe, (m) Col Marsh, (n) Dr Geof Gale, (o) Rhonda Gibbons, (p) David Beneke, (q) Geof Hosking and (r) Julia Thaggard?
- (2) How many of these officers were given exit interviews?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

(1) Dr Parker, Mr Williams, Mr McCallum, Mr Robertson and Mr Lobegeier, Directors of TAFE Colleges, were employed under contracts entered into with the previous Government. These contracts were rigid and inflexible, and provided for employees to obtain immediate financial benefits rather than accepting new contracts which were more in accord with changed organisational requirements. The



above mentioned Directors chose not to accept new contracts offered to them in early 1994. Dr French and Dr Gale gained highly paid positions in other states. They resigned from TAFE Queensland to take up these positions. Mr Marsh retired from TAFE Queensland after a long and distinguished career with the organisation. Mr Clacherty accepted an offer of voluntary early retirement, made to him in accordance with the PSM Standard for Managing Change in the Queensland Public Sector. Dr Warner and Mr Thorpe are still employed by TAFE Queensland. Dr Warner is currently on unpaid leave while working as Director of a College in the United Arab Emirates. Mr Thorpe, also on unpaid leave, has taken a temporary position as Director of a TAFE College in Western Australia. Neither Mr McDonald nor Mr Seary has left the organisation. Both are still in senior management positions in TAFE Queensland. Ms Thaggard resigned her position as Associate Director with TAFE to take up a position with the Education Department. Mr Hosking resigned from the organisation to set up a small business. Mr Sterling resigned from TAFE to work as an independent consultant.

Ms Gibbons and Mr Beneke were Directors of the Emerald and Burdekin Agricultural Colleges, respectively. They were not employed by TAFE Queensland. Consequently the question as it relates to these people is not relevant.

(2) The question is not relevant to the four (4) officers who have not left the Department, or to the two (2) officers who were not employed by the Department prior to their departure. As to the balance, while there were informal discussions, there is no record of formal exit interviews.

### 397. Teaching Staff, TAFE Colleges

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

- (1) In each of the past five financial years, how many new, permanent, full-time teaching staff have been employed by TAFE Queensland?
- (2) How many staff in each of the above categories does it intend to employ this financial year and in each of the following two financial years?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

(1) The number of new, permanent, full-time teachers employed by TAFE Queensland in the past five financial years is as follows:

1990/91	54
1991/92	66
1992/93	89
1993/94	47
1994/95	47

(2) It is not possible to provide specific details of the number of new, permanent, full-time teaching staff proposed to be employed in 1995/96 or in the following two years as this will be subject to demand for courses, workplace change and long term funding allocations.

### 399. Laundries, Brisbane North Regional Health Authority

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Health—

What is the current position or the future plans for the proposed combined laundries in the Northern Regional Health Authority area?

Answer (Mr Beattie):

Laundry services to the Townsville General Hospital are currently provided by the Queensland Corrective Services Commission, as part of its traditional role of providing work for prisoners.

A report prepared for my Department in 1992 recommended that Queensland Health develop its own group linen service to supply several health facilities in the Region.

There is no specific proposal at this stage and discussions are continuing between my Department and the Commission.

### 400. Tendering Process, TAFE Colleges

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

With reference to an article in the *Sunday Mail* of 8 October 1995 about the tendering process in Queensland Transport, and complaints that the department is both player and referee in the process and that they can put in low and unrealistic costs by subsidising their tenders, using taxpayers money.

- (1) Does the Competitive Funding Section of DEVETIR also have a serious conflict of interest in being both player and referee?
- (2) In relation to offer No. 506 completed recently (a) how many of the courses on offer were "won" by TAFE, (b) how many of the courses on offer were awarded to private training providers (at the prices originally submitted by those providers), (c) why was a maximum price of \$6.00 per SCH suggested in the offer documents when the Minister, in response to a recent question, indicated that the average cost per SCH for similar general courses in a large, cost-efficient TAFE institute is significantly higher than \$6 per SCH, (d) why were private training providers denied access to the TAFE training modules which formed the basis of this offer, (e) how were private training providers expected to accurately cost the learning resources specified in the training modules, when access to the modules was not provided, (f) why was the offer for "Network Manager" specifically written to favour TAFE tenders, (g) would the Minister please table the offer accepted for "Network Manager" and indicate any areas where the costs of "Network Management" have been absorbed into other activities or subsidised with taxpayers funds and (h) is it the case that one of the training modules specified in Offer 506 does not exist?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

(1) The Competitive Funding Branch is part of the Division of Vocational Education, Training and

Employment (VETE) within DEVETIR and is not a player in the provision of training. The Competitive Funding Branch exists to trial a policy endorsed by the Vocational Education, Training and Employment Commission (VETEC) in 1993 on introducing competitive purchasing mechanisms into the vocational education and training market. VETEC is a statutory authority established in legislation with membership from employers, unions, the community and governments. VETEC reports directly to the Minister for Employment and Training. The Competitive Funding Program is monitored by VETEC, and the Competitive Funding Branch reports to VETEC on its achievements and operations. TAFE Queensland is the public training provider, and is a separate administrative Division of DEVETIR.

2(a) TAFE Queensland won delivery of 32 out of 166 modules which represents 24% of Offer 506. (b) Private training providers won delivery of 134 modules which represents 76% of the offer. Every contract awarded to private training providers was at the same price originally submitted by that provider. (c) The \$6.00 per SCH was determined after analysis by the Queensland Corrective Services Commission (QCSC) of the previous costs of delivering training in Correctional Centres. This cost per SCH is lower than the TAFE average cost per student contact hour because many resources for delivering this training—for example, rooms, materials and course consumables—are supplied by QCSC. (d) A condition of the tender was that private providers who were successful in the bidding process would be given access to the curriculum at no cost. (e) Private providers did not need to access the TAFE modules to submit an accurate cost for the resources required as the only resource to be supplied by the provider was the text books. Text books specified in a syllabus document are recommended only. Therefore, private training providers had the freedom to select appropriate material. All other learning resources were to be provided by the correctional centres. (f) The specification for the Network Manager was not developed to favour TAFE. As required by the Queensland State Purchasing Policy, specifications developed for tenders under the Competitive Funding Program are written to ensure that all providers have the opportunity to participate on an equal and fair basis. The requirements specified for the Network Manager reflected the type of activities which would be performed by a training provider, private or public, in the course of their normal business operations. (g) I table the offer for Network Manager. This offer indicates that all costing components are itemised and there is no subsidisation from other funds. (h) No.

### 403. Academy of Sport

Mr PURCELL asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for Tourism, Sport And Youth—

- (1) What are the details of the operations of the Queensland Academy of Sport?
- (2) Will he detail the success of its athletes and the number of sports covered?

Answer (Mr Burns):

The Queensland Academy of Sport (QAS) was established by the Queensland Labor Government in 1991 with the objective of assisting the State's elite athletes to remain competitive at an international level, with a strong emphasis on Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games and World Championships.

The QAS provides support to individual scholarship holders with top international rankings and to nineteen current Squad Programs, fifteen of which are Olympic sports. Each of the Squad Programs has an intensive training program for elite and potential elite athletes and supports high performance coaching.

Currently there are over 600 elite athletes receiving support from QAS. The QAS support services include a fully equipped sports science laboratory, state of the art weight training facility, and high tech Information Centre. These are the most advanced of any State Academy in the country. The QAS supports some 200 regional athletes through its 19 Squad Programs and these athletes receive a high level of support from a satellite coaching network.

The primary goal of the QAS is to "promote excellence in sport and enhance Queensland's national and international sporting reputation".

The QAS is funded by the Queensland Government through the Department of Tourism, Sport and Youth—\$2.6 million in the 1995/96 financial year. The Academy also attracts funding of \$500,000 from the Federal Government through the Olympic Athlete Program and other Australian Sports Commission programs, making the total QAS operational budget for the 1995/96 financial year \$3.1 million.

Since its inception in 1991, QAS athletes have achieved outstanding results in a wide range of sports at the highest national and international levels of competition. These performances, many of which have been directly and indirectly attributed to the high level of coaching expertise, sports science support, training and physical preparation and financial assistance/support provided by the QAS, have been accomplished by dedicated and talented Queensland athletes who have chosen to remain at home rather than move interstate to achieve their goals.

Major achievements by QAS assisted athletes to date include:

1992 Olympic Games—QAS athletes won 1 Gold, 4 Silver and 6 Bronze medals.

1994 Commonwealth Games—QAS athletes won 27 Gold, 17 Silver and 11 Bronze medal

Current Commonwealth Games Record Holders—Daniella Costian (Discus), Samantha Riley (Swimming), Kieren Perkins (Swimming)

Current World Record Holders—Samantha Riley (Swimming), Rebecca Brown (Swimming), Kieren Perkins (Swimming)

Current World Champion—Jackie Mengler (K1 Sprint canoeing)

In 1995, QAS supported athletes have also proudly represented their state and nation, with the following highlights:

Netball World Championships

Vicki Wilson—member of World Championship Netball team

Rowing World Championships

Gary Lynagh—6th in lightweight men's quad

Hamish Karrasch—6th in lightweight men's quad

Duncan Free—8th in heavyweight quad

Bo Hansen—8th in heavyweight quad

Kate Deardon—4th in coxless four

Rowing Nations Cup (U23 World Champs)

Ben Cameron—2nd in lightweight 4

Alex Ridgeway—2nd in Lightweight 4

Canoeing World Championships

Katrin Borchert—4th in K1 500m

Anna Wood & Katrin Borchert—7th in K2 500m

Anna Wood—4th in K4 500m

Jacque Mengler—1st in Junior World K1 500m

Athletics World Championships

Joanna Stone—4th in Javelin

Damien Marsh—9th in 100m & 200m; and 2nd in 4x100m relay

Steve Brimacombe—12th in 200m

Daniela Costian—12th in Discus

Pan Pacific Games for Swimming

Ellinora Overton—1st in 200m Individual Medley

Susan O'Neill—1st in 200m Butterfly; and 1st in 4x100m Medley Relay

Kieren Perkins—1st in 1500m Freestyle

Hayley Lewis—1st in 800m Freestyle

Glen Housman—1st in 4x200m Freestyle Relay

Samantha Riley—1st in 200m Breaststroke; and 1st in 4x100m Medley Relay

Gymnastics Junior Pacific Alliance

Rebecca Wilson—2nd in Uneven Bars

Gymnastics World Championships Trials

Lisa Skinner—4th in All Around/(earnt selection for World Championship team)

Rebecca Wilson—11th in All Around

#### 404. Darling Downs Regional Health Authority

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Health—

What plans are there for a reduction of bed numbers at all hospitals within the Southern Sector of the Darling Downs Regional Health Authority?

Answer (Mr Beattie):

The following public hospitals are located in the Southern Sector of the Darling Downs Region: Goondiwindi, Inglewood, Texas, Millmerran, Stanthorpe and Warwick hospitals. These are important hospitals which are all well serving their local communities. The future bed requirements and the role of each hospital is currently being considered within the context of the development of the Darling Downs Regional Health Authority's Regional Services Plan which examines the future needs of the regional population as a whole. These future bed requirements and the role of each hospital is a Regional planning issue.

The Darling Downs Regional Health Authority has submitted its draft Regional Services Plan which forecasts bed requirements for all hospitals in the Region. When finalised, this Plan will indicate whether any changes to bed numbers are necessary. This plan will be considered carefully.

It should be noted that the quality of hospital services are not measured by the number of beds alone. The Government is committed to advancing the health debate beyond the hysteria associated with Opposition claims of bed reductions. The Opposition has tried to use Doctors, Nurses, Allied Health Workers and Health Support Workers as political toys in a cheap bid to win votes. The Government opposes this overtly political strategy which in essence is an attack on Queensland's world class Health Professionals.

This Government is interested in real issues like the quality of care provided to our patients spending time in hospital beds. Health care should be more than the preoccupation with hospital bed numbers the Opposition are so drawn to.

It simply shows the Opposition up to be out of touch with modern hospital treatment trends such as shorter length of stay and the rapid growth in medical technology and day surgery treatment.

#### 405. Timber Industry

Mr J. N. GOSS asked the Premier and Minister for Economic and Trade Development—

Has the Government made any studies on a regional basis of what general socio-economic impacts there would be if a Federal Government's preferred option of preserving 15 per cent of all pre-European forest and woodland cover of all species was implemented; if so, will he table those studies and specifically highlight projected job losses directly in the timber industry and indirectly in affected communities?

Answer (Mr Goss):

In accord with the National Forest Policy Statement, Queensland is considering adoption of nationally agreed criteria for achieving an ecologically viable forest reserve, that is comprehensive, adequate and representative. Queensland and other States have suggested alternative approaches to the Commonwealth's reserve criteria. Within any approach, including the Commonwealth's, there are a variety of options for achieving the outcome. Preliminary modelling of the socio-economic implications of some options is under way but I am advised that no definitive and reliable studies have been produced to date. The socio-economic implications of particular reserve criteria can be meaningfully assessed only in the context of possible options for Commonwealth and State structural adjustment assistance.

#### 407. AUSTA Electric

Mr HARPER asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

With reference to the AUSTA Electric Report for the period January-June 1995 in which the director's

report discloses AUSTA started the period on 1/1/95 with \$2 share capital and \$3,280,511,189 of debt, indicating gross assets of \$3,280,511,191—

How was this figure distributed in turn in the balance sheet categories, especially (a) current assets (i) cash, (ii) receivables, (iii) inventory, (iv) other and (v) total current assets and (b) non-current assets (i) receivables, (ii) property, plant and equipment, (iii) other and (iv) total non-current assets?

Answer (Mr McGrady):

The amount of \$3,280,511,191 represents the net assets of the Generation Business Unit of QEC which existed as at 31 December 1994 i.e., total assets minus total liabilities. This figure was distributed in the balance sheet categories as follows:

	\$
(a) Current assets	
(i) Cash	113,041,771
(ii) Receivables	12,734,225
(iii) Inventories	29,533,239
(iv) Other	3,000,705
(v) Total current assets	158,309,940
(b) Non-current assets	
(i) Receivables	13,948,669
(ii) Property, plant and equipment	4,138,170,475
(iii) Other	—
(iv) Total non-current assets	4,152,119,144
(c) Total Assets	4,310,429,084
(d) Current Liabilities	
(i) Creditors	52,276,122
(ii) Borrowings	31,265,458
(iii) Provisions	76,147,995
(iv) Other	15,420,328
(v) Total current liabilities	175,109,903
(e) Non-Current Liabilities	
(i) Borrowings	789,060,323
(ii) Provisions	24,207,568
(iii) Other	41,540,099
(iv) Total non-current liabilities	854,807,990
(f) Total Liabilities	1,029,917,893
(g) Net Assets	3,280,511,191

**409. Computer-aided Dispatch System, Ambulance Service**

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Consumer Affairs—

With reference to a computerised dispatch system called Intergraph which has been used by the ambulance service in Victoria and has been blamed for several communication and dispatch malfunctions and, in some cases, blamed for fatalities—

Is the computer-aided dispatch system being adopted by the Queensland Ambulance Service

based on Intergraph; if so, has it been amended in a way to ensure the same dispatch problems are not incurred in Queensland and is he totally satisfied this computerised system can provide an efficient fault-free service?

Answer (Mr Davies):

The Member for Western Downs' question is a valid one, for it shows the negative impact on an ambulance service following privatization which the Opposition supports.

The computer aided dispatch system is being implemented by Queensland Emergency Services, not Queensland Ambulance Service. Mr Littleproud should already know that the proposed CAD system is for both fire and ambulance from the Estimates Debates (PPS P.31) or maybe he was asleep during the discussions.

Queensland Emergency Services is in the process of finalising the successful consortia to supply Queensland Emergency Services with a computer aided dispatch system.

Queensland Emergency Services has stringently defined the requirements for the safety critical computer aided dispatch system and the successful consortium will have a contractual obligation to vigorously meet these requirements. The requirements have been developed by operational, technical and management personnel of both the Queensland Ambulance Service and Queensland Fire Service.

The selected computer aided dispatch system must be able to provide the high level of safety and fault tolerance required by Queensland Emergency Services and the system will not be introduced until it has been thoroughly tested in all operational respects.

**410. Greyhound Racing Authority; Metropolitan Club**

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

With reference to the 1995 Annual Report of the Greyhound Racing Authority—

- (1) Did the Metropolitan Club, since closed down by the authority with the approval of the Minister, have the third highest prizemoney distribution of \$597,651 in 1994-95, an increase on the previous year of 11.09 per cent?
- (2) Did the Metropolitan Club make the third highest contribution to the authority of \$43,348 by way of reimbursement for services provided and for licence fees?
- (3) Did the Metropolitan Club have no outstanding debts to the authority on 30 June 1995?
- (4) Does he believe that the forced closure of the Metropolitan Club at Lawnton in Pine Rivers Shire, resulting in a complete lack of any racing facility between Albion Park and Bundaberg, meets the authority's strategic plan, "Towards 2000", which according to the annual report "promotes the three strategic objectives

developed through consultation with key industry stakeholders”?

Answer (Mr Gibbs):

1. The Metropolitan Greyhound Racing Club (MGRC) had an increase in distribution, including incentives, to \$596,589 in 1994-95, a rise over 1993-94 of 9.6%.

The club had the second highest distribution and the fourth highest incentives in 1994-95.

However TAB distributions, including incentive payments, are used for prizemoney not income of a club and therefore do not influence the profitability of the club's operations.

2. In 1994-95 the MGRC contributed to the GRA a total of \$43,348 by way of fees and levies. Of the fourteen greyhound racing clubs, this amount was the fourth highest club contribution made to the GRA.

3. No.

4. The decision on the closure of the MGRC at Lawnton supports the three objectives of the industry's strategic plan to which Mr Cooper refers.

Firstly, the strategic plan aims to improve the image of greyhound racing so that it is appealing to the general public. The MGRC did not provide the services and facilities which promote and improve the image of greyhound racing, nor did the facilities encourage the general public to visit this race track.

Secondly, the strategic plan aims to ensure the provision of a quality product by an industry which is economically viable. The Authority had been concerned with the financial viability of the MGRC following the tabling of financial budgets which detailed losses in 1992-93 and 1993-94. Further, although the financial statements of the club revealed an operating profit of \$99,159 for 1994-95, this was achieved by raising revenue from owners and/or trainers through nomination fees and starting fees. Had these contributions not been made, the club would have sustained a loss for the year. A loss in 1995-96 was also expected despite any continuing contributions from owners and trainers.

The bi-weekly race meetings now being staged at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club offer economies of scale in the utilisation of this superb facility. Sky channel coverage for the Wednesday night race meetings further enhances the image of greyhound racing in this state further supporting the industry's strategic plan.

Finally, the strategic plan aims to establish programs that will develop a professional industry. The Authority's resolution on the MGRC was dependent on it receiving assurance from the Minister for racing that the Tab distribution for the MGRC would be retained within the greyhound code, thereby supporting such programs in steering the code towards greater professionalism.

With respect to the alleged lack of racing facilities following the closure of the MGRC, I refer to the additional 39 races now programmed at Ipswich and to the point that participants on the northside

regularly access Albion Park, only 30 minutes from Lawnton, two nights per week for prizemoney totalling around \$2.8 million.

#### 411. Public Trustee Conveyancing Services

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Family and Community Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Status Of Women—

With reference to the operations of the Public Trustee which for all of its 78-year history offered commercially competitive conveyancing services for the commercial programs of the office, the Government and the community in general and to a Cabinet decision in March 1995 which removed from the operations of the Public Trustee all conveyancing—

Will she explain precisely why this community service obligation previously provided by the Public Trustee to the people of Queensland was terminated as a result of this Cabinet decision?

Answer (Mrs Woodgate):

I refer the Honourable member to the media release of 6 March 1995 by the then Attorney-General Dean Wells in which he announced that the Public Trustee would withdraw from public conveyancing in order to create a more competitive market place.

The announcement by Mr Wells explained in precise details the reasons for the decision by the government. At that time the Minister clearly indicated that the Public Trustee would only withdraw from public conveyancing, and not all conveyancing as suggested by the Honourable Member.

I would like to assure the people of Queensland that the Public Trustee of Queensland has continued to provide a quality conveyancing service to those groups outlined in the media release of 6 March 1995, namely, conveyancing associated with deceased estates, trusts and protective management, and government conveyancing.

As to the government removing a community service obligation previously provided by the Public Trustee it should be noted that conveyancing service providers compete in a highly competitive market. The very existence of a competitive market, with many players providing services to the general public clearly indicates that the provision of conveyancing services by government to the general public should not be considered a community service obligation. Indeed, the Public Trustee does not list conveyancing services to the general public in its annual reports as a community service obligation.

In contrast, the conveyancing the Public Trustee conducts on behalf of deceased estate and trust clients, many of which in themselves constitute a community service obligation, continue to be provided by the Public Trust Office. The government has clearly not removed all conveyancing services, or any associated community service obligation to this client group.

**415. Timber Industry**

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

Is he planning to take a submission to Cabinet in the near future on timber industry issues and, specifically in this regard, will this submission recommend any fixed percentage of pre-European forest and woodland cover be preserved; if so, what fixed percentage is favoured by him?

Answer (Mr Gibbs):

Yes. I will be bringing a submission to Cabinet in the near future in conjunction with the Honourable Tom Barton, Minister for Environment and Heritage, dealing with important aspects of forest policy.

The Queensland Government is firmly committed to comprehensively conserving Queensland's forests, at the same time providing planning certainty to Queensland's Native Forest based timber industry.

Queensland is presently negotiating with the Commonwealth at officials level on the scope of a joint forest assessment and planning process—a Regional Forest Agreement for South East Queensland. In order that these negotiations can be finalised I need the support of my Cabinet colleagues on reservation criteria to be used.

I will not speculate about the outcome of this Cabinet consideration. Members can be assured however that once Cabinet has established a position on reservation criteria I will make an announcement.

**417. Corporatisation of Queensland Railways and Queensland Electricity Commission**

Mrs SHELDON asked the Treasurer—

With reference to the corporatisation of Queensland Railways and the Queensland Electricity Commission—

In the six months prior to the date of corporatisation and the six months following the date of corporatisation of these entities, were there any transfers of cash or financial assets or liabilities between these entities and other departments or agencies in the general Government sector or the accounts of these departments or agencies held within the Queensland Treasury Corporation; if so, (a) what were the nature of these transfers, (b) how much were they for, (c) what form of assets or liabilities were transferred, (d) to or from which departments or agencies and (e) when were the transfers affected and for what purposes?

Answer (Mr De Lacy):

The Honourable the Member's question is worded in such broad terms that it is difficult to provide a meaningful and focussed answer. Given the nature and substance of QR and the electricity industry, a literal interpretation of the question would result in reference to a myriad of normal day-to-day transactions which are impracticable to detail in this answer. In the absence of a specific reference to a particular transaction, I shall confine my answer to the more significant transactions involved in the

corporatisation process which I think is the objective of the Honourable the Member's question.

Electricity Industry

The electricity industry's financial performance in the 6 months to 31 December 1994 ie. the 6 months preceding corporatisation on 1 January 1995 is reflected in the final Annual Report of the Queensland Electricity Commission. Tax equivalent payments of \$50 Million and dividends of \$67.5 Million are due to be paid to the Consolidated Fund in respect of the 6 months to 31 December 1994 by 30 November 1995.

The Electricity Industry was corporatised on 1 January 1995. The new statutory GOCs created out of the former Queensland Electricity Commission and statutory bodies comprise the Queensland Generation Corporation (QGC) and the Queensland Transmission and Supply Corporation (QTSC) and its 8 subsidiaries. Regulatory functions previously performed by QEC became the responsibility of the Department of Minerals and Energy.

The consideration for the net assets acquired by the corporations from QEC and existing statutory bodies on 1 January 1995 was a debt owed to shareholding Ministers.

The corporations underwent a capital restructuring on 3 March 1995 under which a portion of the debt to shareholding Ministers was converted to equity, with the remainder becoming permanent debt owed to the QTC. This capital restructuring was necessary to implement a commercial capital structure for the new corporatised electricity bodies.

The new electricity corporations were established with a conservative gearing ratio of 33 per cent (debt:debt plus equity). This was accomplished by shareholding Ministers assigning \$1.4B of the debt owed to them, to QTC in consideration of QTC cancelling \$1.4B of debt owed to QTC by the State.

In other words, the transfer merely represented a reallocation of State debt and the total level of State debt remained unchanged.

An important aspect of corporatisation is the explicit funding of Community Service Obligations from the State Budget. In the 6 months following the date of corporatisation, CSOs' payments from the Consolidated Fund through the Department of Minerals and Energy and the Department of Family Services to QTSC comprised:

\$35 Million for Statewide uniform retail electricity tariff schedules;

\$12.065 Million for pensioner/senior electricity rebates; and

\$3 Million for inspections and other regulatory functions on behalf of the Government.

Queensland Rail

Queensland Rail was corporatised on 1 July 1995.

The major financial transactions that took place in the six months prior to corporatisation were:

community service obligation (CSOS') payments from Government to Queensland Railways covering the cash operating costs of

social services that Government required Queensland Railways to perform (\$108.756 million during the six month period);

the social capital program through which Government provides funds to Queensland Railways for investment in infrastructure required for the provision of social services (\$81.8 million during the six month period); and

payment from Queensland Railways to Government of excess coal freight amounts collected by Queensland Railways (\$117.502 million during the six month period).

The corporatisation process provides for the sale of the assets and liabilities of Queensland Railways (the previous entity) to Queensland Rail (the corporatised entity). The difference between the two (net assets) is currently treated as a debt to shareholding Ministers, which will be exchanged for equity during the 1995/96 financial year.

Post corporatisation, Queensland Rail will continue to pay to Government excess coal freight amounts (estimated to be \$138.305 million during the six month period following corporatisation). However, in order to replicate an arm's length purchase of Government's required social services from Queensland Rail, the arrangements regarding payment of CSOs and social capital have changed significantly.

CSOS' payments will reflect the full cost, including capital costs, associated with CSOS' provision, rather than simply the cash operating costs. As such, Government will no longer directly provide funding for the social capital program (as the CSOS' payment will incorporate the costs of the investment). However, Government will provide equity injections where necessary in order to provide Queensland Rail with the capacity to fund the investment.

The final amounts of the CSOS' payments and equity injections will be finalised as part of the mid-year Budget Review and, as such, cannot yet be stated with certainty.

#### 430. Mr B. Read

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to the appointment of Mr Bruce Read to the position of Co-ordinator, Centre Operations, Sir Leslie Wilson Youth Detention Centre and as I have been informed that Mr Read was involved in an incident whilst employed by the Corrective Services Commission in 1991—

Will he fully explain the details of the incident Mr Read was involved in and describe precisely what disciplinary action, if any, was initiated against Mr Read as a consequence of this incident?

Answer (Mr Braddy):

Mr Read was employed by the QCSC for the period 23 January 1989 to 28 September 1991.

In 1991 he was employed as the Manager, Operations, Moreton Correctional Centre.

On 9 July 1991 a number of prisoners escaped from Moreton Correctional Centre.

The incident was investigated by Inspectors appointed under Section 27 of the Corrective Services Act 1988 to inquire into the circumstances surrounding the incident.

During this investigation, Mr Read and other senior officers from Moreton Correctional Centre and the Custodial Corrections directorate of the QCSC were stood aside until the investigation was concluded.

A full report into all the circumstances surrounding the incident was made to the QCSC.

As a result of the investigation report, no disciplinary action was taken against Mr Read or any other officer involved in the incident.

Subsequently the QCSC implemented changes to the organisational arrangements in the Custodial Correctional directorate and made some associated staff changes. As a result the QCSC terminated the employment of a number of contract staff, including Mr Read, under the general termination provisions of their contracts.

#### 439. Queensland Treasury Corporation

Dr WATSON asked the Treasurer—

With reference to the 1994-95 Annual Report of the Queensland Treasury Corporation (QTC) and to the section of the report titled "Notes to and Forming Part of the Accounts" and, in particular, to Note 37—

- (1) For which Government Owned Corporation did QTC act?
- (2) What assets were involved in the sale and leaseback arrangements?
- (3) What are the dollar amounts for each aspect of the transactions for each asset involved?
- (4) What are the length of the leases?
- (5) What was the date on which each transaction was completed?

Answer (Mr De Lacy):

(1) The Government Owned Corporation was Queensland Rail.

(2) The assets were rollingstock.

(3)& (5) The transaction dates and approximate transaction size (ie. value of the rollingstock) were as follows:

July 1994	\$282Million
September 1994	\$169Million
December 1994	\$ 88Million
December 1994	\$ 81Million
March 1995	\$343Million
March 1995	\$296Million

(4) The lease terms varied up to approximately 16 years.

**444. Police Resources, Toowong**

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to his frequent statement that there are 1,500 more operational police under his Government—

- (1) How does he explain the reduction in recent months of 78 police from the Brisbane North Region and a consequential reduction in the Toowong Cluster Police District?
- (2) Where are the additional 1,500 operational police stationed?

Answer (Mr Braddy):

(1) In April 1994, the Queensland Police Service approved a policy for the management and control of its establishment strength. The authorised strength of Regions throughout the State was determined as part of this policy. In determining Regional authorised strengths, consideration was given to maintaining the levels of service being provided at that time. It was therefore decided that Regional authorised strengths would not drop below the then actual strength of 5,101 officers. The Service's Resource Allocation Model was then applied to this figure. This Model takes into account such factors as Regional crime trends, traffic offence levels and demographic characteristics, and ensures an equitable distribution of resources Statewide. The application of this Model to the Metropolitan North Police Region resulted in a reduction in that Region's authorised strength from 950 to 873 officers.

The staffing level of the Toowong Division is maintained in accordance with the Division's authorised strength. In relation to specific staffing changes in the Toowong Division, the authorised strength changed from 68 to 57 officers. This was achieved without any reduction to the level of service provided within the Division. This is reflected in the Metropolitan North Police Region's crime statistics. The incidence of Crimes against the Person were reduced by 8%, while Property Crime fell by 10%. Total Homicide dropped 20%, Assaults dropped 5%, Sexual Offences were down 39%, Break and Entering was reduced by 20% and Fraud fell by 37%.

(2) At 1 November 1995, actual police staffing comprised of 6,360 officers, compared with an approved level of 6,340 officers. Of the 6,360 officers, some 90% (5,727 officers) are assigned to operational functions. The operational strength of the Service is now more than 1,600 officers greater than in December 1989. This increase is due to both net additions to approved police numbers and to civilianisation of various police positions during the period.

Comparison of operational numbers in specific Regions/Districts is extremely difficult due to changes in boundaries, regionalisation and restructuring which have occurred during the period. Actual Regional staffing however has increased by 1,270 officers since December 1989 (around 98% of Regional staff are operational). The remaining 330 or so of the total increase in operational police can be

attributed to operational functions in non-regional settings (e.g. Criminal Investigation Branch, Bureau of Criminal Intelligence Queensland, and the Police Prosecution Corps).

**448. Police Staffing Review**

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

- (1) What time frame has been set for the review of the police staffing model?
- (2) What rationale was used for the decision that the model be reviewed by its creator?
- (3) Why wasn't the review carried out by an experienced panel of people with experience not only in administration, but also in practical police work?

Answer (Mr Braddy):

(1-3) The Queensland Police Service has no plans to conduct a review of the basic tenets of the Regional Allocation Model. The Model allocates staff on the basis of comparisons of the crime statistics, population, traffic accidents and the service delivery and support requirements of each division and district throughout the State. The factors upon which the model is based were the subject of extensive consultation with senior police officers in regional areas prior to its introduction.

The Model is presently being updated with current statistical data for each region. It is expected that this will be completed by mid to late December.

Any changes to the operation of the model or allocations made under the model are reviewed and approved by the Service's Board of Management which includes the Commissioner, the Deputy Commissioner, a regional Assistant Commissioner and the Executive Director, Corporate Services.

Regional Assistant Commissioners have the authority to vary, within their regional allocation, the approved strength of any division or district where they consider it necessary to meet operational or local requirements.

**449. Basketball Courts, Redlands Electorate**

Mr HEGARTY asked the Premier and Minister for Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to statements by him and his Ministers that all election promises will be kept—

- (1) Will he honour the promise made by the former Member for Redlands to fund the provision of half court basketball courts constructed by the Redlands Shire Council in a letter from Mr Budd dated 19 June to the Chief Executive Officer, Redlands Shire Council, which states "I was successful in obtaining funding of \$40,000 being for half court basketball courts from the Queensland Government Gaming Machine Facilities Scheme."?
- (2) As the Redlands Shire Council has constructed the courts in good faith on the understanding that a former member of his Government has



committed to providing funds, will he now reimburse the council's costs?

Answer (Mr Goss):

I refer the member to the answer provided by the Minister for Environment and Heritage on 17th November, 1995 in response to a question asked by Mr Lingard in Parliament.

#### 456. Diversionary Centre, Rockhampton

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Family and Community Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Status of Women—

What progress is being made to construct a Diversionary Centre in Rockhampton?

Answer (Mrs Woodgate):

In response to the question made by Mr Schwarten, I can advise as follows:

Plans for the Diversionary Centre have now been completed, and Project Services Central Queensland are currently preparing contract documentation for the centre. This will be completed by mid December 1995 and public tenders called for the construction of the Centre in January 1996.

Tender assessment and contract signings will be completed by the end of February 1996 and construction is intended to commence in early March 1996. It is anticipated that the Centre will be completed by the end of June 1996 and be fully operational by July 1996.

The Centre will have 15 beds to cater for 10 male and 5 female clients in separate dormitory style accommodation and will operate 7 days per week, 24 hours per day.

The Centre will provide an alternative to the Police watch-house for the detention and care of intoxicated persons. The Centre will be open to Indigenous and Non-indigenous clients who are detained by the Police for public drunkenness, assessed as a risk to themselves or others as a consequence of their inebriated state, and prepared to voluntarily admit themselves.

The Centre will provide a safe and caring environment in a non-custodial setting, with particular attention to the supervision and care of intoxicated persons. This will include meal provision, routine health assessment, and referral to alcohol counselling and rehabilitation services.

#### 461. Sewage Treatment Works

Mrs McCAULEY asked the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Rural Communities, Minister for Rural Communities and Minister for Provision of Infrastructure for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities—

With reference to the State Government's election promise of funding a nutrient-extraction upgrade of councils' sewerage treatment works throughout the State to bring them into line with requirements of the Environment and Heritage Department—

- (1) When will councils be able to access this funding?
- (2) Does he have to amend legislation before this scheme can become operational?

Answer (Mr Mackenroth):

(1) The funding is being provided under the Queensland Nutrient-Removal Infrastructure Program (QNIP). Guidelines and Administrative Arrangements for QNIP are expected to be finalised and distributed to Local Governments in the near future. Local Governments will then be invited to apply for funding under QNIP. Assistance will be provided on nutrient-removal expenditures incurred from 1 July 1995.

(2) No legislative changes will need to occur to accommodate QNIP. The arrangements will simply complement those applying to the existing Local Bodies Capital Works Subsidy Scheme.

#### 465. Land Tax

Mrs SHELDON asked the Treasurer—

- (1) What has been the average total change in the valuation of Queensland properties since the last time the Land Tax threshold was increased in 1991?
- (2) What has been the average annual change in each financial year?
- (3) By what amount would the current Land Tax threshold have to be increased to equal the proportional change in average valuations since 1991?
- (4) What would be the estimated cost to Consolidated Fund revenue for a full year of such an increase in the Land Tax threshold?

Answer (Mr De Lacy):

(1) Firstly, "threshold" is inaccurate in the case of individuals because the scheme of the legislation is to provide them with a deduction of a statutory amount (currently \$160,000) as well as deductions for a principal place of residence and for land used for certain specified uses. Because the Commissioner has discretion to refrain from levying an amount less than \$100, individuals do not receive land tax assessments unless their land is valued at \$179,143 or over after all deductions. Absentees pay land tax on the whole value of land valued at \$40,000 or over, and trustees and companies on the value of land valued at \$60,000 or over.

Secondly, there is an incorrect premise in the question that thresholds were only increased in 1991. The deduction for individuals and the threshold for absentees, trustees and companies were increased from 1990/91 and 1991/92 and the threshold for trustees and companies by a further 50% to \$60,000 from 1995/96.

Between 30 June 1991 and 30 June 1995, an increase in the total unimproved value of all rateable land of \$25.4B occurred. This represented a 39.8% increase on 1991 values. Land values do not increase evenly throughout the State. Some districts significantly increase in value while others have

stable or declining values. For example, in 1994, values in the towns of Dalby and Warwick increased by an average 51.84% and 43.03% respectively, while values in the shires of Paroo and Murweh fell by an average 27.15% and 12.06%.

(2) The total unimproved value of taxable land decreased by \$355M or 0.5% in the financial year 1992/93. In the financial year 1993/94 values increased by \$12.4B (19.5%), in 1994/95 values increased by \$4.7B (6.2%), and in 1995/96 values increased by \$8.7B (10.8%).

(3) I have interpreted this question as requiring that the percentage increase in land values be applied to the thresholds.

In the 1991/92 financial year (to which I have taken 1991 to refer), the statutory deduction for individuals was \$160,000 and \$40,000 for absentees, trustees and companies. If changes in thresholds followed changes in valuations since those effective 30 June 1991, current deduction for an individual would increase to \$223,651, and thresholds for an absentee, trustee or company reduce to \$55,913.

(4) Implicit in the question is the assumption that movements in annual land values impact on land tax revenue to the same extent. That is not correct. (The reasons for this are that (i) value increases refer to all rateable land rather than merely the taxable land for land tax purposes, (ii) the progressive scale of land tax rates for property up to \$1.5M in value affects the calculation and most importantly (iii) land in Brisbane and the Gold Coast account for the majority of the taxable value and the tax collections.) It should be noted that cuts in land tax rates, and an increase in the value at which the maximum rate becomes payable from \$750,000 to \$1.5M, were made in 1990/91 and 1991/92. In the period from 1991/92 to 1994/95 when values increased by 26.2%, land tax revenue fell by 13.9% from \$228.06M to \$196.44M. Land tax revenue for 1995/96 is estimated at \$204M which does not reflect the 10.8% increase in the State's land values. Changes to land tax deductions and thresholds, and related costings, are matters which would need to be considered in the normal Budget context.

#### 469. Poker Machines

Mr LAMING asked the Treasurer—

With reference to his answer to my Question (No. 32 on 12 September 1995) regarding poker machines—

Has the Government given any consideration to amending the licensing arrangements for poker machines in some clubs so that more of the funds invested are retained by the clubs?

Answer (Mr De Lacy):

Gaming machines have been in operation in Queensland since February 1992 and were primarily introduced to assist the struggling club industry. In respect of Mr Laming's concerns regarding returns of machines and the financial position of clubs, it must be remembered that the 236 machines returned from clubs and hotels in 1994/95 represented only 1.3% of the total number of machines in operation at that time.

In addition, the Government recently announced a review of all aspects of gaming machine regulation in Queensland which will be presented in the form of a White Paper. Notwithstanding this review, the introduction of gaming machines has been a huge success, particularly for the club industry, which has developed from a position of financial crisis to the highly competitive, highly successful industry that exists today.

Clubs and hotels have benefited to the extent of \$700 million (as at 30.9.95) and this is reflected in major capital works and increased employment, both directly and indirectly as the economic benefits have flowed on. In addition, a survey undertaken by the Queensland Office of Gaming Regulation (in August 1995) revealed that building projects completed, in progress, or planned for club and hotel sites totalled in excess of \$500 million.

As market forces come into play, a minor re-allocation of machines (1.3%) by marginal sites to a more sustainable number is immaterial in comparison to the overall benefits now enjoyed by the club industry.

#### 476. Police Resources, Logan Electorate

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to a Government media statement dated 18 November 1994, entitled "Police To Consider Boost for Logan", which was issued after a meeting he held with the Premier and five other Labor members of Parliament to discuss the need for extra police in the Logan District—

- (1) As that statement quoted him as saying he "would discuss the issue with senior police as soon as possible to see what could be done for the Logan area", did he seek any report from or issue any direction to the Police Service in relation to the matter raised by this deputation?
- (2) If any such report was requested or direction issued by him, why wasn't it recorded in the 1994 "Register of Reports and Recommendations to the Minister and Ministerial Directions 1994" as required by Section 4.7(1) of the Police Service Administration Act 1990?
- (3) Given that the then Acting Police Minister, Mr Gibbs, announced on 4 January 1995 that 22 police would be transferred to the Logan District as a result of this deputation, will he explain how the police model to determine staffing levels was employed on this specific occasion?
- (4) If the police model to determine staffing was not used on this specific occasion, will he concede that these extra Logan Police were appointed simply on the basis of the case presented by the deputation?
- (5) If the police model to determine staffing was used on this specific occasion, will he explain why his administration is so woefully deficient that it took a deputation to him headed by the

Premier to alert the service to this deficiency and to obtain remedial action?

- (6) Is he confident that the requirements of the police model to determine staffing are now being met in all police districts?

Answer (Mr Braddy):

(1) Briefing reports were requested and received from the Police Service, but no direction was issued.

(2) The reports did not qualify under the Police Service Administration Act 1990 for recording in the Register kept by the Commissioner under section 4.7(1) of that Act.

(3-5) The Allocation Model is the primary basis for determining the number of positions to be allocated to a Division or District. The Acting Minister's statement dealt only with a decision by the Queensland Police Service to transfer a number of individual officers to the Logan area to fill vacancies that then existed.

(6) Yes. The Queensland Police Service has identified future requirements, both in terms of police numbers and capital works, for the next ten years. In the recent election the Government agreed to fulfil all requests by the Police in the "Towards the 21st Century: Resource Priorities for the Queensland Police Service" document. Subject to normal vacancies arising through promotions, transfers, resignations, retirements and other factors, it is highly likely that staffing levels in the most Districts will be maintained at the authorised levels determined by the Allocation Model.

#### 477. Richlands East Primary School

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Administrative Services—

With reference to his recent visit to the Richlands East Primary School in the Inala electorate—

- (1) Will he assure the Parents and Citizens Association, teachers and students that their concerns will be heeded?
- (2) Will he outline a timetable of maintenance, replacement of classroom furniture, provision of a sunshade for the pre-school centre and the construction of a new administration block?
- (3) Will he make representations to the Minister for Employment and Training for the use of the tennis and basketball courts situated on the Richlands High TAFE site by the students of Richlands East Primary School?

Answer (Mr Milliner):

1. I assure the Member for Inala that my Department will endeavour to assist the school with the maintenance items identified during the visit. Please refer to the following information in relation to those items.

In terms of the Minor Works and Capital Works items mentioned, these are the responsibility of the Department of Education, and consequently should be referred to the Minister for Education for consideration.

2. With reference to items requiring attention at the Richlands East State School, as identified during our visit on 10 November 1995, the following is advised:

Repairs/replacement of classroom furniture—

My Q-Build Regional Manager has arranged for the Principal to conduct an audit and provide a list of furniture the school requires. Q-Build will then arrange for an order for delivery prior to the commencement of the 1996 School Year

Trimming of trees to the eastern boundary—

I understand that Q-Build were to conduct an inspection on 24 November 1995 and will carry out work as required.

Leaking Toilet—

Q-Build has inspected this item and has advised that the water is leaking from the toilet cistern overflow not the urinal. The repairs were scheduled to be completed by week ending 24 November 1995.

Tuckshop repairs—

Wall sheeting to the front of the tuckshop will be carried out over the December school holidays.

Shade structure to Pre-School Centre—

The Department of Education does not have a policy of providing shade to Pre-schools except in the case of covering playground equipment. It appears this relates to the nature of the facilities, the activities undertaken and the limited time the students are in attendance. Consequently, I am unable to assist in this regard and I suggest that the school refer the matter to the Minister for Education.

The construction of an Administration Block—

This project is a Capital Works item, the program for which is administered by the Department of Education.

Covered Walkway and drinking troughs—

These projects are Minor Works items, the program for which is administered by the Department of Education. However, I understand that Q-Build will be consulting with Regional Education on this matter.

Replacement of Carpet—

I understand that the carpets in Rooms 28, 29 and 30 will be replaced in January 1996 under the 1995/96 Asset Maintenance Program.

External painting of Assembly Hall—

This item is programmed on the 1995/96 Asset Maintenance Program for completion in July 1996.

External Repainting Block "B" -

This will be completed in July 1996 under the 1995/96 Annual Maintenance Program.

Repairs to Boundary Fence—

This item has also been included in the 1995/96 Annual Maintenance Program for completion in May 1996.

Remove louvre frames and install Zed Purlins to Tuckshop area, Block D—

This item has been approved and it is anticipated that the works will be completed prior to the commencement of the 1996 school year.

Painting of toilets block and repairs to walls—

This item is included in the Annual Maintenance Program for commencement in July 1996.

3. The matter of the use of the tennis and basketball courts, situated on the Richlands High TAFE site, has been referred to the Office of the Minister for Employment and Training for consideration.

#### 478. Rental Bonds

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Rural Communities, Minister for Rural Communities and Minister for Provision of Infrastructure for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities—

How many rental bond refunds which are obtained by the authority after people who have been assisted with a rental bond, leave premises?

Answer (Mr Mackenroth):

Having considered the question both myself and my Department are perplexed as to its meaning. The Table Office in Parliament House has confirmed that there was no transcribing error in the publication of the question on notice.

On this basis, I cannot answer the question as it does not make sense. If Mr Connor clarifies exactly what information he wishes to obtain I will be happy to assist him.

During the last week of Parliament, the House consistently sat late into the night. I excuse the Member for the poor wording of his question as these late nights have obviously taken their toll on his thought processes.

#### 489. Tallebudgera Fitness Camp

Mr VEIVERS asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for Tourism, Sport and Youth—

- (1) When will the upgrading of the Tallebudgera Fitness Camp be completed?
- (2) Is he aware that the former Minister, The Honourable R J Gibbs, promised an upgrading of this complex five and a half years ago at a cost, quoted at that time, of \$13m?
- (3) Is this another empty promise resulting from the situation in Mundingburra or will we see a genuine effort to upgrade this camp for the benefit of all young Queenslanders?

Answer (Mr Burns):

In response to the specific questions asked by Mr Veivers I can advise as follows:

(1) As part of this Government's election commitment, \$100,000 was set aside to conduct a feasibility study to determine the viability of redeveloping the Government's Tallebudgera Recreation Camp as a facility of international standard for athlete training and the delivery of outdoor activity-based programs.

This Government has moved quickly in addressing that commitment with expressions of interest being

sought from six consultants considered to have the skills to undertake the project. These expressions of interest closed on Tuesday, 14 November 1995, with a consultant to be appointed by the end of November 1995 and the final report being due for consideration in March 1996.

Should the report indicate that the proposed redevelopment is viable, then this Government will consider the staging of the proposed project over a two year period, commencing in the 1996 financial year.

(2) As Minister, I am fully aware of the redevelopment submissions which have been considered by my parliamentary colleague, the Honourable R J Gibbs MLA. I would point out that while redevelopment options have been considered, the funding of the proposed project has had to be considered and balanced against other Queensland State Government funding priorities. I would also point out that the proposal is for the camp to be redeveloped to improve facilities for traditional clients and also to provide an elite athlete training centre. This combination has not been considered in previous submissions. Costs for various redevelopment proposals of Tallebudgera have varied from \$23 million to \$13 million and \$9 million respectively. The cost of redevelopment under the current proposal is yet to be finalised.

(3) The upgrading of Tallebudgera Recreation Camp must be balanced against the economic cost and the social benefits derived from community participation. I can assure the Member for Southport that this Government is genuine in its effort to upgrade the facility for young Queenslanders and that a thorough assessment of the facility's capabilities will be undertaken prior to the commitment of taxpayers money. There are many camps and other proposed facilities throughout the State that must receive serious consideration. It is the intent of this Government that any redevelopment of Tallebudgera will be for the benefit of the broader Queensland community.

#### 492. Personal Injury Claim, Administrative Services Department

Mr RADKE asked the Minister for Administrative Services—

With reference to the operations of Q-Fleet within the Administrative Services Department and to a personal injury claim for \$200,000 which has been lodged with the District Court—

Will he supply full and complete details concerning this particular personal injury claim and outline what preventative action has been undertaken to ensure a similar claim is not brought against the department in the future?

Answer (Mr Milliner):

A personal injuries action has been commenced in the District Court.

The State is defending the action through the Crown Solicitor. Details cannot be provided as they are the subject of current legal proceedings.

#### 495. Amalgamation of Ipswich City and Boonah Shire

Mr FITZGERALD asked the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Rural Communities, Minister for Rural Communities and Minister for Provision of Infrastructure for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities—

In view of the strong support by the citizens in the southern section of Ipswich City to be relocated from Ipswich City to Boonah Shire, will he now give a reference to the Local Government Commissioner to investigate the boundaries of Ipswich City and Boonah Shire?

Answer (Mr Mackenroth):

The reference given to the Local Government Commissioner last year to examine, report and make recommendations in respect of the areas of the City of Ipswich and the Shire of Moreton allowed the Commissioner to consider appropriate changes to the external boundaries of the amalgamated City and the Shire of Boonah.

The Local Government Commissioner's Report states consideration was given to transferring some of the southern areas such as Peak Crossing, Harrisville, Warrill View and Rosevale to the Shire of Boonah. The Report indicated if these areas were to be transferred there would be a significant financial impact on the Shire of Boonah. The Commissioner considered the costs of servicing these new areas would necessitate an across the board rate increase on all residents in the Shire of Boonah and recommended against the transfer of these areas.

As the Commissioner has just examined this matter I do not believe it would be appropriate to consider a further review unless both local governments request it.

#### 496. Police Rostering

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to his claims in the *Courier-Mail* of 14 November 1994 that extra police would be "on the streets within two to three weeks" following his talks with the Police Union about rosters and that "Hopefully we can have new rosters in place before the end of the month"—

- (1) Was this promised timetable kept?
- (2) Did it take until 27 May 1995, more than five months later, for the new flexible rostering procedures to be implemented and did the Police Deputy Commissioner, Mr Bill Aldrich, in his memorandum of 18 July 1995 effectively describe the implementation of flexible rostering as a failure?
- (3) Does he now acknowledge that his promise of November 1994 was a deliberate misleading of the people of Queensland or does he, in retrospect, now acknowledge that the months of delay prior to even the failed implementation was the result of a shoddy and ramshackle administration?

Answer (Mr Braddy):

(1) & (3) No promises were made. The Member is misrepresenting me and I table the article.

(2) The Member's question was answered in my response to Question on Notice number 278.

#### 497. Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Premier and Minister for Economic and Trade Development—

Will he provide details of advance bookings for functions, exhibitions and conventions secured for the remainder of 1995, 1996 and 1997 at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre?

Answer (Mr Goss):

The Brisbane Exhibition and Convention Centre is managed by Convex (Qld) Pty Ltd. Advance bookings for events at the Centre are categorised according to the status of the booking—tentative, transitional or confirmed.

A tentative booking is a booking placed to tentatively secure dates. A transitional booking is a booking confirming dates for an event but awaiting the drafting of a contract. A confirmed booking is a booking secured by a signed contract and the receipt of a deposit.

Information on advance bookings are recorded on a financial year basis. The following details are provided in respect of the number and status of advance bookings as at 1 November 1995 for the financial years of 1995/96, 1996/97 and 1997/98. For the period from 1 July 1995 to 30 June 1996, there is a total of 238 advance bookings (77 tentative, 82 transitional, 79 confirmed). For the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997, there is a total of 178 advance bookings (110 tentative, 55 transitional, 13 confirmed). For the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998, there is a total of 83 advance bookings (56 tentative, 25 transitional, 2 confirmed).

#### 498. Escape of Mr R. Bouchardt from Rockhampton Correctional Centre

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to the recent escape of Rodney William Bouchardt from the high security compound of the Rockhampton Correctional Centre—

- (1) For what reason/s were custodial staff, the dog squad specifically, directed not to attend and investigate?
- (2) What extreme circumstance existed that caused a direction to staff which was contrary to prison policy?
- (3) Why are prisoners at the Rockhampton Correctional Centre able to cut their way through a double perimeter fence without activating the centre's electronic alarm system?
- (4) How can he explain the hundreds of alarms which are sounded, during a single shift,

sometimes within one hour, when no one is in contact, or interfering with this same fence?

- (5) Will he confirm that custodial officers, including the dog squad, are personally "covered" for injury or accident in the course of their duties outside the prison property i.e. tracking prisoners, escorts etc?
- (6) What was the reason for the police being unable to assist/respond to the complainant in this instance?

Answer (Mr Braddy):

1. Presumably this question relates to the reason that the Dog Squad was directed not to attend the house of a citizen who had contacted the Correctional Centre on 8 November 1995. The matter raised by the citizen was a matter for the police.
2. As previously stated the matter was one which fell within police jurisdiction.
3. The circumstances relating to the escape are currently subject to investigation by Inspectors.
4. Whether or not the perimeter fence is alarming inappropriately will be investigated by the Inspectors inquiry into the escape.
5. Custodial officers are covered for injury or accidents during the time which they are employed in authorised activities.
6. The complainant has not been sufficiently identified by the questioner for this question to be answered.

#### 504. Rockhampton Court House

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Administrative Services—

With reference to the construction of the new Rockhampton Courthouse—

- (1) What is the expected date of commencement of construction of the project?
- (2) What is the expected completion date of the project?
- (3) What is the anticipated cost of the building?
- (4) How many jobs will be created by the project?

Answer (Mr Milliner):

1. The anticipated date for commencement of construction is 20 May 1996.
2. The anticipated completion date of project is 16 May 1997.
3. The total anticipated project cost is \$15.49M.
4. Based on a project cost of \$15.49M, it is expected this will create 4,500 person weeks of employment.

#### 506. Power Supply to Industry

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Premier and Minister for Economic and Trade Development—

What contingency plans are in place to protect power supply to industries in the State who are dependent on regular supplies for the integrity of their process (for example, should power be reduced

or denied to Boyne Smelter, long term production impacts will ensue and significant employment, and therefore economic, stress will occur)?

Answer (Mr Goss):

Assured access to power is an important consideration for a number of Queensland's industrial and commercial electricity customers.

The Queensland Transmission and Supply Corporation recognises the sensitivity of different customers, particularly large customers, to reductions or outages in power. The Corporation employs a number of methods to assure power supply to industry.

A protocol is adhered to when dealing with possible load shedding or system outages. The protocol takes into account customer needs and the likely costs of power interruptions.

Sufficient reserve plant margin is maintained to cater for forced and planned outages of generators. The level of reserve varies from year to year as new generating plant is commissioned. The level of reserve generating plant in Queensland at present is considered sufficient to meet the current demands on the interconnected network.

Access to reserve generating capacity allows for essential services, such as hospitals and transport, and other sensitive industries, to be protected from outages and load shedding as far as possible.

In the case of the Boyne Island Smelter, a supply contract ensures continuity of supply to the smelter in all but the most onerous contingencies, in which case there would be a significant danger to life or property if supply to the smelter were maintained.

#### 507. Police Transfers

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to police transfers to country stations and as police numbers on the Gold Coast, in particular, and in South-East Queensland in general, are already stretched to the limit—

As his department is currently giving police officers notices of forced transfer to country stations, what arrangements are being made for experienced personnel to replace these officers in order to retain and increase police strength to cover those who will be transferred?

Answer (Mr Braddy):

Since 1989 there has been a 40% increase in police numbers in the Gold Coast Police District, rising from 327 to 458, There has also been a 68% increase in the Budget, from \$13 810 000 to \$23 308 000. Coomera Station was completed in 1991 at a cost of \$1.4 million. Prior to the election the Government promised a new Police Station at Jacob's Well and a new station to be built at the Southern end of the Gold Coast with a total cost of \$4.5 million.

This Government has a proven commitment to the Gold Coast. Accordingly the Queensland Police Service have advised there will be no reduction in the number of police on the Gold Coast or in

South-East Queensland generally as a result of the impending directed transfers of constables to country stations.

Regardless of the location from which transferees are drawn, a further graduating group of 78 officers will be sworn-in on 15 December 1995 and be assigned to those same centres shortly after. For example, ten new officers will be assigned to the Gold Coast, fourteen officers to the Metropolitan South Region, fifteen officers to Metropolitan North Region, and ten officers to Redcliffe in the North Coast Region.

#### **508. Police Station Site, Toowong Area**

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to the 1995-96 Budget papers which disclosed an allocation of funds for the initial planning and purchase of land on which to construct a new police station in the Toowong cluster, preferably in the Indooroopilly-Chapel Hill-Kenmore area—

What progress has been made in identifying an appropriate block of land and what progress has been made towards the purchase of such land?

Answer (Mr Braddy):

The Queensland Police Service is in the process of identifying a site for a new police station for the Toowong Police Division. The site will need to be of sufficient size, with the desired public exposure in an appropriate location.

While a number of potential sites have been examined, no decision has yet been made on acquisition.

#### **509. Public Housing, Redcliffe**

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Rural Communities, Minister for Rural Communities and Minister for Provision of Infrastructure for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities—

What has been the expenditure over the last 5 financial years by the Housing Commission on and around the Redcliffe Peninsula?

Answer (Mr Mackenroth):

Over the 5 years from July 1990—June 1995, the Queensland Government, through the Department of Housing, Local Government and Planning has expended total funds of around \$53 million in the Redcliffe area. These funds have been made available through a range of housing assistance programs.

#### **511. ROSS Scheme**

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Rural Communities, Minister for Rural Communities and Minister for Provision of Infrastructure for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities—

What action does he intend to take to address the concern of rural landholders about the preparation and implementation of the ROSS Scheme, particularly with reference to (a) the lack of input from primary producers, (b) the lack of rural representation and elected representation on committees and (c) the complete lack of consideration to the matter of compensation?

Answer (Mr Mackenroth):

(a) & (b) The Regional Open Space System concept has been developed through the most ambitious, large scale regional planning process ever undertaken in Queensland. The ROSS is only one of a large number of recommendations of the SEQ 2001 project, which has spent a number of years looking into ways we can manage the impact of population growth in South East Queensland. SEQ 2001 involved not only the Government, but also all 18 Councils in the region, as well as representatives of a broad cross-section of community groups—including a number of rural based groups. There is widespread support amongst the regional community for the recommendations of SEQ 2001, and the ROSS proposals in particular.

Primary producers have had a number of opportunities to date to provide input into the preparation of the ROSS scheme, and these included public meetings, widespread advertising and publicity, and two periods in which the Government welcomed submissions from the public.

A representative of the Queensland Farmers Federation participated in the initial committee meetings which worked up the ROSS concept at the very beginning of the SEQ 2001 process, and it was our understanding that this organisation, as a peak body, would liaise as appropriate with its members on this important policy initiative. Rural and community groups, as well as a substantial number of elected local government councillors, also provided substantial input into the sub-regional planning process initiated to progress the initial SEQ 2001 recommendations.

Further, the Farmers Federation, the Queensland Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association and the Cattlemen's Union have all had representation on the thirteen member ROSS Advisory Committee, which advises on the implementation of ROSS.

The implementation of the ROSS will be mainly through local government planning schemes. The existing provisions of the Local Government (Planning and Environment) Act with respect to advertising and consultation will provide further opportunities for primary producers and the broader community to comment on the implementation of the ROSS scheme as planning schemes are reviewed.

(c) Devaluation of land is not an issue under ROSS as the right to use the land in the manner it is currently zoned for is retained, therefore compensation will not be required. The rights of public farming use will not change. The rights of private tenure will not change. The public will not have the right of access to private land which is identified as having ROSS values.

**514. State Government Grants to Unions**

Mr GRICE asked the Treasurer—

How much money (individually itemised) has the State Government provided to Queensland unions in arts grants, training subsidies and other grants on an annual basis since 1990?

Answer (Mr De Lacy):

(1) With respect to arts grants:

In 1990, \$10,000 was provided (by Arts Queensland (AQ)) to the Trades and Labor Council (TLC) of Queensland towards the salary of an Arts Officer;

In 1991, \$15,000 was provided (by AQ) to the TLC of Queensland towards the salary of an Arts Officer;

In 1992, \$16,000 was provided (by AQ) to the TLC of Queensland towards the operation of an Arts Officer of the TLC of Queensland, including the salary of an Arts Officer and Fees;

In 1993, \$7,000 was provided (by AQ) to the TLC of Queensland towards a six week community singing project directed by South African conductor Sithiwo Lubambo and \$18,000 was also provided for the annual operations and salary of the Arts Officer of the TLC of Queensland;

In 1994, \$22,500 was provided (by AQ) to the ACTU Queensland Branch towards the annual operations and salary of the Arts Officer of the ACTU Queensland Branch;

In 1995, \$5,000 was provided (by AQ) to the ACTU Queensland Branch to produce anti-racist posters with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Artists, \$22,500 was provided towards an Arts Development Officer and \$25,000 was provided to the Queensland Nurses Union, towards "Don't Die on Friday"—art and working life theatre production about aged care.

(2) With respect to training subsidies:

No departments identified separate training subsidies to any unions.

(3) With respect to other subsidies:

Queensland Police Service (QPS) provide one police officer who is 'seconded' to the union (ie his salary is paid but he is full time on union issues) and when police are taken to court, the union arranges legal representation for them and if the officer(s) are found innocent, QPS reimburses their legal expenses by paying the union.

The Department of Family and Community Services made two grants to the Queensland University of Technology Student Union Guild. In 1991-92 a capital grant of \$342,219 was made for a child care centre. In 1992-93 \$54,264 was granted to equip the centre.

Queensland Health's Health Promotion Council provided a grant to the Construction Skills Training Centre which was set up by the Builders Labourers Federation (CFMEU) in March 1994. In June 1995 the grant was \$55,384.80 for a project to establish a Drug and Alcohol Program for the Construction Industry. The project is for a period of three years. An amount of \$48,544.80 is committed for 1995-96 and \$48,966.00 for 1996-97.

One of Queensland Property Management's employees (a security officer) has been seconded to the State Public Services Federation of Queensland (SPSFQ) Union since June 1994. Administrative Services Department (ASD) pays half the salary which has amounted to approximately \$26,250. This has ensured that ASD had access to a full time Union Official who could assist with Enterprise Bargaining and other relevant initiatives.

**515. Mr K. Wright**

Mr J. N. GOSS asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

Is the claim, in the *Sunday-Mail* of 29 October 1995, by an unnamed prisoner at the Moreton Correctional Centre that the former State Labor leader and convicted child molester, Mr Keith Wright, has not undergone any treatment under the Sexual Offenders Treatment Program true; if so, will Mr Wright be considered for any form of release from secure custody before he is considered rehabilitated after treatment by this program?

Answer (Mr Braddy):

Prisoners are eligible to participate in the Sexual Offenders Treatment Program 12 to 24 months prior to their eligibility date for Parole. A waiting list is in place and prisoners are included in accordance with their placement on the list. Prisoner Wright is not currently undertaking the Sex Offenders Treatment Program however he has been listed for inclusion in the Program after April 1996 which is within 24 months of his Parole eligibility date. While the list of participants for the next Sexual Offenders Treatment Program has not been finalised at present, it is anticipated that Mr Wright will be included in the Program scheduled to commence in April 1996. If this is not possible due to the number of prisoners with earlier Parole Eligibility dates, it is anticipated that he will be included in the next program available (approximately July 1996).

I am advised Mr Wright is eligible for Release to Work on 28 December 1996, Home Detention on 28 December 1997 and Parole on 28 April 1998.

Release on any community supervision option for a prisoner serving a sentence of more than five years is determined by the Queensland Community Corrections Board. The Board consists of a number of community representatives who ensure that a strong community perspective is taken in respect of decisions to release prisoners to the community. Factors taken into consideration in the Board's decision making include progress by the offender in addressing offending behaviour and assessed risk to the community.

If a prisoner refuses to undertake programs to address offending behaviour, the likelihood of receiving a community supervision option is considerably reduced.

I understand that Mr Wright will be eligible for consideration for participation in a regular but limited Leave of Absence program on 28 June 1996. Any approval for Leave of Absence from a Correctional Centre rests with the General Manager of that centre.



Prisoners must demonstrate that action has been taken to address offending behaviour prior to granting of Leave of Absence.

If Mr Wright is not granted release to community supervision he will be eligible for release by remission on 4 July 1999. To qualify for remission he will also need to have demonstrated good institutional conduct, must not be considered to represent a significant risk to the community, and must have demonstrated a commitment to address his offending behaviour.

Should Mr Wright not be released to community supervision or released on remission the Queensland Corrective Services Commission is obliged to release him on 27 October 2002.

### 516. Brisbane City Watch-house

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to the allocation in the 1995 Budget of \$30,000 for what he had described to the Police Parliamentary Estimates Committee as “professional fees” for an upgrade of the Brisbane City Watchhouse—

- (1) Given the decision by at least one judge to deduct one week from each sentence for every day an inmate has spent in that watchhouse, will he outline what is proposed under the \$1.5m upgrading project mentioned in the Budget Capital Works Program and the timetable for that upgrading?
- (2) Does he accept that this watchhouse is a blight of third-world proportions and that regular and gross overcrowding there is a continuing breach of the standard guidelines for police custodial facilities?

Answer (Mr Braddy):

(1) Funding of \$30,000 was allocated on the Queensland Police Service Capital Works Program during the 1995-96 financial year to plan improvements in the City Watchhouse. The funding was to be used to engage consultants to undertake feasibility studies on the alternatives of redeveloping the existing City Watchhouse or building a new facility on another site. The \$1.5 million was provided to pursue improvements to the current Watchhouse as part of that consideration.

This process has been postponed in favour of the Government's proposal to redevelop the Boggo Road site. That proposal involves the creation of a Justice Precinct which would collocate Watchhouse, Courthouse and Remand Centre. It has always been recognised that collocation of these functions provides the greatest economy, operational efficiency and safety to staff and the public for prisoner transfers. This collocation is fundamentally important to the operation of the watchhouse.

Considerable public consultation regarding this project has been undertaken by myself and the Minister for Administrative Services with local community groups and other stakeholders.

(2) There has been 40% increase in the number of persons entering the custodial system in the past two years.

In response to this unprecedented growth the Government has committed nearly \$110 million to expand custodial correctional capacity by nearly 1 200 new cells between January 1994 and early 1997.

338 new cells have been opened since early 1994 and include:

- a) 20 temporary cells at Lotus Glen in February, 1994 at a capital cost of \$0.27 million.
- b) 78 new cells at Arthur Gorrie in August, 1994 at a capital cost of \$2.4 million.
- c) 95 new cells at Borallon in March, 1995 at a capital cost of \$5.2 million.
- d) 48 new cells at Lotus Glen Farm in July 1995, at a capital cost of \$5 million.
- e) 30 additional places at Wacol at a cost of \$0.1 million have recently been made available.
- f) 12 additional cells at the Townsville Womens Prison at a cost of \$0.3 million.
- g) 45 additional cells at the Townsville male prison at a cost of approximately \$2.5 million.
- h) The former juvenile detention centre at Westbrook was purchased by the Corrective Services Commission in late 1994 at a cost of approximately \$1 million. It currently accommodates 88. It will be expanded and is expected to take its full complement of 130 prisoners by July 1996.

Other measures taken by the Government to alleviate pressure caused by expanding prisoner numbers include a new WORC Camp accommodating 15 prisoners opened at Yarramulla, near Mareeba in March, 1995 at a capital cost of approximately \$0.4 million. A new Women's Community Custody Program accommodating up to 10 female prisoners opened at Warwick in July 1997 at a capital cost of approximately \$30 000.

In addition a further 100 cells for protection inmates at Sir David Longland will open in January 1996 at a cost of \$11 million and a new 600 cell prison is to be constructed at Woodford by early 1997 at a cost of \$59 million.

Existing conditions for Corrective Services prisoners held in the Brisbane Watchhouse include:

- improved meals;
- a token operated machine system dispensing cigarettes, confectionery and cold soft drinks;
- an extensive range of books and magazines provided by the Salvation Army and Watchhouse staff;
- a full-time Salvation Army Chaplain who looks after prisoner and family welfare;
- immediate medical attention when required (provided by a Government Medical Officer, Queensland Ambulance Service, Princess Alexandra Security Ward and Royal Brisbane Hospital Casualty Section);

provision of all clothing and bedding which is regularly changed and laundered by the Queensland Corrective Services Commission.

provision of all personal toiletries, including toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, soap and shaving gear;

While visiting facilities are restricted, visits are always allowed on humanitarian and emergent grounds. Prisoners are able to contact their family on a daily basis by use of a telephone provided for that purpose; and

a colour television in both exercise yards;

visits by clergy and members of the legal fraternity are facilitated on request.

### 517. Drug Trade in Prisons

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to continued widespread evidence of a thriving illicit drug trade in Queensland's jail system, and his failure to acknowledge it as a major problem based on advice from the Corrective Services Commission—

Why does he persist with his ongoing refusal to make the Corrective Services Commission fully accountable to the Criminal Justice Commission?

Answer (Mr Braddy):

Illicit drug trade in Prisons.

Drugs are a serious problem in society. It is therefore inevitable that a number of prisoners have an association with the drug trade. They are apprehended by Police for drug related offences. A very large proportion of offenders are imprisoned for crimes which are associated with drug and alcohol abuse.

The Queensland Police Service is the body responsible for the fight against drugs in this State. Their responsibility starts with the detection and prevention of the drug trade and their investigations are not limited by the boundaries of prisons.

It is noted the Honourable Member refers to evidence of a widespread illicit drug trade in prisons. If such evidence is available it should be referred to the Queensland Police Service.

The Queensland Corrective Services Commission accepts that drug use in society and prison is a problem and in co-operation with the Queensland Police Service has initiated a number of measures to combat that problem.

#### Drug Strategy

In response to a request from me, the Director General of Corrective Services has worked closely with the Queensland Police Service to develop a number of strategies to improve the capacity of both organisations to prevent, detect and deter the drug trade in prisons. A focus has also been provided on treatment for prisoners with records of substance abuse.

This jointly developed drug strategy has identified some 80 potential measures which could lead to

reductions in the introduction and use of drugs in Correctional Centres. The Queensland Corrective Services Commission and the Queensland Police Service are progressively introducing these initiatives. I am not going to outline a number of those measures because the publicity could damage their effectiveness.

Some actions already taken include, the establishment of a project team to implement operational changes at targeted centres, refocussing of the Queensland Corrective Services Commission Intelligence function, changes to visit areas with improved surveillance techniques and specialised staff training.

A range of other measures are being trialled including greater use of non-contact visits, improved furnishings in visits areas to reduce opportunities for exchange of contraband (including drugs), provision of information to visitors about the dangers of drugs in a correctional environment and the use of electronic drug detection equipment.

Criminal Justice Commission role in Corrective Services.

As I have already stated to Parliament on 28 April 1994, a special police unit, the Corrective Services Investigation Unit was established following the Kennedy Review of Corrective Services to investigate issues of offending and corruption within the Queensland Corrective Services Commission. Their charter was extended in 1994, as result of PSMC review recommendations, to also investigate official misconduct within the Queensland Corrective Services Commission. This unit is unique in the public service and no other organisation of the public sector has such a specialist watchdog. The CSIU is in turn subject to CJC supervision.

#### Other Accountability Measures

The QCSC is also made accountable by a number of other measures.

It is headed by a Board of eight community members who scrutinise internal policy issues and monitor all aspects of the performance of the organisation.

Official Visitors are appointed by the Board to each custodial and community correctional centre. The role of these independent agents is to investigate prisoner complaints and resolve grievances. They report on issues of concern to the Board of the QCSC.

The Board also appoints Inspectors following major incidents such as escapes, deaths in custody and riots. In each case two or more inspectors are appointed with at least one of these being external to the Commission. The Inspectors report their findings to the Board.

The Commission Audit and Investigations Directorate performs internal audit functions and undertakes investigations on significant operational issues and personnel matters. This unit reports directly to the Board of the QCSC and the Director-General.

It is the government's view that these existing accountability measures are appropriate at this time.

### 518. Queensland Principal Club; Criminal Justice Commission

Mrs WILSON asked the Premier and Minister for Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to a statement to Parliament on 20 October 1995 by the Minister for Racing (Mr Gibbs) that "the reality is that the CJC can make mistakes; it is not infallible", made when the Minister was seeking to justify a decision by the thoroughbred racing industry's Queensland Principal Club not to act on a CJC recommendation endorsed by its own financial controller to have a comprehensive audit of the Queensland Racing Incentive Scheme—

Does he agree that a key function of the CJC is to ensure the financial and administrative accountability of all government-funded bodies?

Answer (Mr Goss):

The functions of the CJC are prescribed by the Criminal Justice Act 1989. Issues relating to the finances and administration of government funded bodies may arise in the course of particular CJC investigations. However, it is not correct to say that a key function of the CJC is the accountability of all such bodies. The Criminal Justice Act provides that a function of the CJC is to investigate allegations of official misconduct in units of public administration. A number of government funded bodies do not fall within the definition of unit of public administration, and are outside the jurisdiction of the CJC.

Official misconduct is a term given a specific meaning by s.32 of the Criminal Justice Act. It is limited to conduct that constitutes a criminal offence, or would provide grounds to terminate the employment of persons employed in a unit of public administration. The behaviour of individuals in government funded bodies will only constitute official misconduct if it is criminal conduct that adversely affects the functions, powers or authority of a unit of public administration or its officers.

If the CJC considers that there is evidence of misconduct, it has a number of options. It can recommend that criminal charges be laid against a person by the Director of Prosecutions, or that charges of misconduct should be brought before a Misconduct Tribunal. The courts or the Misconduct Tribunal are the arbiters of fact in these instances, not the CJC.

Although the CJC may not find evidence of misconduct it can still make recommendations to the Government, as it did following its investigation of complaints about the Queensland Racing Incentive Scheme. However, CJC is independent of Government, and it is a matter for the Government to decide whether to act upon the CJC's recommendations.

### 519. Police Resources

Mr WOOLMER asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

Is the provision of more police the number one priority of the 1995-96 Police Budget; if so, why, on the basis of figures provided by him, is the total

Police Service Budget in 1995-96 rising by 7.5 per cent yet the total sworn strength of the Police Service is planned to increase by less than one per cent from about 6,320 now to about 6,380 in June, 1996?

Answer (Mr Braddy):

The provision of additional police is of course a priority of the Government. Since December 1989, this Government has increased police numbers by 1,073 officers, an increase of over 20%. In the same period the Government has increased operational police numbers by nearly 1600.

In so far as the 1995/96 Budget is concerned, clearly not all the increased allocation is to cater for net increases in staffing. Part of the allocation is to meet increased salary costs resulting from the implementation of Enterprise Bargaining, increased infrastructure costs and major enhancements to Police Radio Communications facilities throughout the State. To expect increases in budget allocations (particularly those of the magnitude of 7.5%) to be entirely appropriated to increases in staffing levels is a naive view of the realities of running a Police Service, or indeed any large organisation.

### 521. Motor Vehicle Theft

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to a Police Service advisory note to him dated 23 December 1994 on the matter of development of a strategy to address motor vehicle theft—

- (1) Did that document advise that ongoing consultation with the Transport Department in the form of a "small project team to assist in the planning and implementation of a motor vehicle anti-theft strategy" could not begin for at least six months and according to the document, not commence work until at least July 1995, "subject to budgetary considerations"?
- (2) When did this "small project team" from Queensland Transport and others begin work and who are the members?
- (3) Did that document also state that "further development of Queensland's draft strategy has been delayed pending his further directions"?
- (4) When were his "further directions" issued and what were they?
- (5) In each of the financial years beginning with 1989-90, how many vehicles have been stolen in Queensland?

Answer (Mr Braddy):

(1-4) Motor vehicle theft has been of concern to governments, the community and the business and insurance industries for some time. In November 1994, motor vehicle theft was recognised as a significant problem by the Premiers' and Chief Ministers' Leaders' Forum Conference on Crime and identified as a priority for the National Anti Crime Strategy they initiated. Queensland is responding to the National Anti-Crime Strategy, and existing

consultation mechanisms on motor vehicle theft will be augmented by this broader national focus. The need for the project team referred to in the Honourable Member's question has been superseded by the establishment of an Inter-Departmental Anti-Crime Strategy Committee related to the entire Anti-Crime Strategy.

The Queensland Police Service is continuing to work with other departments and with industry to develop appropriate responses to the problems of motor vehicle theft. The Service has also recently committed additional resources to assist with research into this problem and to provide additional computer support for operational police.

There are issues being addressed at the State level which in time will have to fit within Australia-wide initiatives. Further development of these matters is expected to be taken up by a National Task Force established under the auspices of the National Anti-Crime Strategy.

I have been satisfied with the approach of the Queensland Police Service to developing policies in response to motor vehicle theft and have not deemed it necessary to provide any directive on these issues.

5. In regard to motor vehicle theft statistics, I refer the Member to the statistics published in the annual Statistical Reviews, copies of which have been provided to his electorate office. For his benefit I will repeat them:

Year Number of vehicles reported stolen

1989/90	14,239*
1990/91	16,085
1991/92	16,473
1992/93	16,676
1993/94	17,851
1994/95	19,034

\*It should be noted that figures for 1989/90 were compiled using different guidelines (pre Fitzgerald) and are not comparable with figures of later years. Fitzgerald's comments were that the method of recording crime figures led to their being portrayed as misleadingly low.

## 522. Cooperation between Social Security Department and Police Service

Ms WARWICK asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

- (1) Does the Federal Department of Social Security refuse to co-operate with police in helping to locate the addresses of persons who are the subject of arrest warrants, and who, police reasonably believe, may be in receipt of a social security benefit?
- (2) Has the Queensland Police Service expressed any concern to him about this refusal to cooperate; if so, has he approached the Federal Minister for Social Security for a change to this policy?

Answer (Mr Braddy):

(1) Police requests for information may be made under certain circumstances. Such requests must satisfy guidelines issued by the Minister For Social

Security pursuant to section 1315 (1) of the Social Security Act 1991. These guidelines have been incorporated into Queensland Police Service Operational Procedures Manual.

(2) No.

## 526. Police Resources

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

- (1) Will he confirm advice he gave to the Police Parliamentary Estimates Committee on 31 May 1995 that the 1995-96 Police Service budget provides for only a net total of 60 new police after retirements and resignations in 1996-97, an increase of only an average of 5 extra police per month?
- (2) As there were 6,377 police in June 1993, and there were 6,298 police in June 1995, 79 fewer, will he admit that he has presided over a shameful, disgraceful decline in police service strength at a time of soaring State population?

Answer (Mr Braddy):

(1) Approved police numbers are due to increase by 60 in 1995/96 with further increases of 115 in 1996/97 and 125 in 1997/98. Further increases in succeeding years will see the number of operational police increase by 2,000 over the next ten years. I do not like talking in terms of averages as they are simplistic, but as averages appear to be the only thing members of the Opposition understand I will say this:

The Goss Labor Government has put an extra Police Officer on the streets every 33 hours for the past six years.

(2) Using 30 June 1993 as a base-line for comparison is misleading, as the staffing at that date (6,377) was abnormally above the approved, funded strength (6,182). This was due to an extremely low separation rate (2.86%) in 1992/93 compared to an average of 4%—5% in each of the preceding seven years. Sustaining the staffing level significantly above the approved (funded) level creates serious budgetary difficulties through the diversion of funds from non-labour to labour-related purposes.

The figures which should be compared are those existing now, and at the time this Government came to office in December 1989. At that time, the strength of the Police Service was only 5,282 officers. Presently, the strength is 6,355 officers, an increase of 1,073 officers (or 20%) in less than 5 years. These figures hardly disclose "a shameful, disgraceful decline in police service strength". To the contrary, they reflect a strong commitment to providing this State with a well-resourced, well-trained and professional policing service.

## 529. Stamp Duty on Business Licences

Mrs SHELDON asked the Treasurer—

With reference to Clause 6 of the Revenue Laws Amendment Bill (No. 2) 1995, passed by this House on 15 November 1995, specifically to the new Clause 54AD(11) of the Stamp Act 1894 and to questions

asked by me during the debate and to which I received no answers and for the information of businesses being required to comply with the new subsection—

- (1) What specifically is meant by the term "... the full unencumbered value of the licence derived from the business undertaking of the licensee conducted in Queensland" and what specific calculations will business need to make in order to be able to estimate it?
- (2) What specifically is meant by the term "... the full unencumbered value of the licence derived from the business undertaking of the licensee conducted from Queensland" and what specific calculations will business need to make in order to be able to estimate it?
- (3) What specifically is meant by the term "... the full unencumbered value of the licence derived from the relationship of the licence to Queensland" and what specific calculations will business need to make in order to be able to estimate it?

Answer (Mr De Lacy):

(1) The new subsection 54AD(11) is an apportionment provision which may apply in calculating stamp duty chargeable under section 54AD on the acquisition or agreement to acquire a statutory business licence relating to, or held in connection with Queensland or a Queensland business. I say "may apply" because, in a lot of cases, apportionment will not be necessary. The necessity arises only where the licence also relates to, or is also held in connection with another State or Territory or a business carried on in or from another State or Territory.

Where it is required, apportionment prevents Queensland duty being charged on the whole of the consideration or licence value. If that were to happen, duty could be payable in more than one Australian jurisdiction in respect of the same consideration or value. Apportionment ensures that Queensland receives its fair share of the duty but no more.

There are three steps in the apportionment process. Firstly, the highest of three values is established. Those values are the value of the licence derived from (a) the business undertaking of the licensee conducted in Queensland (b) the business undertaking of the licensee conducted from Queensland and (c) the relationship of the licence to Queensland. Secondly, that value is represented as a proportion of the full unencumbered value of the licence. Finally, this proportion is applied to the consideration paid or full unencumbered value of the licence (as the case may be) to arrive at the amount on which Queensland duty is charged. The questions appear to be directed to the first step in the process.

It is quite common in stamp duty matters to have to apportion values to arrive at the Queensland value of an asset. Transfers of a business, for example, often require apportionment of the value of goodwill extending beyond Queensland to arrive at the value attributable to this State. Determining the full

unencumbered value of a statutory business licence derived from each of the three specified matters is not a mechanical or mathematical exercise. That would have been too inflexible an approach and would leave no room for taking account of individual circumstances. It would also be inconsistent with the existing apportionment provisions contained in section 54A. The approach in section 54AD(11) focuses instead on establishing the extent to which the value of the licence is derived from Queensland. That involves an examination of the facts of each case to determine the nature and extent of the relationship of the business operations or the licence to this State. While there may be cases in which independent valuations will be required, it is expected that in the majority of cases that relationship would be readily ascertainable from taxpayer records.

(2) Refer to (1).

(3) Refer to (1).

### 533. Real Estate Agents' Trust Accounts

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Consumer Affairs—

What progress is being made in investigating any shortfalls in interest earned on real estate agents' trust accounts?

Answer (Mr Davies):

Mr Speaker, I thank the Member for his question.

Following amendments to the Auctioneers and Agents Act in 1991, agreements were entered into with 16 banks for the payment of an agreed proportion of interest from licensees' general trust accounts to the Auctioneers and Agents Fidelity Guarantee Fund. This source of contribution is important to the viability of the Fund and its ability to meet claims for compensation by consumers and to provide consumer protection.

Concerns were raised initially in late 1993 that not all of the interest due by the banks had in fact been credited to the Fund. Based on samples, it was suggested that shortfalls of interest per annum could be in the range of \$1 million to \$2 million.

I would like to outline to the House what steps have been put in place since then to properly investigate these concerns, the current status of those inquiries, and the experience of dealing with the banks on this matter.

Firstly, I should point out that as at 30 August 1995 there were approximately 4,200 general trust accounts of licensees held by approved banks. As Honourable Members would appreciate, the task of monitoring such a large number of accounts spread over a number of banking institutions is a difficult and ongoing one.

In late 1993 a departmental Committee was formed within Consumer Affairs to spearhead investigations into the status of the Fund. As a first step, the Committee appointed a Project Officer to undertake a full census of all trust accounts held by licensees. The purpose of the census was to identify all trust accounts held by licensee and to compare that list

with those held by banks and on which interest was being paid.

The census was conducted in April 1994, and a total of 10,511 letters were sent to both present and former licensees. There was a 96% return rate from current licensees.

The bottom line was that the census disclosed that there were 1,186 trust accounts notified by licensees on which banks were not forwarding interest.

Subsequently, an officer was engaged to carry out a reconciliation with the banks to determine their status. This reconciliation process has been a difficult and time-consuming one, and the co-operation of some banking institutions has been less than desirable. Bank assistance in this matter has been reluctant in some cases. In fact, in one instance, unfortunately, a Notice under section 91 of the Act had to be given to compel the bank to provide the relevant information.

By September this year the reconciliation process was completed. It was determined that of the 1,186 accounts identified as general trust accounts 1,076 were in fact general trust accounts.

I must emphasise to the House that interest may not have been forgone on each and every one of these accounts, as some may have had nil balances during significant period of time and some may have been non-active.

The reconciliation process also unearthed some disturbing information including the fact that in some instances certain bank branches were not forwarding interest on any of the general trust accounts they held. At this stage I cannot give the House an explanation as to why such a serious breakdown in communications an internal systems would have occurred between the Head Office of these banks and their branches but it has been a matter which has since been rectified by the banks concerned. However, it does little to encourage confidence in their ability to manage their internal affairs.

The Aitkenvale Branch of the Commonwealth Bank has two trust accounts on which interest was not being paid. In August 1994, the average balance of one of the accounts was \$44,311.

Other anomalies disclosed by the census and subsequent reconciliation included the fact that there were 13 general trust accounts held in banks outside Queensland and a further 13 trust accounts located with non-approved financial institutions.

Not all of the blame for non-payment of interest by banks can be laid with these institutions. Obviously, banks rely on the information provided by their customers, in this instance, licensees. It is clear that in some instances these licensees may not have given the right information to the banks such that they are aware that the monies they were holding were general trust account monies.

Despite this, I think that all Members would and should be concerned that within such a short period of time of banks having entered into agreements to credit interest monies to the Fund, that significant shortfalls of interest would have become an issue.

Steps have been taken by the Office of Consumer Affairs to assist banks in fulfilling their statutory and contractual duties by providing them with a copy of notifications received by licensees of their intention to establish a general trust account with particular banks. By providing this information banks will be in a better position to identify accounts established even if the licensee fails to provide the relevant information.

I am also happy to inform the House that the first non-bank financial institution has now been approved to hold general trust accounts under the Act. Queensland Country Credit Union was recently approved and will now be able to offer a service to licensees in certain country towns which the banks have pulled out of. I understand, for example, the Credit Union will be offering this service in Weipa and Richmond.

A new agreement has also been settled by the Crown Law Office designed to tighten the reporting requirements of financial institutions holding trust accounts and which will increase the percentage of interest to be forwarded by the financial institutions concerned. Queensland Country Credit Union was also the first institution to execute this new agreement. Others, no doubt, will be signing in the near future.

Cabinet also approved early this year the expenditure of monies to appoint a legal officer who will supervise litigation against banks for recovery of interest due and a Funds Manager who will be able to oversee the operations of the Fund, and, for the first time, ensure that the multitude of tasks involved in this area are given appropriate priority and are co-ordinated. An experienced Solicitor was appointed in July to provide legal advice and the position of Funds Manager has been advertised.

Work is also proceeding on a new trust account database which will help both the finance officers and inspectors to monitor the performance of licensees and approved financial institutions.

Finally, as part of the lengthy, difficult, but necessary task of getting bottom line dollar figures on the amount of interest owing from each bank, Consumer Affairs inspectors have now completed an audit of one approved bank which entailed obtaining daily balances from each account identified as a trust account but which interest is not being paid. Only by this very difficult and time-consuming process, can the Office be in a position to either carry out successful negotiations with banks to institute litigation.

In summary, then, the concerns raised by that approved banks may not be paying all interest due to the Fund, and that such shortfalls could be in the \$1 to \$2 million range per annum, have been the subject of extensive and ongoing investigation and action. It is unfortunate that so much time of the Office of Consumer Affairs has had to be spent on this exercise and that the activities of some banks an licensees have been disrupted as a consequence. However, we are dealing with public monies and potentially major amounts. In such circumstances there is no substitute for thorough and professional

investigations, and I am pleased to report to the House the status of those investigations.

### **536. State Government Assistance to Local Manufacturers**

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Business, Industry and Regional Development—

- (1) What programs are in place to assist local companies to compete on the international market?
- (2) What success has the Government had in assisting local manufacturers to produce and supply goods to replace existing imports?

Answer (Mr Hayward):

The principal avenue for assistance provided by the State Government in this area is through the joint State/Commonwealth National Industry Extension Service or NIES.

NIES is targeted specifically at increasing the international competitiveness of firms through the provision of grants to assist in the development of enterprise improvement programs.

Five years ago, 181 firms were assisted by NIES subsidies. That increased to 517 firms in 1994/95.

In 1989/90, 36 percent of NIES funding went to regional firms. Last financial year, the corresponding allocation was 45 percent of funding.

My department, in negotiation with the Commonwealth, was able to secure an increase in Commonwealth contributions to the NIES joint programs to \$4.6 million in 1995/96, almost double the previous year.

This year, NIES has been expanded even further under the umbrella coverage of the AusIndustry program.

AusIndustry is an enhancement to NIES in terms of both scope and funding, and will result in greater co-ordination in the delivery of Commonwealth and State industry development programs.

NIES is joined by other programs such as Business Networking, Technology Access, Research and Development assistance and business information to provide a comprehensive service in assisting firms to become internationally competitive.

The State Government has allocated \$6.01 million of a total 1995/96 AusIndustry budget of \$10.6 million.

Incorporated in this amount are new initiatives in the areas of management skills development in tourism, building and construction, food processing and information technology sectors.

AusIndustry/NIES programs have played a direct role in assisting local manufacturers producing and supplying goods to replace existing imports. The following companies are a clear indication of the success of AusIndustry/NIES programs.

1. PanBio, a Brisbane medical diagnostic kit manufacturer, recently won the Australian Small Business of the Year award.

My department has played an active role in assisting PanBio to identify a quality focus, which has been a key driver of the company's success.

Through the AusIndustry program, DBIRD was able to assist the company through a combination of business improvement programs to become a world leader in diagnostic kits.

The company has utilised subsidies to improve its performance in areas like quality assurance, strategic planning, total quality management, exporting and benchmarking.

The company also benefited from a grant through the State Government's Queensland Grants for Industrial research and Development scheme.

2. Scarborough company, A.I. Scientific, is another example of a Queensland company which has gone from strength to strength with the assistance of the AusIndustry program.

The company designs, manufactures and sells scientific instruments, with around 33 percent of its output for the export market.

What began as a 3-person operation has now become a company with 21 staff and an annual turnover in excess of \$3 million.

3. Redmond Gary on the Gold Coast was an engineering company with a good reputation but working in a market where competition was plentiful and tough.

In 1990, with assistance through NIES, the company was able to put together a deal to supply the Sydney Electricity Authority with Elevated Platform Vehicles (or EPVs).

The success of the EPV venture has saved 20 jobs in Queensland, and is projected to generate import replacement and export business exceeding \$11 million.

These are just a few of the hundreds of Queensland companies who have taken advantage of the opportunities provided through programs offered under the AusIndustry/NIES umbrella.

In fact, more than 1,850 Queensland firms have been assisted through these very worthwhile programs since 1986.

### **538. Mr G. Kable**

Mr CARROLL asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

- (1) Is the Queensland Police Service monitoring the reported recent residence in this State of a New South Wales released convicted wife-murderer, Gregory Wayne Kable, who, according to the New South Wales Appeal Court Judge who ordered his release, is "more likely than not" to commit an act of violence against those he blames for his separation from his children?
- (2) Is the Queensland Police Service providing any special protection to any of these persons to whom Kable wrote while in jail threatening violence?

- (3) Without compromising the security of any of these possible operations (a) at whose request has any such monitoring and/or special protection been undertaken, (b) when did any such operation begin, (c) how long will it continue and (d) what is the estimated monthly cost?
- (4) In the event that no such monitoring and/or special protection operations are being undertaken, will he ascertain from the relevant New South Wales authorities if such operations are deemed advisable and further inform the House of their response?

Answer (Mr Braddy):

The Deputy Commissioner, Executive Director, Operations of the Queensland Police Service has advised that it is inappropriate to either confirm or deny the existence of operational details relating to police protection of persons under threat. The disclosure of such details, whether in a particular case or with respect to procedures, could prejudice the effectiveness of police operations or endanger lives. It has also been pointed out that communications between Police Services on matters of this nature are generally communicated in confidence.

#### **542. Boundaries of Ipswich City and Brisbane City**

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Rural Communities, Minister for Rural Communities and Minister for Provision of Infrastructure for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities—

In view of the strong support by the citizens of Karana Downs to be relocated from Ipswich City to Brisbane City, will he now give a reference to the Local Government Commissioner to investigate the boundaries of Ipswich City to Brisbane City?

Answer (Mr Mackenroth):

The reference given to the Local Government Commissioner last year to examine, report and make recommendations in respect of the areas of the City of Ipswich and the Shire of Moreton allowed the Commissioner to consider appropriate changes to the external boundaries of the amalgamated City and the City of Brisbane.

The Local Government Commissioner's Report states consideration was given to transferring the Karana Downs/Mt Crosby areas to the City of Brisbane. The Report indicated community linkages are split between the new City and the City of Brisbane. The Commissioner recommended against the transfer of this area as the area is isolated from developed areas in Brisbane and services from within the new local government area can be efficiently and effectively provided.

As the Commissioner has just examined this matter I do not believe it would be appropriate to consider a further review unless both local governments request it.

#### **556. Foster Parents**

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Family and Community Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Status of Women—

With reference to her practice standards and policy on people who register as foster parents for children under the control of the Department of Family Services—

Will she allow people who are lesbians to foster children who are under the control of the Department of Family Services?

Answer (Mrs Woodgate):

A range of issues are considered in the assessment of applicants to care for children and young people. Any decision to entrust the care of someone else's child to another person is a serious one. Such decisions requires careful consideration of all the factors.

Careprovider applicants may vary in age, cultural background, life experience, physical abilities, personal qualities/skills and lifestyle. They must have a strong commitment to the support of children and young people and their families.

Applicants wishing to register as careproviders must satisfy the minimum requirements.

These minimum requirements include:

Applicants must be favourably assessed as potentially being able to care for children or young people. It is desirable that careproviders are trained prior to placement and they should only be approved in exceptional circumstances where the training has not occurred.

It is a legislative requirement that applicants must be favourably medically assessed.

Applicants must not be listed as a maltreater on a child protection notification with a suspected or substantiated outcome recorded, unless there are exceptional circumstances regarding the case.

Applicants must be agreeable to having record checks conducted regarding themselves and people with whom they may be sharing accommodation. These record checks include criminal, traffic and departmental.

Applicants must be able to nominate two referees who can provide satisfactory references.

Applicants must not be registered with more than one organisation providing Shared Family Care (Foster Care).

Applicants must be permanent residents of Australia and be able to provide their full birth certificate or equivalent proof of identity.

An applicant's sexual preference would not necessarily be an issue in relation to the care of children. This issue is considered just as other issues such as marital status, and occupation would be taken into account in relation to the needs of children.

The critical issue is whether an applicant can meet the needs of the children who would be placed in their care.



**560. Alternative Living Service**

Mr RADKE asked the Minister for Family and Community Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Status of Women—

With reference to clients of the Alternative Living Service—

Will she detail (a) the number of clients deinstitutionalised and transferred to this program since the program began and (b) the number of clients returned to institutional care from the Alternative Living Service program since the program began?

Answer (Mrs Woodgate):

(a) The number of clients deinstitutionalised and transferred to the Alternative Living Service since the program began in 1980 is approximately 461.

(b) The number of clients returning to institutional care from the Alternative Living Service since the program began is approximately 46.

Included in the number of people returning to institutional care are some people that have, after a period of time, subsequently returned to the Alternative Living Service. Records do not show the exact number of these cases.

Included in both (a) and (b) are the people who moved from institutions to Community Villas as well as the Alternative Living Service.

The reason for the return of some people to institutions is varied and includes medical needs, a breakdown of relationships and challenging behaviour. However, these latter two reasons reflect the lack of resources that were dedicated to the establishment of the Alternative Living Service in the 1980s. It must be noted that very few of the clients of the Alternative Living Service were given opportunities to access recreational and social options so that Residential Care Officer staff provided all services and supports from a 1:5 client/staff ratio roster model.

I would like to emphasise quite clearly that under the present government's Institutional Reform arrangements no residents will be transferred to Alternative Living Service, in fact, under the new policy emphasises that no person will move to new services in the community unless they are provided with the full range of support services required to address all their needs.

**561. Residential Tenancies Act; Rental Bond Interest Account**

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Rural Communities, Minister for Rural Communities and Minister for Provision of Infrastructure for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities—

- (1) Will he advise the details of all loans and grants made under the Residential Tenancies Act including (a) to whom the loans and grants were made, (b) the amount of each loan and grant, (c) the date on which each loan and grant was made, (d) the conditions which applied to each loan and grant, (e) whether the

conditions have been complied with and (f) action taken where conditions have not been complied with?

- (2) In which institutions has money been invested from the Rental Bond Interest Account?

Answer (Mr Mackenroth):

(1)(a) to (c) Payments from the Rental Bond Interest Account are governed by Sections 81 and 82 of the Residential Tenancies Act 1994. In particular, Section 82 limits payments from the Rental Bond Interest Account (whether by grant or loan) to three categories:

- a. Establishing or administering rental advisory services; or
- b. Establishing schemes for supplying residential accommodation; or
- c. Researching or setting up projects about improving relationships between lessors and tenants.

There has been no grant made pursuant to Section 82 of the Act. Grants were made under a similar provision of the superseded Rental Bond Act 1989 to support tenancy advisory services (now referred to as the Housing Resource Service Program). There have been no loans made under either Act.

Payments to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Planning to support the program have been:

1990/91	Nil
1991/92	\$1.4m
1992/93	\$1.45m
1993/94	\$1.657m
1994/95	\$1.783m

(d) Funds have been provided by the Residential Tenancies Authority to the Queensland Department of Housing, Local Government and Planning. Reporting arrangements are in place through the Department of Housing, Local Government and Planning to ensure financial and program accountability and to ensure an appropriate level of service is maintained.

(e) Yes

(f) N/A

(2) The Residential Tenancies Authority has adopted an investment strategy to ensure maximum returns consistent with prudent funds management. Investments are made only in bank deposits and accepted bank bills or term deposits with Queensland Treasury Corporation and Suncorp Building Society.

**562. Queensland Building Services Authority**

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Rural Communities, Minister for Rural Communities and Minister for Provision of Infrastructure for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities—

What action will he take to address what appears to be breaches of the Queensland Building Services Authority Act by the tribunal with regard to the case

of Mrs Rosemary Eather as such inaction by the Queensland Building Services Authority and Government representatives may cause Mrs Eather to lose her home?

Answer (Mr Mackenroth):

Although I am the Minister of the Crown responsible for the administration of the Queensland Building Services Authority Act 1991, the Tribunal has been established as a quasi-judicial body and neither I nor the Queensland Building Services Authority have any powers under the Act to interfere with determinations made by it. In fact, it would be highly improper for me or the Authority to interfere in what is a quasi-judicial process.

If a party such as Mrs Eather is dissatisfied with a determination of the Tribunal because of a perceived error of fact or law they can seek leave of the District Court to appeal. Mrs Eather has been involved in two applications before the Tribunal. In the *Palada v Eather* application she did seek leave and it was denied.

She has sought two applications for reconsideration by the Tribunal of decisions of the Tribunal in the *Mayco v Eather* application. The first application for reconsideration was not made within the fourteen days allowed under the Act and the second application did not raise a clerical or factual error which is required. She has not sought leave to appeal.

If a party considers they have been denied natural justice they may appeal to the Supreme Court. Mrs Eather has not taken her complaints to the Supreme Court but has sent several letters to politicians and to other organisations who are all unable to assist her to change the decisions of the Tribunal. She has also taken her complaints to the media.

I refer to the letter from Mrs Eather to Mr Connor which he tabled in this House on 16 November 1995 in regard to Mrs Eather's alleged breaches of the Act by the Tribunal.

Mrs Eather's major complaint relates to the allegation that "she was not called to the witness stand in either case".

The Tribunal operates informally and, to assist the large number of parties who represent themselves in the jurisdiction, requires parties to file statements of witnesses which at the hearing become their evidence-in-chief. This avoids the trauma of having to give oral evidence and where the other party does not require the witness for cross-examination, the witness is not required to take the witness stand or even attend the hearing (unless they are a party).

Mrs Eather alleges that she has "consistently been denied the opportunity to have vital documents aired". However, she was required by the Tribunal as part of the preparation phase to file all documents which she believed to be relevant to her case. Mrs Eather was represented at both hearings by a solicitor and a barrister, who were responsible for protecting her interests, which would have included airing any relevant documents, assuming they had been filed by Mrs Eather.

Mrs Eather also seems to be alleging that the Tribunal breached the Act by preferring the evidence of other witnesses to those witnesses who gave statements on her behalf.

Once the evidence has been given either by statement or orally and the hearing finalised the Member then has to make a decision. Before determining a legal issue the factual issues must be resolved. This requires an assessment of the evidence and the competing versions of evidence. There is no golden formula for assessing the competing credibility of witnesses. Many matters lead to the decision of whom to believe. Sometimes witnesses seem to be unreasonably intransigent on a significant point which departs significantly from the evidence of others; sometimes it is merely a question of general reliability; and sometimes it is a question of blatant dishonesty.

The Members of the Tribunal are all experienced litigation Lawyers who bring with them their own wealth of experience to this difficult task of assessing credibility. Regrettably in every case the evidence of one party has to be preferred to another. In some cases it is a little easier than others. Notwithstanding, this task is central to dispute resolution.

The legal principles applied by the Tribunal in the resolution of disputes are those which have evolved over the centuries.

At the end of the *Palada v Eather* hearing the question of latent defects, which were to be attended to by Mr Palada, was referred by the Tribunal to the Authority for it to supervise the rectification referred to in its Direction to Rectify dated 10 August 1995. Mr Palada sought a review of that Direction to Rectify in the Tribunal and on 14 November that application was settled between Mr Palada and the Authority. Mr Palada is now to rectify the work to the satisfaction of the Authority. Upon that event Mrs Eather will have received that which she contracted to purchase.

I am satisfied that there have been no breaches of the Act by the Tribunal. I am also satisfied that there has been no inaction by the Authority or any Government representative which may cause Mrs Eather to lose her home.

### **563. Mr D. Yock; Video Monitoring in Police Transport Vehicles**

Mr FITZGERALD asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to a Police Service advisory note to him dated 23 December 1994 on the matter of the trial of video equipment in police vehicles—

- (1) Did the Criminal Justice Commission inquiry into the death of Daniel Yock recommend video monitoring in prisoner transport vehicles; if so, when was that recommendation made and when and where did the trial of this monitoring begin?
- (2) What is the current status of this trial?

- (3) When will all police transport vehicles have this facility and what is the estimated total cost?

Answer (Mr Braddy):

(1) In March 1994, the Criminal Justice Commission published "A Report of an Investigation into the Death of Daniel Alfred Yock". The report contained six recommendations. Recommendation three stated:

"Urgent consideration should be given to the establishment of a means of communication between the occupants of special purpose vehicles of the type involved in this case and those persons imprisoned in the secure area of those vehicles."

As part of ongoing research and development, a trial of video monitoring equipment in prisoner transport vehicles was commenced in December 1993, prior to the published recommendations of the Yock Inquiry. The trial was conducted in a number of two wheel drive police vehicles attached to West End and Fortitude Valley stations.

(2) Following the trial a qualitative evaluation was conducted by the Queensland Police Service Transport Section. The equipment was assessed as beneficial, however further information on alternative means of establishing communications in prisoner transport vehicles is being sought from the National Police Research Unit (NPRU) and other police jurisdictions.

(3) If the present system of video monitoring were to be approved, the video monitoring equipment would be progressively installed over a three year period as prisoner transport vehicles are replaced. All two wheel drive prisoner transport vehicles would contain video monitoring equipment by December 1998. The estimated total cost is \$150,000.

The development of an alternative system based on advice from the NPRU and other police jurisdictions would extend the expected completion date of this project by at least one year to December 1999.

**QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE****218. Primary Industries Department Stationery Supply Tender**

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

With reference to the invitation by the Department of Primary Industries for the provision of a Stationery Supply and Distribution Service to the Department (Invitation to Offer, Invitation No. 12)—

- (1) Has this tender now been cancelled?
- (2) If so, has the tender been cancelled to permit a study by a consultant to inquire into the effect on country centres?
- (3) What is the expected cost of the consultancy?
- (4) Given the distribution patterns contained in Appendix D of the Invitation Documents, what further information is expected to be derived from the consultancy?
- (5) Why was the decision to conduct the consultancy taken so long after the Invitation to Offer had been published?
- (6) How much is spent on stationery and its distribution each year?
- (7) What was the original expected saving from going to tender?

Answer

1. Yes.

2. The State Purchasing Council Secretariat will undertake an assessment of the impact of all Managed Supply and Distribution Arrangements, which includes, the impact on regional employment and economies.

3. Unknown—If a consultancy is required the Secretariat of the State Purchasing Council will seek competitive offers.

4. The review is to determine the impact of Managed Supply and Distribution Arrangements on a range of issues which include regional employment and economies and is not confined to stationery.

5. The review is not to be commissioned by DPI.

6. For the 1993-1994 financial year the Department expended in excess of \$850,000 on general stationery and forms.

7. An investigation into DPI's stationery requirements has identified potential benefits including:

- cost savings to the Department through reduced administration;
- fixed pricing on stationery items;
- a wider selection of stationery items available; and
- improved management information on the Department's expenditure for stationery.

**221. Charter Boats and Ferries**

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

- (1) Are charter boats and ferries operating in Queensland waters required by Government to carry public liability insurance?
- (2) If not, what action does he propose to take to ensure both the operators and their paying clients are fully protected?

Answer:

Through the Transport Operations (Marine Safety Act) 1994, Parliament regulates the maritime industry to ensure marine safety. The legislation inter alia places a general safety obligation on owners and masters of ships about the condition, safety equipment and operation of ships.

At present no other Australian State or Territory has a compulsory third party insurance (CTP) scheme for boats. The Parliamentary Travelsafe Committee Report No. 14, tabled November 1994, recommended that the issue of CTP for boats be investigated by the Motor Accident Insurance Commission (MAIC).

Preliminary investigations recently carried out by the MAIC have suggested the introduction of any compulsory insurance scheme would be very complex because of the small insurance pool and the general unavailability of unlimited personal injury insurance in the marine portfolio. A formal response to the Parliamentary Travelsafe Committee's report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 23 May 1995.

To date, the Government's promotion of greater responsibility amongst shipping operators and its further development of the maritime industry's effectiveness and efficiency has ensured it is unnecessary to prescribe public liability insurance for ships. Instead, prudent ship owners are expected to carry insurance appropriate to their operations, as is the case in other industries not subject to prescriptive insurance.

In the future, the MAIC will continue to investigate the feasibility of an insurance scheme including such matters as costing and extent of insurance cover. The investigation will also examine whether compulsory insurance should extend to commercial operations.

The Government will maintain a close watch on marine safety and will continue to develop appropriate marine safety strategies which take into account the advice of the Maritime Industry Consultative Council on marine safety issues and the needs of industry and users.

**222. World Heritage Listed Areas**

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

With reference to a number of councils and freehold property owners in North Queensland who have land in World Heritage Listed areas and as the councils have to provide facilities, such as roads, with no rate base, and a number of landowners have to pay rates on World Heritage Listed areas which substantially restricts the level of activities they can carry out in these areas, and as the State

Government increasingly is introducing the 'user pays' concept as a revenue base—

- (1) Will the State Government give consideration to providing financial assistance to local authorities who have World Heritage Listed and National Parks areas within their boundaries to alleviate the burden on their ratepayers of supplying services, such as roads, to a wide range of people?
- (2) Will consideration also be given to providing financial compensation to landholders who have land within World Heritage Listed areas because of the restrictions being placed on certain activities on their properties?

Answer:

(1) The cost of maintaining roads and providing visitor services on national parks is met by the Department of Environment and Heritage.

Local Government has access to the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme administered by the Department of Transport, which provides funding for maintenance of roads into national parks.

Additionally, the Local Government Grants Commission takes into account both the area of non-rateable land, and expenditure disabilities created by special attractions such as highly visited national parks, when determining the allocation of financial assistance grants.

World Heritage Listing does not affect the rate base of Local Government because it is not a change in land tenure.

(2) The *Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993* already provides for the payment of compensation where existing use rights are constrained by the requirements relating to the management of World Heritage values.

Similarly, the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* provides for the payment of compensation when a regulation giving effect to a World Heritage Management Area is commenced. Compensation is payable where land is injuriously affected by a restriction or prohibition imposed under a regulation unless that restriction or prohibition already applies under some other Act.

## **225. International CFIDS/ME Awareness Day**

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Health—

As 12 May 1995 was recognised as International CFIDS/ME Awareness Day (Chronic Fatigue and Immune Dysfunction Syndrome/Myalgic Encephalomyelitis), what is his department's commitment to funding research that will allow relief to the hundreds of Queenslanders currently suffering from this debilitating and distressing illness?

Answer:

Funding for medical research in Australia is driven from a national level through the National Health and Medical Research Council. Given the wide range of subjects and diseases, the Council

provides research funding based on judgements about scientific merit and peer review.

Queensland Health acknowledges the debilitating effect of chronic diseases such as Chronic Fatigue and Immune Dysfunction Syndrome/Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (CFIDS/ME) on sufferers and actively seeks means of providing relief to sufferers by providing funding for medical research and development.

For example, Queensland Health provides \$4.4 million of operational funding to the Queensland Institute of Medical Research (QIMR), which allows it to develop its own research program. Their research agenda focuses on diseases characteristic of our sub-tropical environment.

The Queensland Institute of Medical Research (QIMR) targets the development of vaccines and other measures against viral illnesses such as Glandular Fever, Malaria, Ross River and Dengue Fever, which are not infrequently the precursors of chronic fatigue syndrome. Influenza is another precursor of chronic fatigue syndrome. Queensland Health collaborates with general practitioners in programs to maximise influenza vaccination in populations at most risk.

Queensland Health also awards grants of \$100,000 to the Arbo-Virus Research Program and operational funds of \$228,000 to Sir Albert Sakzewski Laboratories at the Royal Brisbane Hospital to research these precursor viral illnesses.

## **226. Eastlink**

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Premier and Minister for Economic and Trade Development—

Has Cabinet approved the connection of the Queensland and New South Wales electricity grids via the proposed National Electricity Grid Connection referred to as Eastlink?

Answer:

In response to the question made by Mr Springborg, I can advise as follows:

(1) Yes.

It is a proposal approved by the Liberal and National Party Government in New South Wales and has been endorsed by the Queensland Cabinet. The Government will give full consideration to any recommendations arising from the current Environmental Impact Statement process.

## **229. Sunshine Motorway**

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

(1) Does the Government intend to construct an access loop on the Sunshine Motorway approach just north of the Mooloolah River to allow traffic in the South Mooloolaba/Bundilla area to access the motorway from Brisbane Road to travel north on the motorway?

(2) If not, why not?

(3) If so, when will construction commence?

Answer:

The Government currently has no plans to construct a new access loop.

During the initial planning for the interchange it was decided that the additional loop was not required because traffic counts on the existing Mooloolaba Bypass showed that a relatively small volume of traffic travelled from Bundilla to the north.

In the current situation motorists wishing to travel north from Bundilla can access the motorway via Karawatha Drive or via the Mooloolaba Road interchange.

The construction of an additional access loop would be a complicated and expensive undertaking. It would require the resumption of a number of properties and could not be justified in terms of potential traffic usage.

### **232. Cardwell Ambulance Centre**

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Emergency Services and Consumer Affairs and Minister Assisting the Premier on Rural Affairs—

Will he provide a detailed explanation of the unfortunate circumstances where, on 15 May 1995, a person residing at Cardwell and living next door to the ambulance centre, suffered a cardiac arrest and in spite of his proximity to the centre, an unacceptable lengthy delay occurred before an ambulance officer came to assist this person?

Answer:

At midday on 15 May, a 56 year old woman collapsed at the fish shop at Cardwell. Her daughter ran to the ambulance station two doors away. However, the station was unattended so it appears she returned to the shop and rang 000.

The Cardwell ambulance station has two permanent officers on staff and three honorary officers. Cardwell station has two ambulance vehicles.

At that time, one of the permanent officers and one of the honorary officers were in Tully getting repairs to the electrical system on one of the ambulances. (Tully officers are particularly nervous about the electrical system on their vehicles following a previous electrical fault which resulted in a fire which severely damaged the Cardwell station.)

At 1204 hrs, the QAS received a call to respond to an unconscious collapse in Cardwell. The Cardwell officers were then at the Tully station awaiting repairs to the vehicle. As the repairs had just been completed, the officers immediately picked up the vehicle and set off for Cardwell 42 kms away.

In the meantime, the relatives had made contact with the Doctor in Cardwell who attended the scene and pronounced life extinct. One of the other honorary officers in Cardwell noticed that the doctor was in attendance and stopped to render assistance as well. The Doctor rang the ambulance to advise them. The ambulance continued to the scene anyway.

Although the actions of the officers are understandable, in retrospect the decision to take

the car to Tully and leave the station unattended was not the optimal decision that could have been made.

New instructions have been issued by the regional staff to ensure that the occasions when Cardwell is unattended are minimised.

This is a tragic incident in which a serious illness has arisen when the local ambulance crew was out of town. Unfortunately, in small towns there will be times when this does occur either due to the crew being on another case or, as in this incident, when urgent other business is required. Procedures have been put in place within the region to ensure that such times are reduced to a minimum.

Cardwell station manages an average of 600—700 cases per annum of which the majority are casualty room cases. The staffing level is similar to that at many other small towns in Queensland. The mixture of permanent and honorary staff is the best means of providing service to such communities.

The Cardwell station is a good station with three very committed and energetic Honoraries. This incident is out of character for the local team.

I express my condolences to the family.

### **233. Tallon Bridge, Bundaberg**

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to the recently completed Bundaberg "Tallon" Bridge—

- (1) Has the contractor and sub-contractor been fully paid?
- (2) Are there any outstanding claims or pending legal action in respect to unresolved payment claims?
- (3) What repair work was done to the bridge prior to its opening and are there currently any cracks or faults requiring repairs?
- (4) Has the bridge been fully inspected and will he give an assurance that the bridge is free of any indication that faults will occur in the future?

Answer:

(1) The parties to the contract to build the Tallon Bridge are Queensland Transport and McConnell Dowell Constructors (Aust) Pty Ltd.

Queensland Transport has honoured its contractual obligations in paying progress payments to the contractor for works completed.

The contractor is obliged to submit a Statutory Declaration with each progress claim in which the contractor declares that all wages and claims of workmen have been paid in accordance with the awards.

On submission of the contractor's Final Claim, the Final Statutory Declaration shows that the contractor is to declare that as well as the wages claims, that all payments due to subcontractors have been made.

Under the contract payment provisions Queensland Transport does not process payments unless the Statutory Declaration is duly completed.

The contractor is yet to submit its final claim.

Queensland Transport is not made aware of the contractual arrangements between the contractor and his subcontractors and suppliers.

(2) The contractor has presented some claims. Queensland Transport is assessing these in accordance with the contract.

The contractor has not notified Queensland Transport of legal action.

Queensland Transport has not received any notification regarding legal action between the contractor and others.

(3) During the latter stages of the construction, treatment was required to shrinkage cracks in some of the deck spans.

These were treated prior to asphalt surfacing works on the bridge and prior to the bridge opening.

These cracks did not affect the structural integrity of the bridge.

All cracking problems have been rectified and there are no other faults requiring attention.

(4) The specifications for the bridge construction included Quality Assurance provisions.

Payment for completed works included the provision that work be conforming to the specifications.

Queensland Transport maintained staff on site during construction of the bridge. Duties included monitoring compliance with the specifications.

Progress Inspections and Quality procedures have been followed.

Under normal operating conditions there is no reason why the bridge should not last for its design life.

The Austroads Bridge Design Code 1992 shows that the normal design life is 100 years.

During the normal life of the bridge, it is expected that some maintenance will be required to some of the elements, eg expansion joints and deck wearing surface.

The bridge has been fully inspected and there is no evidence that faults will occur in the future due to the construction processes.

### **234. Casino Control Act**

Mr LINGARD asked the Treasurer—

With reference to the recent incident at the Treasury Casino when two children were left at the front door for several hours whilst their parent gambled and due to the restrictive entry provisions of the *Casino Control Act* police were unable to accompany the children into the Casino to enable the identification of their parent and police were left in the position of having to care for the children for several hours until the parent came forward—

Will he amend the Act to enable police to accompany children under 18 years of age into the

Casino, particularly the video surveillance room, when situations such as this arise?

Answer:

I am aware of an incident at the Conrad Treasury Casino on Sunday, 14 May 1995, where two young children aged 11 and 8 were left unattended by their father while he was in the Casino. I presume that this is the incident to which the Honourable Member refers, although the facts do not fully accord with his question.

Let me summarise the events.

- . At 6.15 that evening, Conrad Security became aware of the children playing, unattended, near the front of the Casino in Queen Street.
- . When they were still there—and still unattended—30 minutes later, the Casino Security Shift Manager became involved. He spoke with the children and ascertained that they had, in fact, been left in the nearby McDonald's store and had followed their father to the Casino.
- . Police were notified at 7.25pm, and uniformed Officers arrived at 7.46pm.
- . The children's father came out of the Casino at 8.05pm and was reunited with his children.
- . At 8.16pm, he was formally excluded from the Casino. The Police then returned to duty.

In all, then, Police involvement was only about 30 minutes in total. It is most unlikely that actually taking the children into the Casino could have shortened this involvement in any way.

Nonetheless, as soon as the incident came to the attention of the Queensland Office of Gaming Regulation, steps were taken to ensure that a clear policy and set of procedures were in place to deal with any future incidents. A meeting between senior officers of QOGR and Police Officers has been arranged for 29 May to finalise this.

Generally speaking, however, there does not appear to be any need at present to amend the Casino Control Act to achieve the desired goal. Police Officers have a common law obligation to ensure the safety and well being of all children. The welfare of the child is paramount. On this basis, I see no impediment to a Police Officer, in the execution of his duty, either escorting a child through a Queensland Casino in search of its parents or accessing the video surveillance room.

This view has been discussed with both the Juvenile Aid Bureau and the Department of Family Services who agree that it should form the basis of operating procedures from here on in.

Naturally, these procedures will be kept under review and should any changes (legislative or administrative) be necessary, they will be implemented.

### **235. Old Bruce Highway**

Mr TURNER asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to the number of accidents and delays in getting from the Palmwoods-Keil Mountain Road onto the old Bruce Highway—

Will he advise what proposals his department has to overcome this dangerous and serious problem?

Answer:

Traffic delays in accessing the Connection Road from Palmwoods and the Keil Mountain Road have resulted in higher priority being assigned to upgrading of this intersection in the Roads Implementation Program (1995/96—1999/2000).

Queensland Transport's North Coast District is currently investigating the most appropriate intersection treatment.

### 237. Goondiwindi Hospital

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the Goondiwindi Hospital and to communities serviced by the hospital which includes people in New South Wales—

- (1) Is it the Government's intention to downgrade bed numbers at the Goondiwindi Hospital?
- (2) Will he give an undertaking to visit the hospital so he can acquaint himself with its role, particularly as it is situated on the national highway?

Answer:

(1) No decision has been made in relation to the future bed number allocation for Goondiwindi Hospital. The Darling Downs Region has submitted its draft Regional Service Plan which outlines the bed configuration and future role of the Hospital. This draft plan is currently being assessed. Let me give this assurance to the people of Goondiwindi, Goondiwindi Hospital will require to provide them with the services they need and deserve.

(2) Yes, it is my intention to visit the Goondiwindi Hospital.

### 238. Land Valuation Act

Miss SIMPSON asked the Treasurer—

With reference to the proposed changes to the *Land Valuation Act*, primarily the shift from unimproved capital valuations to site valuations—

How much will the Government reap in increased land tax revenue under the proposal?

Answer:

The Department of Lands issued a working paper "Valuation of Land Act Reform in Queensland" in March 1993 which canvassed, inter alia, the desirability of a move to site values for rating and taxation purposes.

However, there are no specific proposals to amend the basis of valuation in the current Act.

In these circumstances, there are no implications for land tax revenue.

### 239. Regional Development Organisations

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Business, Industry and Regional Development—

With reference to the importance of regional development organisations like the Gulf Local Authorities Development Association and the Cape York Peninsula Development Association—

Does the Government recognise and support their endeavours to promote business in remote areas?

Answer:

Yes, my Department realises the important role of regional development organisations in developing strong regional economies and promoting business growth and diversification.

A range of project-related assistance is provided to regional development organisations throughout the State, including the Business Advice for Rural Areas and Regional Economic Development programs administered by my Department.

The Business Advice for Rural Areas program provides the services of a Business Facilitator to groups or individuals seeking to develop, expand or diversify businesses in rural areas and provide new job opportunities. This is achieved by supplying appropriate 'start up' information and advice, and on-going support and assistance.

Since 1992, a Business Advice Office has been active in the Cape York Peninsula under the management of the Cape York Peninsula Development Association. Funding for that position has recently been extended until 1998.

My Department is currently discussing with the Gulf Local Authorities Development Association a proposal to support a Business Officer for the Gulf for a two year period.

The Regional Economic Development program assists regional development organisations fund the development of tourism and economic strategic plans for individual regions, identify new business opportunities, conduct feasibility studies and market investment opportunities.

The Cape York Peninsula Development Association has received funding of \$29,000 and the Gulf Local Authorities Development Association \$16,050 under this program. Discussions are continuing with these organisations on further funding to develop economic development strategies for both regions.

In addition to the range of assistance provided through these State-wide programs, my Department has provided additional support for remote regional development organisations. This support has been provided in recognition of the difficulties experienced in raising sufficient funds for their operations in areas with low levels of business activity, limited infrastructure and low density population.

Since 1990, my Department has made \$78,000 available to the Cape York Peninsula Development Association to support its operation expenses and the details of further funding for the period to the end of this financial year are soon to be finalised.



My Department is also working on a further new initiative, which is part of the current 1995-96 budget. This initiative is to provide interim core funding of \$62,500 each to the Cape York Peninsula Development Association and the Gulf Local Authorities Development Association to further assist the development of these organisations.

Both of these associations are also members of the newly established Far North Queensland Regional Development Network. The Network, which is to develop strategies to ensure the continued economic development of the Far North, Gulf and Cape regions, is to receive up to \$100,000 per annum for the next three years from my Department.

#### **241. Yeppoon-Rockhampton Road**

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

What roadworks are proposed for widening and upgrading the Yeppoon-Rockhampton Road?

Answer:

The 1995/96 Roads Implementation Program provides for the construction of 2 km of the Rockhampton-Yeppoon Road at Malara Flats at an estimated cost of \$1.9M.

The project will upgrade a narrow section of two lane pavement and provide increased overtaking opportunities by the addition of two overtaking lanes.

The outcomes of this project will be improved safety for motorists and improved attractiveness of the Capricorn Coast area for tourists.

#### **243. Nullinga and Flaggy Creek Dams**

Mr GILMORE asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

- (1) What is (a) the status of planning for the Nullinga Dam on the Walsh River west of Mareeba and (b) the likely cost of the dam and the area of irrigable land commanded by the dam?
- (2) What is (a) the status of planning for the Flaggy Creek Dam north-west of Cairns and (b) the likely cost of the dam and associated works?

Answer

1. Nullinga Dam and Tinaroo Falls sites were originally considered in the early 1950s as options to provide supply to a proposed irrigation area on the Atherton Tablelands. The Tinaroo Falls site was identified as the superior site, and the Tinaroo Falls Dam was subsequently completed in 1958. There has been no significant consideration of the Nullinga site since the 1950s.

As part of my Department's Atherton Tablelands Development Strategy, consideration of the availability of future water supplies may possibly

include some consideration of the Nullinga Dam site.

2. There are no present plans for the Flaggy Creek Dam site, which has long been identified as a possible source of water supply to the Cairns City region. This site was first investigated in 1952 and costs were reviewed in the 1980s.

Preliminary estimates indicate that a dam of 260 000 megalitre capacity at this site could provide a supply of 48 000 megalitres per annum. A dam of this capacity was estimated to cost some \$45 million in 1986.

#### **246. Blackfellow and Black Duck Creeks**

Mr FITZGERALD asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

With reference to proposed dam sites on the Blackfellow and Black Duck Creeks in the Gatton Shire that were investigated by the Water Resources Section of the Department of Primary Industries—

- (1) Has the investigation shown any of the three sites to be suitable?
- (2) If so, which sites are preferred and what is the estimated cost, capacity and yield of each?
- (3) Is further study being done on potential water storage sites in the Gatton, Laidley and Boonah Shires?

Answer

1. Preliminary investigations of potential storage sites on Blackfellow and Black Duck Creeks in the Gatton Shire were carried out in 1990 by consultants to the Department.

The consultants conclusions were that whilst it was technically feasible to construct dams at these sites, in each case, the cost of any additional supplies provided would be very high.

2. Not Applicable.

3. At this time, further study on potential storage sites in the Gatton Laidley and Boonah Shires is restricted to consideration of small weir proposals including the weir in the Clarendon area being progressed under the Operation Lockyer Revival initiative.

#### **247. Clermont Stock Inspector**

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

Following upon the Acting Minister for Primary Industries' reply that Clermont will continue to receive the services of a locally based stock inspector—

Will he advise when Clermont will be provided with a full time stock inspector?

Answer:

The Clermont Stock Inspector position has been advertised. Selection interviews are taking place within my Department this week (week commencing 22 May 1995).

The Stock Inspector appointed as a result of this selection process will take up duties as soon as this can be arranged.

### 253. Pioneer River Bridge

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to the long delays for traffic crossing the Pioneer River during peak times—

Will he give an indication of (a) the projected capital works that are planned to address this problem and (b) when work will commence on the project?

Answer:

The outcomes of the Mackay Bridge Study and East West Connector Report were released in March 1995.

The duplication of Ron Camm Bridge was recommended as the preferred option for the provision of additional cross river capacity.

A transportation study shall be carried out to consider the long term road network needs and traffic demand requirements. The study shall be carried out in conjunction with the Mackay City Strategic Planning process.

The project has been included in the National Highway Strategy. The Federal Minister for Transport is currently finalising the Federal National Highway Strategy allocation to the State and is expected to announce the approved forward strategy for Queensland in June 1995.

### 254. Mourilyan Wharf Facilities

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

While it has been established that the sugar industry infrastructure, such as sheds, shiploader etc., was paid for by the sugar industry, it is unclear who paid for the wharf and molasses storage tank at the Port of Mourilyan—

- (1) How was the wharf funded?
- (2) How was the molasses storage tank funded?
- (3) How will the Ports Corporation dividend to the Government be assessed in lieu of the sugar industry contribution to the facilities at Mourilyan?

Answer:

(1) The Mourilyan Wharf was constructed by the Ports Corporation of Queensland (then the Harbours Corporation of Queensland) in the early 1960s using loan funds.

The users of the port infrastructure such as the Mourilyan Bulk Sugar Terminal Organisation and the Australian Molasses Pool were charged a harbour due, (currently 85 cents per tonne of product shipped through the port) to recompense the port authority for port operational expenses such as loan servicing, development, planning and administration.

(2) The molasses tanks were also funded by the then Harbours Corporation through usage agreements with the molasses industry. Typically the Harbours Corporation negotiated loans with financial institutions and the loan servicing and repayment costs were reimbursed to the Harbours Corporation by the then Australian Molasses Pool (now the Mourilyan Molasses Terminal Pty Ltd).

(3) Genuine user funded assets, which are shown in the accounts of the port authorities, will be excluded from the asset base used for the calculation of port authority target rates of return. This will remove any undue pressure to generate higher profits to meet rates of return requirements on assets already contributed by port users. The Government has previously given a commitment in this respect.

Whilst the funding arrangements associated with the construction of the wharf and the molasses tanks at Mourilyan require those assets to be included in the Ports Corporation of Queensland's asset base, the shiploader at Mourilyan and considerable more infrastructure located in other Queensland ports will be excluded from the asset bases of Queensland port authorities.

However, it should be realised that the proposed dividends are related to port authority profits, therefore they will not be directly affected by the value of a port authority's asset base.

Any dividend payable by the Ports Corporation of Queensland will be based on the annual profits of the organisation as a whole, and not on a port by port basis.

### 257. Mooloolaba Boat Ramp

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

- (1) Have plans been made to extend the public boat ramp facilities at Mooloolaba?
- (2) If so, when is this work expected to be completed?

Answer:

Land has been set aside for some time at the Mooloolaba Boat Harbour, between the existing boat ramp and car/trailer parking area and the Mooloolaba Yacht Club lease area, for provision of additional recreational boating facilities. It is envisaged that a two (2) lane boat ramp and associated car/trailer parking will be provided.

These works have been included in Queensland Transport's three (3) year rolling program for capital works and, on the basis of current priorities and funding arrangements, are scheduled for completion by the end of June 1998.

### 263. Tannum Sands Road

Mr BENNETT asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

What will the proposed upgrading of the Tannum Sands Road mean to the people of the Boyne Tannum area?

Answer:

The proposed upgrading of the Tannum Sands Road involves the widening and rehabilitation of 5 km of the road from a single lane strip of bitumen to a two lane sealed road.

The Tannum Sands Road provides a direct connection from Tannum Sands to the Bruce Highway.

The upgraded road will provide safer access to the Bruce Highway and encourage more visitors to the Boyne/Tannum area.

### 265. Graffiti Vandalism

Mr PYKE asked the Premier and Minister for Economic and Trade Development—

Is he aware of the excellent package of legislation and policies adopted by Western Australia to prevent graffiti vandalism and does he intend to implement a similar initiative in Queensland?

Answer:

(1) Yes.

(2) The Queensland Government maintains a strong interest in policies being implemented in other jurisdictions.

### 279. Timber Processing

Mr PERRETT asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

With reference to DPI Forest Service Sales Notice 22/94 which contains, at page 35, the assurance that "domestic processing of the resource is not a requirement under this sale"—

(1) Why was this paragraph included?

(2) What guarantee will he give that the timber grown with funds provided by Queenslanders on land held by the Government on behalf of Queenslanders will be used only by Queensland processors?

Answer:

1. In order to prevent a breach of the competitive rules contained in the Trades Practices Act.

2. I am confident Queensland processors are competitive enough to enable them to grasp these opportunities.

### 281. Swans Lagoon Research Station

Mr STONEMAN asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

With reference to the answer he gave to my question of 22 March 1995 surrounding allegations connected with the management of Swans Lagoon Research Station, wherein it was acknowledged that investigations took place and were 'thoroughly investigated'—

(1) How could the matter have been 'thoroughly investigated' without any further contact with the neighbour who gave the initial information to Mr Stewart Wood, Regional Director—North

Region or, it would appear, any other person outside the department?

(2) Why did his reply clearly state there was 'no evidence of wrongdoing' when in fact the matter of a missing horse, which was part of the information given to Mr Wood, became the subject of a Court action and conviction involving a former employee of the department in the Bowen Court in 1995?

(3) Based on this evidence that there has been a 'wrongdoing', has he as Minister misled the Parliament or have officers of the department not advised him of the truth and are involved in an attempted cover up?

(4) In view of the above will he immediately re-open the matter and have an independent investigation carried out forthwith?

Answer:

1. The matter was thoroughly investigated by the Department's internal auditors based on the allegations made by Mr Tudehope. This investigation involved checking a range of internal and external records covering the time period covering the allegations made by Mr Tudehope.

2. As I stated in my previous answer to this question no evidence of wrongdoing was uncovered in the investigation by the internal auditors based on the allegations made by Mr Tudehope. No allegations were made by Mr Tudehope to Mr Wood regarding the theft of any horse in their meeting at the Clare Club on 13 September 1993.

3. The 'wrongdoing' referred to by Mr Stoneman arose from a prosecution launched as a result of a horse bearing a Department of Primary Industries (DPI) brand being spotted by a DPI employee in a paddock in the Bowen District. Other matters arising from this court case have been referred to the Criminal Justice Commission by the police and are currently under investigation. There has been no cover-up and all matters brought to the attention of the Department have been thoroughly investigated.

4. A thorough investigation has been carried out based on the allegations made by Mr Tudehope to Mr Stewart Wood, Regional Director (North) of my Department and no further investigation is proposed. Investigations are continuing through the Criminal Justice Commission on matters raised in the Court action in the Bowen Court in 1995.

### 283. Broadwater Dam

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

With reference to the proposed Broadwater Dam on the Granite Belt -

(1) Will he confirm his commitment to this proposal?

(2) When will construction commence on the dam?

(3) When is it estimated the construction of the dam will be completed?

- (4) What financial commitment does the Government plan to make towards the dam?
- (5) What are the cost sharing arrangements proposed between the Government and local water users in the area of capital construction costs of the dam and reticulation or any combination of the above?

Answer:

1. Yes—Provided the results of economic and environmental studies are satisfactory and agreement is reached with local growers over the extent of the scheme and cost sharing arrangements.
2. The timetable for the scheme is dependent on proposals currently being considered by local growers. Once they have reached agreement, it is anticipated that it will then be approximately twelve to eighteen months until tenders could be called for construction of the dam.
3. Construction of the dam is expected to take about two years after the successful tender has been awarded.
4. The Government and the beneficiaries have yet to negotiate funding arrangements for the dam, currently estimated to cost some \$18 million.
5. At this stage, it has not been possible to negotiate these details until the extent of the project has been finalised.

### 285. Darling Downs Water Storage

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

Why has his Government not committed any funds to either building new water storage facilities or planning new storage facilities in the Greater Darling Downs Region?

Answer:

Over recent years, the Government has committed significant resources to planning in the region in attempting to find cost effective solutions to the demand for more water.

My Department has undertaken an appraisal study of the available options in the Upper Condamine area and released a report detailing these in February 1992.

This information was presented to local governments, irrigators and interest groups at numerous local meetings.

Unfortunately, it was apparent that no one scheme would be favoured by a majority of interests in the region.

### 293. Upper Condamine Water Storage

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

What plans does the Department of Primary Industries have for the construction of water storages including weirs in the Upper Condamine system, and in particular districts in the Warwick, Allora, Killarney, Maryvale and Pratten areas?

Answer:

A report on an appraisal by my Department of possible additional water storage options was released in February 1992.

The options evaluated in that study included storages of various capacities at the Elbow Valley dam site upstream of Warwick and offstream storages in the Warwick, Yarralong and Cecil Plains areas. This information was presented to local government, irrigators and interest groups at numerous local meetings.

Unfortunately, no one option was favoured by a majority of interests in the area.

### 300. Fossicking

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

With reference to the advent of the *Fossicking Act 1994*, the Central Highlands area mainly around Clermont has become a very sought after destination for recreational fossicking and as the town attracts large numbers of tourists, many of whom stay for periods as long as three months and since designated areas for fossicking are very limited—

Will he open some of the forestry reserves in the area as designated areas for recreational fossicking?

Answer:

The Fossicking Act 1994, applies to forestry land only if the area is designated as fossicking land (i.e. commercial mining operations are also permitted), is declared as a fossicking area (i.e. available for recreational fossicking only) or the Chief Executive of the Department of Primary Industries gives a general permission for fossicking on the land.

Fossicking would be considered a legitimate recreational use of forestry land where it does not compromise existing management strategies or potential superior purposes for the area.

My Department and the Department of Minerals and Energy are currently developing policies and procedures which will enable part or parts of forestry reserves to be assessed and where appropriate to be made available for recreational fossicking.

We will be consulting with the association of Queensland lapidary clubs during this process to ensure that the final guidelines are appropriate and workable.

### 308. Brisbane Road, Helensvale

Mr SZCZEBANIK asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

- (1) What progress has been made on roadworks at Brisbane Road, Helensvale?
- (2) When will they be completed?

Answer:

(1) The progress on the upgrading of the Gold Coast Highway between the Pacific Highway and

Coombah Creek is on schedule, given the Contractor Baulderstone Hornibrook has experienced delays of three (3) weeks due to wet weather. The progress of the works has also been in accordance with Queensland Rail requirements for the construction of the Beenleigh-Robina rail line.

(2) The project will be fully operational for traffic by late August 1995. The project will be fully complete by the end of September 1995.

### 312. Tewanin Bus Service

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to the new contract about to be awarded to Tewanin Bus Service on the Sunshine Coast—

- (1) Will the Government subsidise the company adequately to ensure that they will be able to provide the advertised level of service immediately?
- (2) Will the Government fund a public education and promotion program on the Sunshine Coast to encourage residents to use the new service?

Answer:

(1) Firstly, the commercial service contract for bus services on the Sunshine Coast is to be awarded to Sunshine Transit (Qld) Pty Ltd and not Tewanin Bus Service as the honourable member's question suggests.

Secondly, as my announcement at the time made clear, the advertised service levels are to be phased in over the first one—two years of the contract, although an immediate improvement in service levels north of the Maroochy River will occur from day one of the contract.

So far as government subsidies are concerned, these new contracts are commercial in nature. That is, the cost of providing services under the contract is to be met by the operator out of revenue generated from fares, rather than from direct government subsidy.

Indeed, a key feature of the Passenger Transport reforms is that over the five year period of these initial service contracts, the previous regime of direct government subsidy, under which the Government subsidised private bus operators at a rate of between 30%—40% of their gross fare revenue, is to be completely phased out.

Under the Sunshine Coast contract therefore, as with all other commercial service contracts, the only government funding to be provided is as follows:

- (i) Reimbursement of the 50% fares concessions that operators are obliged to provide to pensioners and Queensland Seniors Card holders under the terms of the Government's fares policy;
- (ii) Payment for the transport of school children eligible for assistance under the School Transport Assistance Scheme; and

- (iii) Interest subsidy payments in respect of new vehicles purchased to provide urban or non-school services under the contract.

In addition, to achieve the previously mentioned goal of phasing out direct government subsidies to commercial bus operators, transitional funding which will reduce to zero over the life of the contract is to be paid.

- (2) A government funded public education and promotion program will be conducted on the Sunshine Coast to encourage residents to use the new bus service.

### 315. Savannahlander

Mr GILMORE asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

- (1) What was the total cost of the establishment of the Savannah Lander train service between Mt Surprise and Forsyth?
- (2) How many passengers have been carried on this route as at 30 May 1995?
- (3) How much money has been collected as fares as at 30 May 1995?

Answer:

(1) The cost of the establishment of the Savannahlander train service between Mt Surprise and Forsyth can be broken into two major elements:

- a. Three railmotor 2000 series carriages have been refurbished and upgraded at the Queensland Rail Workshops in Townsville. Two of the carriages are currently operating four times a week between Mt Surprise and Forsyth and the third carriage will be nearing completion within the next week and will be available for service.

The original budget for the upgrade of these three railmotors was \$650,000.00 and although the final figures are yet to be consolidated, current estimates indicate that the upgrade program will be within the original budget.

- b. Additionally, an upgrade and improvement of the Mt Surprise and Forsyth stations was conducted, and this included an interpretive centre plus a shed to house the railmotors, as well as a general repaint of the station buildings and some fencing to house cars and other motor vehicles. The budget for this was \$150,000.00, and although the work has not been completed totally, indications are that the improvements will fall within the original budgets.

(2) Total passengers carried on the Savannahlander between 3 April and 30 May 1995 was 150. Comparative figures for the Last Great Train Ride during the 92/93 period were 185 and 93/94 were 290.

(3) Total fare collections for the period 3 April 1995 to 30 May 1995 were \$2,008.00

The marketing of the Savannahlander has only been in effect for two months and interest for the product, both within Australia and internationally, has been enthusiastic and strong. The marketing lead-time cycle for this type of product, particularly in the international markets, can be as long as 12 to 18 months and therefore a lot of the progress that has been made will not immediately translate into passengers on board or fare collections.

Queensland Rail is very much involved in the Consultative Committee which is a community group concerning development of tourism in the Gulf Savannah region. I also understand that there has been extensive domestic and international media coverage of the Savannahlander and as recently as two weeks ago, the Savannahlander appeared as a feature on the 'Great Outdoors' program. Future and ongoing media opportunities will assist in creating awareness of the train and the region.

### 319. Carters Ridge Road

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to the possible use of a portion of a two chain wide road at Carters Ridge, south of Gympie, for community purposes—

What impediment is in place which prohibits the use of a small section of this road reserve for a building which would enable the local rural fire brigade to keep their vehicle and equipment?

Answer:

Application/s should be made to the Department of Lands who are responsible for administering requests for temporary or permanent closure, lease, and permits to occupy crown road reserve.

If the application/s involves a State-controlled road it would be prudent to refer the matter to Queensland Transport's North Coast District Office in Gympie before making application to the Department of Lands.

Queensland Transport is unlikely to object to any such proposal provided it does not conflict with future road infrastructure improvements and safe access can be provided.

### 345. Victory in the Pacific Day

Mr HORAN asked the Premier and Minister for Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to the significance of Victory in the Pacific Day to Queensland, and the special

importance of this day to the many ex-service organisations with links to the Pacific Theatre of World War II—

Will the Government give consideration to a public holiday on this day to allow remembrance and celebration of this anniversary?

Answer:

The Government has considered granting a holiday on 15 August 1995 for the purposes of celebrating Victory in the Pacific Day (VP Day). Advice was sought from the Australia Remembers Committee, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the RSL and the COAG Working Group on the Uniformity of Public Holidays. These organisations, and in particular the RSL, opposed the granting of a specific holiday to celebrate VP Day. The Government was advised that a day of remembrance could be observed in a similar manner to Armistice Day.

Taking into account the views of these organisations and the economic impact of a public holiday and the fact that the 16th August is already a public holiday in Brisbane, the Government decided not to grant a public holiday for VP Day.

### 347. Swearing in of Members of Parliament

Mr LAMING asked the Premier and Minister for Economic and Trade Development—

- (1) Is it intended to change the provisions for the swearing-in of Members of this Parliament, before this Parliament is dissolved, so that Members are not sworn in by other elected Members but by a Queensland Supreme Court Judge, the Governor or The Clerk of the Parliament?
- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) If so, what are the details of the new procedures?

Answer:

(1) Officers of the Parliamentary Service Commission, my Department and the Crown Law Division of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General are at present examining the legislative, procedural and customary factors required to be taken into account in the ceremonial opening of Parliament.

(2) & (3) My colleague the Leader of the House, the Honourable Terry Mackenroth, will before this Parliament is dissolved table a motion in this place setting out procedures for the opening of the next Parliament.

## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

### 6. Stamp Duty

Mrs SHELTON asked the Treasurer—

- (1) What were the amounts of total stamp duties collections in (a) June 1995 and (b) July 1995?
- (2) What was the amount of conveyancing stamp duties collections in the 1994-95 financial year?
- (3) Of this amount how much was collected in relation to (a) residential properties and (b) commercial properties?
- (4) What was the amount of mortgage stamp duties collections in the 1994-95 financial year?
- (5) Of this amount how much was collected in relation to (a) residential properties and (b) commercial properties?

Answer (Mr De Lacy):

In response to the question made by Mrs Sheldon, I can advise as follows:

Total stamp duty for June 1995 was \$92,385,503.46 and for July 1995, it was \$74,126,833.92. Conveyancing stamp duty for 1994-95 financial year totalled \$503,018,373.03, and the total mortgage stamp duty for the 1994-95 financial year was \$88,760,698.13.

I refer to Mrs Sheldon's questions in relation to amounts of conveyancing and mortgage stamp duty collected for commercial and residential properties over the 1994-95 financial year. "Land use" information is not recorded with stamp duty information and therefore these statistics cannot be compiled. The Office of State Revenue has a statistical sample for Commonwealth Grants Commission purposes of properties in respect of which applications were made for the principal place of residence concession.

Furthermore, mortgage duty is assessed and paid monthly by financial institutions. No information is provided to the Office of State Revenue to enable collections to be broken down by property use. Information is received by the Office about applications for the principal place of residence mortgage concession but this information is not collated.

### 7. Julia Creek State School

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to a submission to the Department of Education to re-open the Secondary Department at the Julia Creek State School for the 1996 school year, as promised two years ago—

Will he provide an urgent response to this submission?

Answer (Mr Hamill):

Temporary Closure of Julia Creek State School occurred at the end of 1993.

The decision to mothball the secondary department was taken after extensive consultation with the school community and the Department of Education promised to review the situation each year with a view to reopening when numbers became viable.

Numbers do not warrant opening Year 8 for 1996 but could be viable in the future.

Negotiations are continuing into alternate provision involving enrolment in the school of distance education combined with some provision of face to face teaching at Julia Creek State School for Year 8 students in 1996.

The Executive Director, North Western Region of my department recently visited Julia Creek to discuss with parents the following proposal:

- (i) SDE provide materials, on-air lessons and marking of a subject;
- (ii) SDE provide materials, Julia Creek State School provide tutoring and SDE mark the subject;
- (iii) SDE provide materials, Julia Creek State School provide tutoring and marking the subject: and
- (iv) Julia Creek State School provide face to face teaching and assessing of the subject and SDE approve work program.

Students would have all results recorded on Mount Isa School of Distance Education reports.

I can assure the Honourable Member that liaison will continue with parents of Julia Creek State School and with the administration of Julia Creek State School and Mt Isa School of Distance Education.

### 27. Laidley Central State School

Mr FITZGERALD asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the increase in student numbers at Laidley Central State School—

What plans have been made to provide (a) additional permanent teaching space, (b) office space and (c) resource space?

Answer (Mr Hamill):

Laidley Central State School is currently experiencing steady enrolment growth. The school commenced 1995 with an enrolment of 150 and expect to commence 1996 with an enrolment of 191.

Facilities development has accommodated the growth of Laidley Central State School through the provision of an additional two permanent classrooms in January 1995. A further two classrooms are programmed for the commencement of the 1996 school year.

A further two classrooms are programmed for the commencement of the 1996 school year. A replacement amenities block is under consideration for 1996 as a minimum requirement but there are no regional discretionary funds available to provide any enhancements to administration and resource areas and there is a large backlog of projects on the region's discretionary program which would further delay funding at Laidley Central.

Laidley Central appears to have received a high priority on the Building Better Schools statewide list but there is little scope for works to be completed on this site as there is only one classroom which could be modified under the Building Better Schools program.

### 31. State Debt

Mrs SHELDON asked the Treasurer—

What is his latest estimate of Queensland's Gross State Debt as at 30 June 1995 and what are its components?

Answer (Mr De Lacy):

I refer the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to page 20 of the Annual Financial report on Government Financial Statistics which details the financial liabilities of the State's Public Sector as at 30 June 1994.

At that point total liabilities amounted to \$13.444 million. These were offset by financial assets of \$13.685 million.

Queensland's Gross State Debt position as at 30 June 1995 will be released in the 1995 Annual Financial Report due to be tabled in the Parliament in October 1995.

### 32. Poker Machines

Mr LAMING asked the Treasurer—

With reference to the return to the Government of poker machines from licensed clubs and hotels during 1994-95—

What are (a) names of the clubs/hotels, (b) number of machines initially provided, (c) number returned and (d) reason given for return of machines in each case?

Answer (Mr De Lacy):

The Machine Gaming Commission and all officers of the Queensland Office of Gaming Regulation are bound by the secrecy provisions of the *Gaming Machine Act 1991*. Consequently, I am unable to provide the specific information requested as this would breach the provisions of the Act and further it would be inappropriate to breach the privacy of individual clubs and hotels by releasing specific details on their gaming operations.

However, I am able to provide some information in summary detail in respect of 1994-95:-

- (a) 53 clubs and 15 hotels have returned gaming machines;
- (b) Clubs have returned 200 gaming machines whilst hotels have returned 36;
- (c) The main reason for returning gaming machines was the lack of turnover and patronage.

This should be seen in the context of the overall size of industry. There are 652 clubs and 449 hotels currently with 18,114 gaming machines. During 1994-95, 216 hotels and clubs sought and were granted 2101 extra gaming machines during the same period.

### 80. State Government Building, 141 Queen Street

Mrs SHELDON asked the Treasurer—

With reference to the management of Government assets—

- (1) Will he confirm that Queensland Investment Corporation is the owner of the property at 141 Queen Street, Brisbane?
- (2) Will he confirm that areas of this building have been vacant for in excess of two years?
- (3) Will he give details of all areas vacant?
- (4) Specifically, will he confirm that three areas on floor 6 are vacant and that one has been so for two and a half years?
- (5) What rent is being asked for the leasing of areas in 141 Queen Street?
- (6) What rents have been agreed for the lease of comparable space in comparable locations by the owners of buildings who have been successful in finding tenants?

Answer (Mr De Lacy):

(1) Yes. The Queensland Investment Corporation purchased the building in July 1994.

(2)&(6) The answers to these questions are of commercial sensitivity to a Government business enterprise and it is not appropriate that these be divulged.

It has to be wondered at the intention of this type of questioning. The Honourable Member should be reminded that QIC's investment return in 1994-95 exceeded 10%, almost 3% above the industry average and has over the last 5 years consistently outperformed the industry. Property was in fact one of the strongest performing asset classes during 1994-95.

It is this performance that has given QIC a national reputation as the pre-eminent funds manager in Australia.



## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

### 1. Primary Industries Department, Budget and Staffing

Mr GILMORE asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

With reference to reductions in both staff and funding in the Department of Primary Industries, particularly in the area of the Electorate of Tablelands over the past six years, and apparent further reductions in the budget since the July 1995 election—

- (1) What has been the budget for each year from 1989 to 1995 inclusive, for each of the DPI responsibilities including (a) research stations at (i) Kairi, (ii) Walkamin and (iii) Southedge, (b) stock and meatworks inspection services, (c) forestry service and (d) water resources for (A) wages and associated costs, (B) capital works, (C) maintenance and (D) research?
- (2) How much of the budget from 1989 to 1995 inclusive has been provided from (a) State, (b) Commonwealth, (c) private or (d) industry sources?
- (3) What has been the establishment and actual staff positions in each the DPI sections mentioned in (1) above for (a) scientists, (b) labourers, (c) technicians, (d) administrative staff and (e) management for each year from 1989 to 1995 inclusive?

Answer (Mr Gibbs):

The Honourable Member has sought information from when my Department was administered under three separate portfolios. Collating the relevant budget and staffing information as requested provides little by the way of useful data to indicate the achievement of my department through the integration of three separate portfolios.

In modern public administration budgets are organised to address outputs and outcomes. In keeping with this philosophy the budget allocations of my Department are made on a Program and Subprogram basis, and not by funding of input items such as salaries or telephones (and not by dissecting and aggregating of inputs). Much of the information sought by the Honourable Member is input data driven. My Department is committed to economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

The Department's Research Stations budget and staff numbers will vary from year to year and sometimes within the year. These variations reflect the prioritisation of workloads and the optimal use of resources. The input data information requested cannot reveal where priorities for industry are on the Atherton Tablelands.

On the question of funding sources; my Department's budget primarily come from both State and Commonwealth sources. Budgets for research activities are managed on a project basis rather than funding source. Moreover the categories of funds referred to in the Honourable Member's question do not normally align with the funding sources available to my Department

There would appear to be no useful purpose served in expending scarce resources to split the funding by sources. In some cases, monies allocated by the State through the consolidated fund are originally sourced from the Commonwealth. However, I can advise the House that research funding from private sources, for the geographical Region in question, is negligible when compared to the significant consolidated fund investment by the State.

The Honourable the Member should appreciate that my Department conducts extensive consultation with industry to determine the priority for research projects. Budget and staffing arrangements for research are a direct result of these consultations and are reviewed throughout the year to ensure their continuing relevance to industry.

### 2. Bermuda Street, South Coast

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to the requirement by Marymount College and Burleigh Catholic Parish for 'left in left out' access on Bermuda Street—

As a reply has not been received to my Question on Notice on 31 May 1995, nor to my written representations on 1 August 1995, I now ask him for his response.

Answer (Mr Elder):

When dealing with Schools and Colleges access matters are treated very seriously with the matter of transport safety and the safety of students being paramount.

I have instructed the Department to expedite this matter in close consultation with Marymount College/Catholic Church and the community to resolve these matters as soon as possible.

I will ensure that you are advised of the outcome as soon as the issue is resolved.

### 3. Kennedy Development Road

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to his Government's promise prior to the State election on 15 July 1995 regarding funding to bitumen seal the Winton-Hughenden section of the Kennedy Development Road—

- (1) Is the Government still committed to improving this road and the sealing of same?
- (2) When will the people of this region see this project commence?

Answer (Mr Elder):

The Government has made a commitment to review the development of the Winton—Hughenden section of the Kennedy Development Road in connection with the review of the rail link. The Government will be reviewing the options during 1995. In the

meantime, it remains committed to urgent works on this road.

In conjunction with Council, Queensland Transport is trialing and investigating low-costs seals and a strategy for upgrading this road.

Some funds are provided already for work on this road in the current five-year Roads Implementation Program.

#### 4. Stuart Prison, Escape of Mr F. L. Burrows

Mr STONEMAN asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to the release of Frank Leslie Burrows on unescorted day leave from Stuart Prison granted by the Corrective Services Commission and his subsequent absconding from custody—

- (1) What was the specific rationale used to grant leave to a person serving a sentence for a murder of a most violent nature and how could such a prisoner be given a 'low security classification'?
- (2) Did this prisoner plan an escape from custody and was that fact known to authorities, yet day leave was still granted?
- (3) Why were reports that Townsville police warned of the extremely violent nature of the escapee apparently ignored by the Corrective Services Commission?
- (4) How many other prisoners serving similar sentences are currently on day release from Stuart prison?
- (5) What weight did the direct written lobbying of a prominent Labor Party politician carry with the granting of leave for prisoner Burrows?
- (6) Did this prisoner's day release have the full support of prison management?
- (7) Under what circumstances can the reported philosophy of a 'need to keep the family together' be rationalised in this instance when the prisoner had murdered one of the members of the subject family?
- (8) What assurances can be given that this situation will not be repeated so that the surrounding community can regain some sense of security?
- (9) Is a re-evaluation of the regulations relating to prisoner assessment for day release being undertaken?

Answer (Mr Braddy):

(1) On 17 February 1994, a low security classification was granted to the inmate by the community-based Queensland Corrective Services Commission Board, in accordance with chapter 17 of the Queensland Corrective Services Commission Policy and Procedures Manual, which was introduced in October 1989. On 16 November 1994 the independent Queensland Community Corrections Board gave approval for the prisoner to be granted sponsored leave of absence, for the purposes of resettlement, at the rate of 10 hours per month. The Queensland Community Corrections Board was

established through the Corrective Services Act, 1988, under the chairmanship of retired Supreme Court Judge Bill Carter QC.

(2) On 22 May 1995 the inmate's leave of absence program was suspended pending a six-monthly review by the Townsville Correctional Centre's Sentence Management Committee. No evidence was uncovered linking the inmate to an escape plan at that time. On 13 June 1995 a case conference was conducted by the Sentence Management Committee at which all aspects of the inmate's leave of absence program, including psychiatric reports and reports from custodial staff, were considered. The recommendation from that meeting was that the inmate's leave of absence program be continued at the current rate and should be re-assessed later in his sentence. That recommendation was approved by the Acting General Manager of the Townsville Correctional Centre. On 23 June 1995 advice of that decision was passed on to the secretary of the Queensland Community Corrections Board.

(3) There is no record of any warnings being given by Townsville Police in regard to this inmate prior to the inmate absconding from his leave of absence address.

(4) At present there are 18 life sentenced prisoners at Townsville Correctional Centre of whom two are receiving resettlement leave of absence approved by the independent Queensland Community Corrections Board.

(5) No person made any representations for the granting of a leave of absence program for the inmate. Approval was given by the independent Queensland Community Corrections Board on 16 November 1994. The review of that program was carried out by the Townsville Correctional Centre Sentence Management Committee on 13 June 1995. On 2 June 1995 a politician wrote to the Director-General of Corrective Services seeking details on the operation of the leave of absence program at Townsville Correctional Centre. This letter mentioned no inmate by name. On 6 July 1995, more than three weeks after the decision to resume the inmate's leave of absence program, and more than seven months after the independent Queensland Community Corrections Board gave approval for the program, the politician wrote to the Director-General seeking details of the particular inmate's leave of absence program. That inquiry was the only inquiry on behalf of the inmate by a politician.

(6) See above.

(7) The philosophy of maintaining family contact through a leave of absence program was recommended in the Kennedy Report in 1988 and adopted by the Government of the day with the acceptance of the report and the establishment of the Queensland Corrective Services Commission. Approval for the leave of absence program for this inmate was only given after all circumstances were considered including the receipt of positive psychiatric reports on the inmate and his partner.

(8) The Queensland Corrective Services Commission has put in place a series of guidelines governing the leave of absence program. In the case

of life sentenced prisoners decisions to approve leave of absence programs are made by the independent Queensland Community Corrections Board. It should be noted that during the 1994-95 financial year 99.96 per cent of prisoners granted leave of absence did not abscond. However the Commission continues to refine the leave of absence guidelines in light of experience and community input.

(9) The Queensland Corrective Services Commission Board began an extensive review of leave of absence policy in March 1995. A new policy in regard to leave of absence programs was approved by the Queensland Corrective Services Board on 15 August 1995.

### 5. Hockey Facilities, Carrara

Mr VEIVERS asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Tourism, Sport and Youth—

With reference to the Government's community recreation package policy to upgrade community sport facilities—

- (1) Will he support the plan and application for a synthetic hockey precinct at Carrara on the Gold Coast by the Gold Coast Hockey Club Inc and supported by the current Gold Coast City Council?
- (2) Does he agree that this is pursuant to the Labor Party's policy for upgrading community sports facilities?

Answer (Mr Burns):

The Labor Party's policy to upgrade community sports facilities resulted from the long term neglect of the previous National Party Government that left Queensland with some of the nation's worst sporting facilities.

The Goss Labor Government spends record funds on sport in Queensland, more than all other Eastern States combined.

Unfortunately it will take some years to overcome the neglect of 32 years of Liberal/National Party Government.

The Government supported hockey in Queensland by providing \$5.15 million under the 1995 Queensland Facilities Development Scheme, Major Facilities Program, to develop a State Hockey Centre at Colmslie and a synthetic hockey field at Rockhampton. Hockey received 35% of the funding allocated to approved projects under the 1995 Program.

Whilst hockey has done very well in 1995, applications in the 1995/96 program will be decided on merit.

### 8. Darling Downs Regional Health Authority

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Health—

Will he provide the details of the Darling Downs Regional Health Authority's budget including (a) the base allocation to all hospitals and community health services in the region, (b) the amounts returned for later distribution by the Regional Health Authority

and (c) the amount required for the operation of the Regional Health Authority administration?

Answer (Mr Beattie):

(a) Details of the Darling Downs Regional Health Authority's budget as at 13 September 1995 including base and special allocations to hospitals and community health services are detailed in Attachment A.

(b) Details of amounts retained for later distribution by the Regional Health Authority are detailed in Attachment B. In addition to these amounts, there are a number of budget items (approximately \$50M across the State) still to be finalised which will result in additional funding to Regional Health Authorities including Darling Downs Regional Health Authority. These additional allocations will be advised to the Authority when outstanding issues have been finalised. Examples of these budget items include Commonwealth High Cost Drugs, Commonwealth Breast Cancer Screening, Queensland Hospital Access Bonus Pool and Medical and Nursing Workforce Initiatives.

(c) The Darling Downs Regional Health Authority Regional Office budget for 1995/96 is \$2,207,379. This compares with expenditure of \$2,381,546 in 1994/95 and represents 1.58% of the total Regional budget.—2 -

The irony of the Honourable Members concern for the funding allocated to the Darling Downs Region is that the budget for the Region, under the Honourable Member and his Party's policy of a one percent across the board Management Efficiency Dividend, would be grossly reduced in the area of service delivery.

The Honourable Member would know that I'm referring to policy statements outlined in a document which the Opposition used to cost its election promises.

This policy is in stark contrast to the productivity dividend used by the Government over the past six years. The objective of this dividend is to encourage departments to reduce their administrative costs and to increase efficiency but it has never been imposed on the service delivery component in the Budget. The savings generated from this dividend in the last Budget were around \$20m and these savings are re-directed to service delivery.

The Opposition's policy proposed to collect \$116m in savings from every department. It doesn't take a genius to work out that in the health portfolio this adds up to nothing more than cuts to wages and the funds needed to run hospitals effectively. For Health, this would mean a \$27m cut to the Budget, a major blow to the 148 nurses who would need to be sacked from our hospitals.

Assuming the Honourable Member supports the application of this cut across all Regions, and I have not been advised that he would not, then under the Opposition, the Darling Downs Region would suffer. For example, if you applied this one percent Management Efficiency Dividend to Toowoomba Base Hospital it would wipe out \$0.5m from its services Budget.

At the end of the day, you can't make savings in the vicinity of \$116m without severe reductions in nursing, surgical operations and the upkeep and rebuilding of capital works infrastructure in Health.

I look forward to the Honourable Member's response.

ATTACHMENT A  
DARLING DOWNS REGIONAL 95/96 BUDGET  
[INCLUDING SPECIALS]

	BASE ALLOCATION	SPECIALS	TOTAL
Toowoomba Health Services	\$45,938,376	\$8,605,509	\$54,543,885
Mt Lofty Health Services	\$1,583,559	\$77,062	\$1,660,621
Cunningham Centre	\$617,789	\$1,090,376	\$1,708,165
Community Health Services "Unara"	\$2,942,488	\$2,084,094	\$5,026,582
Baillie Henderson Health Services	\$22,271,280	\$3,850,410	\$26,121,690
Oakey Health Services	\$2,843,039	\$465,060	\$3,308,099
Gatton Health Services	\$1,588,514	\$300,713	\$1,889,227
Dalby/Jandowae Health Services	\$11,124,365	\$1,567,867	\$12,692,232
Chinchilla/Tara Health Services	\$3,649,816	\$740,426	\$4,390,242
Miles/Taroom Health Services	\$2,965,812	\$365,670	\$3,331,482
Warwick Health Services	\$7,512,780	\$1,618,750	\$9,131,530
Stanthorpe Health Services	\$3,729,908	\$598,796	\$4,328,704
Goondiwindi Health Services	\$3,673,636	\$597,942	\$4,271,578
Inglewood/Texas Health Services	\$2,459,720	\$380,618	\$2,840,338
Millmerran Health Services	\$1,029,433	\$111,971	\$1,141,404
Regional Services *	\$4,272,485	\$1,376,513	\$5,648,998
1995/96 Regional Strategic Projects	\$0	\$3,718,774	\$3,718,774
Undistributed	\$0	\$3,787,449	\$3,787,449
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$118,203,000</b>	<b>\$31,338,000</b>	<b>\$149,541,000</b>

\* NOTE: Regional Services includes Regional Office, Regional Information System Unit Regional Health Promotion Unit, Public Health Unit and Environmental Health Unit.

ATTACHMENT B  
DARLING DOWNS REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY  
AMOUNTS RETAINED FOR LATER DISTRIBUTION

ITEM	AMOUNT
Superannuation Escalation	\$1,723,449
Home Support Scheme	\$325,000
Medical Workforce Packages	\$227,000
Extension of Oral Health to Grade 10	\$132,000
Capital Works Pool	\$550,000
Workforce Health & Safety	\$250,000
Cross Regional Flows—Reserve	\$580,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,787,449</b>

### 9. Roma Fire Station

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Consumer Affairs—

With reference to a malfunction of the Mornington fire alarm system at the Roma Fire Station and in spite of two letters to his office and a public assurance by the Fire Commissioner of a detailed explanation for the malfunction, no details have yet been provided to me, the Roma Town Council or the public in Roma—

- (1) Is he aware this same alarm system has malfunctioned again since the initial incident in July, although on most occasions it works perfectly?
- (2) If it can be established that a technical malfunction of the Telstra equipment was responsible for the malfunction in July and the subsequent loss of a house and contents, will the QFS seek compensation from Telstra?
- (3) Will the QFS pay compensation to Mr and Mrs John Quinlan, the owners of the house destroyed in the fire?

Answer (Mr Davies):

(1) In this instance when Telstra received the 000 call, it endeavoured to activate the fire telephone at the Roma Station on two occasions. On the second attempt fire service personnel were notified of the call. On this occasion the delay factor was minimal. I have contacted Fire Commissioner Geoff Skerritt regarding the present situation with the Mornington fire alarm system at Roma. Commissioner Skerritt informed me that he has been advised by Assistant Commissioner Jones that a number of possibilities (eg. pagers and call diversion to Toowoomba) have been investigated and the most suitable apparatus will be installed when all avenues have been thoroughly researched. The Director-General, Dr Leo Keliher, and Commissioner Skerritt will be meeting with Telstra for discussions on this matter.

(2) Investigations have failed to reveal any single cause for the delayed turnout due to the number of conflicting statements from the various agencies involved. Hence, QFS will not seek compensation from Telstra as it cannot be proven that its equipment was at fault.

(3) It is with regret that the property in Roma was lost. However, the Queensland Fire Service cannot be held responsible. Once the call was received by QFS, its performance was exemplary. Auxiliary stations can only respond through notification by the station siren. My office has been informed that, on numerous occasions, the Roma Auxiliaries have received fire calls and responded within two minutes with a one plus four crew on the first pumper. This service is excellent for an Auxiliary Station. The Roma Auxiliaries have received extensive training and a recent road accident rescue course has upgraded their services to the community of Roma.

### 10. St Helena Island

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

With reference to the historic and cultural importance of St Helena Island and the need to restore the old convict settlement on the Island—

- (1) What work has been done to date to restore remnants of the convict settlement?
- (2) Is there a program for restoration of the island structures?
- (3) If so, will he outline the details of such a program?

Answer (Mr Barton):

(1) St Helena Island contains the remaining physical features of Queensland's first prison which was in operation from 1867 to its closure in 1932. There has never been a convict settlement on the island.

St Helena Island National Park was declared in 1979 to protect the remains of this major Queensland penal establishment. Management decisions have been directed towards conserving the historical landscape to high standards. This is being achieved by compliance with the Burra Charter which is the Australian standard established by the International

Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites.

Initial work to restore remnants of the penal establishment was undertaken by Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service staff, day release prisoners, contractors and conservation architects focusing on:

collecting and maintaining historical records of all artefacts for the island.

removal of mountains of rubbish that had accumulated by lessees and visitors since the prison closure in 1932.

identification of all significant structures.

In recent years, priority has been given to:

construction of a sea wall around the Lime Kiln;  
clearing of weeds from historical structures and the landscape;

removal of numerous large fig trees damaging the foundations and walls of the stone buildings;

shoring up crumbling walls of some structures;  
reconstruction of the Chief Warden's Quarters as a museum/information centre;

reconstruction of a section of the causeway;

restoration of the cemeteries;

reconstruction of the fodder shed for displaying historic agricultural implements; and

development of an interpretative program to inform visitors of the historic and cultural significance of the island.

Furthermore, visitor and recreational facilities have been provided including a new jetty, toilets, shelter sheds and picnic facilities.

(2) Yes. A management plan has been prepared that identifies certain works to be undertaken. The management plan recognises that visitors appreciate the present atmosphere of St Helena with ruined structures in a carefully maintained historical landscape. Reconstruction has been limited to structures outside the Stockade and Barracks areas so that the two main groups of ruined buildings remain.

(3) Most of the structures will be managed as ruins while some will be reconstructed or restored for specific purposes. Preservation of the ruins to retain their integrity as ruins can be as expensive as reconstruction.

During the 1995/96 financial year, work will be undertaken to restore the causeway. Future works including the reconstruction of the Superintendent's garden and historical pathways and re-roofing and restoration of the sugar silo are dependent on funds.

#### 11. Toowoomba Police District, Resources

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

(1) How many additional operational Police will be allocated to the Toowoomba Police District in 1995/96, 1996/97 and 1997/98?

(2) What is his Department's population estimates for this period in the Toowoomba Police District?

Answer (Mr Braddy):

(1) The Government has made a commitment to increase the number of operational police in the Queensland Police Service by 2000 and the number of civilian support staff by 215 over the next 10 years. Regional allocations of these additional personnel will be determined by the Service's staffing model, which ensures an equitable distribution of human resources Statewide.

(2) Based on data supplied by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Planning, the projected population trends for this District are 148,687 for 1995/96, 151,778 for 1996/97 and 154,936 for 1997/98.

#### 12. Withdrawn

#### 13. Police Taping of Conversations

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to the alleged practice of some police officers to secretly tape conversations with unsuspecting members of the public—

(1) How widespread is this practice?

(2) What formal procedures exist for police officers to seek and obtain approval for this practice?

(3) Under what circumstances would police officers engage in this practice?

(4) What rights do members of the public have if they suspect any conversation with a police officer is being secretly taped?

(5) Is it true that the *Invasion of Privacy Act 1971*, while allowing for the lawful taping of a conversation to which that person is a party without the permission of other parties to the conversation, it nevertheless provides—except in limited circumstances—that a person is guilty of an offence if he or she communicates a record of a conversation to any person who was not a party to that conversation?

(6) Are police officers subject to this Act and in particular, these provisions?

(7) Are all secretly taped conversations made in the performance of official duties by police subject to the provisions of the *Libraries and Archives Act 1988*, the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* and the *Evidence Act 1977*?

(8) Could these conversations be subpoenaed?

(9) Are all secretly taped conversations undertaken by police officers retained in accordance with the provisions of the *Libraries and Archives Act 1988* which prohibits the disposal of records except in accordance with the provisions of this Act and provides for a penalty of up to \$6,000 for the unauthorised disposal of records?

- (10) How many such conversations are currently retained by the Police Service?
- (11) Have any police officers ever been subject to any disciplinary action or charges for any alleged breach of the *Invasion of Privacy Act 1971*, the *Libraries and Archives Act 1988* or any other Act for improper and/or illegal action in relation to the secret taping of conversations, any subsequent use of those tapes and retention or disposal of those tapes?
- (12) If so, what are the details?

Answer (Mr Braddy):

(1) It is a common practice within the Police Service for officers to carry a small tape recorder and to record conversations with persons with whom they have contact. It is a matter for each officer as to whether he or she makes these types of private recordings or not. As such it is impossible to say how widespread the practice is.

(2) Taping conversations to which one is a party is permitted by law, pursuant to section 43(2)(a) of the *Invasion of Privacy Act 1971*. No formal procedures exist in relation to this practice because the Police Service is of the view that the existing provisions and underlying policy of the *Invasion of Privacy Act 1971* operate to protect an individual from arbitrary interference with the right to privacy. The Police Service is cognisant of the fact that while the Act recognises that it is lawful to use a listening device to record a private conversation when the person using the device is party to the conversation, it establishes a significant measure of legal protection against arbitrary interference by operation of a number of sections within the Act. These are:

section 43 which prohibits the use of listening devices;

section 44 which prohibits the communication or publication of private conversations which have been heard unlawfully;

section 45 which prohibits the communication of private conversations by parties to the conversation;

section 46 which renders unlawfully recorded evidence inadmissible; and

section 47 which requires the destruction of irrelevant records made by the use of a listening device.

The law, which is readily accessible, establishes a framework indicating sufficiently clearly, and with adequate foreseeability, the scope and manner of carrying out activities involving the use of a listening device. The Police Service is therefore of the view that the legislation balances the rights of the individual to privacy, with the right of the community to ensure that those who commit offences are brought to justice. Members of the Police Service are aware of the fundamental importance of the right to privacy, and conduct operations in accordance with not only the letter of the law, but in the spirit of the law. Police Officers who communicate or publish any recorded conversation or statement which exceeds what is reasonably necessary, either in the public interest or in the performance of their duties

render themselves liable to action for an offence against section 45(1) of the Act, and also to disciplinary proceedings pursuant to the *Police Service Administration Act 1990*.

(3) Officers who elect to make such recordings do so in circumstances in which practical experience has shown that inculpatory or exculpatory statements might be made. Again, it is a matter of judgement for the individual officer.

(4) The taping of a conversation by a police officer does not impact on the rights of a member of the public. Subject to certain specific statutory exceptions, a member of the public is not obliged to answer questions asked by a police officer. That right is preserved regardless of whether the officer is recording the conversation.

(5) Section 45(2) provides the "limited circumstances" referred to in the question. It is worth noting that those circumstances include communication or publication which is made in the course of legal proceedings' where the communication is no more than is reasonably necessary in the public interest; where it is made in the performance of the duty of the person making the communication; or is made for the protection of the lawful interests of that person.

(6) Yes.

(7) Private recordings made by an officer at his or her discretion are not public records and therefore do not fall within the ambit of the *Libraries and Archives Act 1988*. With respect to the *Freedom of Information Act*, the Police Service does not have access to private recordings made by members, and those recordings are not under the control of an officer in his or her official capacity. As such, private recordings are not a document of the agency and are therefore not subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1991*.

(8) Yes.

(9) See answer to part 7 of the question.

(10) See answer to part 7 of the question.

(11) See answer to part 7 of the question.

(12) This is not applicable.

#### 14. Auctioneers and Agents Fidelity Guarantee Fund

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Rural Communities, Minister for Rural Communities and Minister for Provision of Infrastructure for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities—

Will he provide a list of the housing assistance programs, such as the Community Housing Partnership Program, and organisations that have benefited since the enactment of the *Auctioneers and Agents Amendment Act 1991*, which allows the Government to take funds from the Auctioneers and Agents Fidelity Guarantee Fund, including (a) the cost of each facility, (b) the date the funds were made available and (c) the gross annual amounts received from the fund?

Answer (Mr Mackenroth):

There is no direct transfer of funds from the Auctioneers and Agents Fidelity Guarantee Fund to specific housing programs administered by my department.

Rather, some funds are transferred from the Fund to the Consolidated Fund and a significantly larger amount is provided to my department from the Consolidated Fund to assist in the provision of housing.

In 1995-96 \$87.434M has been provided to the Housing Program from the Consolidated Fund.

In relation to the Community Housing Partnership Program, 392 projects have been undertaken throughout Queensland to meet particular local housing needs.

### 15. Mooloolaba Police Beat, Resources

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

- (1) What is the current staffing level of the Mooloolaba Police beat?
- (2) How does this compare with the level when the beat was first opened?
- (3) Is this level considered adequate?
- (4) What is the intended level in the future?

Answer (Mr Braddy):

- (1) The Mooloolaba Police Beat Shopfront is staffed by two sworn members and one full-time civilian staff member.
- (2) This is the same operational staffing level as when the beat first commenced in early 1994. The full-time staff member took up duty in May 1994.
- (3) The current staffing level is in accord with Police Beat Guidelines. Assistance is also provided, as needs arise, by Maroochydore Police Division general duty staff.
- (4) The present staffing level of the Mooloolaba Police Beat is in line with the Queensland Police Service staffing model, and no future increases are planned.

### 16. Water Charges

Mrs McCAULEY asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

With reference to his letter to the Upper Burnett Water Advisory Committee, dated 3 April 1995, in which he advised that his department was reducing the charge for water gained by sand-troughing, to half the normal rate, ie \$4.85 per megalitre—

- (1) Is he aware that previously in such situations of severe drought, water extracted from the sand beds was neither charged for or considered against allocations, a practice which recognises that bed sand and low flow water is a resource pre-existing any augmentations works?
- (2) Is he aware that in excess of \$150,000 has been spent by primary producers in the Burnett area

on sand-troughing, and that a Government decision to waive all charges in this regard would be a very meaningful gesture towards drought relief?

- (3) Will he take steps to implement such a decision?
- (4) If not, why not?

Answer (Mr Gibbs):

1. I am advised that in only one year, 1983, water pumped from the bed sands of the Burnett River did not attract a charge and was not considered against allocations.

Water contained in the bed sands is part of the total yield of the system. It needs to be taken into account in assessing water allocations to irrigators. This increases in importance as systems such as the Burnett become more committed over time.

The removal of all charges and not accounting for such use is not fair to those who cannot access this water—nor is it sound natural resource management practice.

2. I am aware of significant expenditure incurred by irrigators in accessing their water allocations during this severe drought. In recognition of this expenditure, the Government has rebated the annual charge by 50%. This has resulted in irrigators paying only \$4.85 for a million litres of water.

3. I believe the current approach that was introduced earlier this year is still appropriate.

4. As I stated earlier, to place zero charge for the resource and to place it outside of normal management arrangements would not be consistent with responsible natural resource management practices.

This is the reason why the Government has moved to provide additional water storage.

As outlined in 'From Strength to Strength' the Government has committed itself to a number of water conservation projects in Queensland, aimed at providing some relief from future drought conditions.

Subject to satisfactory evaluations, the Government has identified three projects that will augment existing infrastructure—raising Mundubbera and John Goleby Weirs and improvements to the Barker/Barambah/Boyne system. These will help to improve the sustainability of production in the region in the long term.

### 17. Mount Pleasant Clinic, Greenslopes

Mr RADKE asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the planned Mount Pleasant Clinic on Birdwood Road, Greenslopes—

- (1) What information has been submitted to the Health Department regarding (a) the proposed medical uses of this private clinic, (b) length of stay, (c) number of psychiatric beds and (d) type of patients from parole board?
- (2) Have the facilities at other private hospitals been fully investigated?

Answer (Mr Beattie):

(1) The information received by the Department was provided as information of a commercial-in-confidence nature, so I am unable to identify the specific information requested. The Freedom of Information Act provides mechanisms for consulting relevant parties and, where appropriate, the ability to provide access to exempt commercial-in-confidence information.

(2) Yes.

I thank the Honourable Member for his question because it gives me an opportunity to highlight the Member's highly questionable approach to an important issue in his electorate.

He does not say in his question how critical he has been of the Government's moves to cut red tape. I refer specifically to suggestions made by the Honourable Member that approval for a psychiatric and rehabilitation hospital at the Mount Pleasant Clinic has been improperly rushed.

This claim needlessly misled the community by suggesting the Government had side-stepped any established procedures or requirements in approving the 90-bed hospital. Approval had been given in principal by Queensland Health but it had been drawn to my attention that "red tape" was delaying the final approval.

The community is in need of these beds and I asked the responsible officers if there were any further problems which would not allow the proposal to proceed. I was told that the mix of psychiatric and rehabilitation beds had still to be negotiated, but this would not necessarily hold up approval for the hospital.

I therefore asked that, as all procedures had been fulfilled, to allow final approval, with the requirement that the mix of beds be negotiated with the hospital.

Based on his criticism of the action I took in this matter I can only conclude that the Honourable Member would have preferred it if approval had not been given, denying his local community access to much-needed rehabilitation beds.

### 18. Ministers' Legal Expenses

Miss SIMPSON asked the Premier and Minister for Economic and Trade Development—

(1) Will he reveal the legal costs and settlements of his Ministers in the 47th Parliament where the bill was met by the public purse?

(2) If so, what are these costs?

Answer (Mr W. K. Goss):

The legal costs paid during the period in question were \$10,323.00, and were in respect of two actions, one of which was settled. This figure represents amounts paid defending Ministers in matters related to their ministerial duties (for example where someone brings a defamation action against a Minister in relation to public comments made as part of his or her job).

The payment of legal fees in this context is consistent with the guidelines set down in a 1982

Cabinet decision by the previous Government. The figure does not include costs relating to actions for judicial review of administrative decisions made by Ministers or actions against Ministers where the Minister was representing the Government in matters relating to the running of his or her department (for example actions in contract).

### 19. Ms H. Demidenko/Darvill

Mr FITZGERALD asked the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for The arts—

(1) Did Helen Demidenko/Darville make any application to receive a grant to support her writing career?

(2) If so, (a) were any grants made, (b) what was the amount of the grant, (c) did the application indicate the applicants ethnic background; if so, what was this claim and (d) what checks were made by his department into the truth of any claim made in the application?

Answer (Mr Foley):

(1) Yes, Ms Darville made an application for grant assistance in July 1994, under the 1995 Arts Grant Programs.

(2)(a) In November 1994, a grant was made to Ms Darville, on the recommendation of the Writing Assessment Panel.

(b) The amount of the awarded grant was \$13,500.

(c) In her application, Ms Darville identified herself of non-English speaking background. She further indicated that her mother was from Ireland and her father from the Soviet Ukraine.

(d) The Writing Assessment Panel is comprised of community and industry members who have expertise in the writing field and one observer who is an employee of Arts Queensland.

The panel considered a sample of Ms Darville's work, her resume and the awards she had won in assessing the literary merit of her applications.

As to the information concerning the applicant's ethnic background, this was accepted on its face in the absence of any evidence to the contrary at that time.

The Chair of the Writing Assessment Panel, Professor Graeme Turner, has subsequently confirmed to the Executive Director of Arts Queensland that:

"....whilst her (Ms Darville's) nomination of herself as a person of non-English speaking background was noted by the panel, the over-riding criteria for the Panel was artistic merit and the track record of the author as demonstrated by her recent success in achieving publication of her work, supportive critical reviews and awards for her writing. The panel's view was that Helen was the outstanding emerging writer in that round."



## 20. Emergency Helicopter Service, Rockhampton

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Consumer Affairs—

As he is aware, his department and the Helicopter Sub-Committee of the Rockhampton Chamber of Commerce has been working on a proposal to provide a community-based emergency helicopter service in Rockhampton—

What is the current status of progress on this issue?

Answer (Mr Davies):

The package of aeromedical and aerial rescue initiatives announced by the Government in December 1994 included in-principle support for potential community based, Government subsidised helicopter services in Rockhampton and Mackay.

This support is based on local communities and the corporate sector demonstrating, through a business planning approach, the financial viability of the proposals. It is proposed that subject to compliance with this principle, a service agreement would be signed between the community helicopter services and Queensland Emergency Services (QES), on behalf of the Queensland Government.

The service agreement and financial business plan approach is designed to provide certainty of service delivery and minimum operating standards for the benefit of the public as well as an assured level of support from the Government.

The 1995/96 budget provided funding of \$300,000 as a contribution towards annual operating costs for each service in Rockhampton and Mackay.

Officers of QES have liaised regularly with the Rockhampton Chamber of Commerce on the subject of a regional helicopter rescue service based in Rockhampton.

In addition to the financial assistance toward annual operating costs, QES has been developing a series of detailed options to assist with establishment/capital costs of a service. This includes costs associated with acquiring a helicopter and other establishment costs such as hangar accommodation and staff costs. These are estimated to total about \$1.5 million.

My Department has also been actively seeking assistance and advice from existing community based helicopter services in south east Queensland and New South Wales which already have years of practical experience in gaining community, Local Government and corporate support for community based, Government subsidised rescue helicopter services. For example, QES organised and funded meetings in both Rockhampton and Mackay with the Head of the SEQEB Helicopter Rescue Service on the Sunshine Coast and discussed similar assistance from RACQ CareFlight on the Gold Coast.

The Executive Director of Statewide Services Division in QES recently discussed the matter with community based services in New South Wales.

The Government is committed to improving rural and regional aeromedical and rescue services for the benefit of Queenslanders. This has already been

demonstrated by the Government's support and partial funding for a new fixed wing aeromedical service by the Royal Flying Doctor Service in Rockhampton which started operations in July 1995.

A multi-role rescue helicopter service is also supported by the Government subject to the project being demonstrated to be financially viable.

My Department is committed to continuing close consultation and liaison with the Rockhampton Chamber of Commerce and Local Government in the region on this important initiative.

## 21. Ipswich TAFE College

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

With reference to questions I asked on 28 April 1994 concerning financial mismanagement at Ipswich TAFE College, her predecessor tabled a set of documents, amongst which was a document headed "EV 210 Vocational Education, Training and Employment Corporation—Agreement to Hire Facilities"—

- (1) Why was this document, signed on 31 January 1994, backdated to cover the preceding seven months, from 1 September 1992?
- (2) Who were the college director(s) for that preceding seven-month period?
- (3) Did the "training post" pay rent or lease for that period when there was obviously no valid agreement in place?
- (4) Why weren't the relevant sections of Part "F" of the form completed?
- (5) Why is the question, "Do you need to hire equipment?", answered "No", when the other documents supplied by the Minister include a list of TAFE equipment previously provided to the hirer?
- (6) Why doesn't this agreement cover essential items such as the provision of power, phones, cleaning, etc?
- (7) Does she feel that the information on this form constitutes an adequate legal agreement between a TAFE institution and a private training provider?
- (8) If not, what does she intend to do to ensure that the leasing of buildings or hiring of facilities by colleges/institutes is done in a more responsible, legally appropriate fashion?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

(1) The Agreement was signed in January 1994 when the new Director, in reviewing all agreements at the Institute, found that the formalising of the agreement had not been effected.

The period for the hire was for twelve months from 1 July 1993 to 30 June 1994.

(2) During the 7 month period 1 July 1993—31 January 1994, the Directors were Mr Colin Robertson (in an acting capacity) from July to October 1993 and Ms Wendy Protheroe from October 1993 to January 1994.

(3) The "Training Post" has paid all rent due to the Institute for the full period of hire of that facility.

(4) Section "F" is the College checklist that confirms the information on the Agreement was correct. It is true that this confirmation was not circled.

(5) The facilities hired included equipment within the cost. This cost had been negotiated in March 1993.

(6) The price of \$10,000 per annum was the cost estimated by a previous Director and included provision of services. There was an additional charge of \$2,000 for security services.

(7) I have referred this matter to Crown Law for advice.

(8) See answer to Question 7.

## 22. Land Rezoning, Ormiston

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

With reference to the recent applications made to the Redland Shire Council for rezoning of lots 196, 197 and 202 on RP 2465 Rose Street Ormiston from Residential Low Density and Public Open Space to Residential A and as I understand the matter is currently before the Planning and Environment Court following the refusal of the application by the Redland Shire Council—

As the area adjoins the mouth of Hilliards Creek, a significant wetland site, has he taken steps to ensure that the area is protected from development; if not, is it his intention to take steps to see that the area is protected and, if not, why not?

Answer (Mr Barton):

Lots 196, 197 and 202 on RP 2465 Rose Street, Ormiston are freehold and as such are not under the control of the Department of Environment and Heritage.

The rezoning of these three Lots to Residential A is a local government matter and is being dealt with under local town planning provisions.

## 23. Health Capital Works Program

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Health—

(1) Will he provide the details of the Capital Works Programme for the next eight years including details of the \$150m/year and the extra \$75m over two years announced in the 1995-96 budget and the extra \$150m announced in the election campaign?

(2) Will he also include in this information (a) a list of all Health Capital Works projects announced during the recent election campaign, (b) the details of all projects and equipment purchases and (c) a timetable of planned commencements and costings of all major stages of each project?

Answer (Mr Beattie):

(1) On 19 June 1995, the Government approved additional projects for inclusion within the \$1.725 billion 10 Year Hospital Rebuilding Plan. Capital developments which have been included in the

Capital Works Program for the next eight years are as follows:

Herston Complex—\$300 million

The Prince Charles Hospital—\$80 million

Princess Alexandra/QEII Hospitals—\$225 million

Redland Hospital—\$45 million

Logan Hospital—\$60 million

Mater Hospitals Complex—\$50 million

Rockhampton Hospital—\$25 million

Emerald Hospital—\$8.5 million (increase of \$4.7m in funding from \$3.8m approved earlier)

Gladstone Hospital—\$4.5 million

Woorabinda Hospital—\$4.6 million

Eventide Home Rockhampton—\$8.5 million

Barcardine Hospital—\$6 million (increase of \$2.3m in funding from \$3.7m approved earlier)

Toowoomba Hospital—\$50 million (increase of \$36.648m in funding from \$13.352m allocated to the Stage 1 redevelopment to enable additional enhancements to be undertaken to the overall complex)

Clermont Hospital—\$6 million

Mackay Hospital—\$20 million

Proserpine Hospital—\$6 million

Townsville Hospital—\$70 million

Palm Island Hospital—\$6 million

Mornington Island Hospital—\$3.74 million

Cairns Hospital—\$70 million

Smithfield Community Health Centre—\$4.2 million

Woree Community Health Centre—\$4 million

Gold Coast Hospital—\$15 million (funding of \$12m approved earlier; additional funding provided to address deficiencies)

Palm Beach Community Health Centre—\$3.8 million

Nambour Hospital—\$30 million

Redcliffe Hospital—\$11.27 million (\$1.27m within funding provided, allocated for fitout of shell area to accommodate 2 additional theatres)

Caboolture Hospital—\$40 million

Ipswich Hospital—\$30 million

Maryborough Hospital—\$9.5 million (increased funding of \$2.2m from \$7.3m approved earlier)

Hervey Bay Hospital—\$42.1 million (increased funding of \$3.8m from \$38.3m approved earlier)

Additional funding of \$75 million over two years was included in the 1995/96 budget and is to be directed to addressing the backlog of specialist equipment needs at both metropolitan and major provincial hospitals. \$35 million has been provided in the 1995/96 financial year to meet priority specialist equipment needs with the additional \$40 million being provided in the 1996/97 financial year to supplement capital requirements for major redevelopments within the metropolitan hospitals.

The Government, recognising the capital consumption necessary to meet the many redevelopments throughout the State, has increased

the initial allocation of \$1.5 billion to \$1.725 billion and will provide further additional funding of \$50 million per annum in the financial years of 1997/98, 1998/1999 and 1999/2000. Such funding has been provided to meet expected commitments to undertake redevelopments at major acute hospitals throughout the State.

(2) (a) Projects announced during the recent election campaign are outlined in (1) above.

(b) Equipment purchases listed for 1995/96 financial year are as follows:

*Brisbane North Health Region*

Royal Brisbane Hospital

Replacement of 2 Gamma Cameras—\$1.05m  
 Upgrade of Cardiovascular Angiography Suite—\$3.40m  
 Operating Room Equipment—\$0.40m  
 Life Support Systems Upgrade (ICU, DEM, CCU, Lifeflight)—\$0.55m  
 Electronic Record System—\$0.98m

Royal Women's Hospital

Neonatal Equipment—\$0.35m  
 Operating Room Equipment—\$0.284m  
 Heart Rate/Blood Pressure Monitors—\$0.25m  
 General Equipment—\$0.25m

Royal Children's Hospital

Spiral CT Scanner with Laser Camera—\$1.40m  
 Digital Acquisition System—\$0.60m  
 Colour Doppler Ultrasound—\$0.30m

Keperra Hospital

Dialysis Equipment Upgrade—\$0.30m

The Prince Charles

Fluoroscopy X-Ray Machine—\$0.50m  
 Cardio-thoracic Monitoring Equipment plus telemetry for IC—\$0.60m  
 Monitoring System 5 Theatres; solar 5000—\$0.352m

Oral Health

Dental Equipment—\$0.50m

Total—\$12.066m

*Brisbane South Health Region*

Princess Alexandra

Replacement Gamma Camera—\$0.80m  
 7 x Daylight Processors—\$0.70m  
 Two CT Scanners—\$2.80m  
 Mobile Image Intensifier—\$0.20m  
 Replace Fixed Image Intensifier—\$0.60m  
 Transoesophageal Echocardiograph—\$0.18m  
 Monitoring Equipment—\$0.433  
 21 x Anaesthetic Machines—\$1.654m  
 Urodynamics Equipment—\$0.075m  
 2 x Operating Cytoscopes—\$0.10m

Mater Adult Public

Replace Anaesthetic Machines—\$0.90m  
 16 x Inhalational Agent Monitors—\$0.24m  
 13 x Replace Obsolete Ventilators—\$0.13m  
 Upgrade Hewlett Packard Monitors—\$0.25m  
 EEG/Cardiac Package—\$0.38m

Mater Mothers

Neonatal Unit Package—\$0.32m

Mater Children's

ICU/High Dependency Unit Package—\$0.45m

Logan, Redland & QEII

Replace Anaesthetic Equipment—\$1.50m

All Hospitals

Replace CSSD and Linen Service—\$0.729m

Total—\$12.441m

*Central Health Region*

Gladstone Hospital

2 x Ventilators—\$0.10m

Gastroscope—\$0.025m

Rockhampton Hospital

CT Scanner—\$1.20m

Total—\$1.325m

*Central West Health Region*

Winton Hospital

Airconditioning Operating Theatre—\$0.090m

Dental Chair and X-Ray Unit—\$0.010m

Jundah Hospital

X-Ray Unit—\$0.035m

Blackall Hospital

Defibrillator—\$0.015m

Longreach Hospital

ECG Machine—\$0.038m

Total—\$0.188m

*Darling Downs Health Region*

Toowoomba Hospital

Medical Imaging Package (CT Scanner)—\$0.60m

Total—\$0.60m

*Mackay Health Region*

Mackay Hospital

Computerised Tomography Scanner—\$1.60m

Total—\$1.60m

*Northern Health Region*

Townsville Hospital

Cardiac Specialist Equipment—\$0.15m

Monitoring Equipment Emergency—\$0.30m

Ultrasound Urology—\$0.30m

Kirwan Hospital

Neonatal Intensive Care Equipment—\$0.25m

Mt Isa Hospital

Intensive Care Monitoring Equipment—\$0.25m

Total—\$1.25m

*South Coast Health Region*

Beaudesert Hospital

Radiology Redevelopment—\$0.455m

Gold Coast Hospital

Pathology—\$0.35m

Fluoroscopy Unit—\$0.40m

Total—\$1.205m

*South West Health Region*

## Regional

Radiology Package—\$0.25m

Total—\$0.25m

*Sunshine Coast Health Region*

## Caboolture Hospital

Pathology Dept Equipment—\$0.43m

## Northern Sector

Preoperative and Operation Equipment—\$0.479m

## Redcliffe Hospital

High Dependency Unit Monitoring Equipment—\$0.45m

Total—\$1.359m

*West Moreton Health Region*

## Ipswich Hospital

Ventilators, Intensive Care Unit and Monitoring Equipment—\$0.60m

Endoscopic Camera, Instruments and Ultrasonograph—\$0.30m

Digital Radiology Equipment—\$1.04m

Total—\$1.94m

*Wide Bay Health Region*

## Regional

Ophthalmology and ENT Surgical Equipment—\$0.302m

## Bundaberg Hospital

Monitoring and Laparoscopic Equipment—\$0.496m

## Kingaroy Hospital

Theatre Equipment—\$0.253m

Total—\$0.051m

Total for All Regions—\$35.275m

As some projects will overlap from previous financial years, some costs will be incurred during the 1995/96 financial year. These will include the Royal Brisbane Hospital—Psychiatric Unit Redevelopment, The Prince Charles Hospital—Winston Noble Unit Upgrade, Pine Rivers Community Health Centre, Logan Hospital—Stage IIIA Redevelopment and Day Surgery, Redlands Community Health Centre, Yeppoon Community Health Centre, Rockhampton Hospital—Psychiatric Unit, Mackay Community Health Centre, Townsville Hospital—Radiation Oncology Services, Mt Isa Hospital—Stage II Refurbishment and Beenleigh Community Health Centre. Additionally, projects which have been approved previously will commence during the 1995/96 financial year and include the redevelopment of Jacaranda Village located on The Prince Charles Hospital Campus (\$7.5m), Rockhampton Community Health Centre (\$5.215m), Toowoomba Community Health Centre (\$4.872m), Thursday Island Hospital Redevelopment (\$15.5m), Thursday Island Community Health Centre (\$1.8m), Remote Area Accommodation for Thursday Island, Badu Island and Yorke Island (\$9.74m), redevelopments at Badu and Boigu Islands (\$3.821m), Cunnamulla Community Health Centre (\$0.89m), Bundaberg Hospital Redevelopment (\$18.1m), Wide Bay Group Linen

Service (\$5.4m), Health Services Community Centre Toowong (\$6.329m) plus minor upgrade work at Mt Morgan Hospital to cost \$455,000 and expanded minor upgrade work at Beaudesert Hospital amounting to \$250,000.

(c) The projected timetable of planned commencements of the projects outlined earlier is as follows:

*Herston Complex*

## Stage I—Carparking

Commence December 1995

Completion 1996

## Stage II—Royal Women's Hospital

Commence 1996

Completion 1998

## Stage III—New Diagnostic and Emergency

Departments Completion 2000

## Block 7 Refurbishment

Completion 2001

*The Prince Charles Hospital*

## Stage I—New ward block and theatres

Completion 1998

## Stage II—Refurbishment of existing buildings

Completion 2000

*Princess Alexandra/QE II Jubilee Hospitals*

## Redevelopment on a staged basis (PAH)

Completion 2001

## Upgrading and expanded services (QE II)

Completion 1997 &amp; 1998

*Redland Hospital*

## Stage I—Expanded services/facilities

Completion mid 1998

## Stage II—Refurbishment of existing facility

Completion early 1999

*Logan Hospital*

## Stage I—Expanded services/facilities

Completion 1998

## Stage II—Refurbishment of older areas

Completion 1999

*Mater Hospitals Complex*

## Refurbishment and upgrading

Completion 1999

*Rockhampton Hospital*

## Redevelopment involving engineering, accident and emergency, etc

Completion 1999

*Gladstone Hospital*

## Refurbishment of building interiors

Completion early 1998

*Woorabinda Hospital*

## Replacement of facility

Completion early 1998

*Eventide Home Rockhampton*

## Replacement of buildings

Completion early 1999

*Toowoomba Hospital*

Stage I—Theatres and critical care areas  
Completion 1997

Stage II—Upgrading balance of complex  
Completion 2000

*Mackay Hospital*

Stage I—Refurbishment of theatres and accident and emergency  
Completion March 1998

Stage II—Upgrading psychiatric unit and inpatient wards  
Completion late 1999

*Proserpine Hospital*

Substantially redeveloped  
Completion May 1998

*Clermont Hospital*

Replacement of facility  
Completion February 1998

*Palm Island*

Replacement of facility  
Completion March 1998

*Mornington Island*

Replacement of facility  
Completion late 1997

*Townsville Hospital*

Redevelopment of staged basis addressing block A as priority  
Completion between 1997 & 1999 various stages

*Cairns Hospital*

Stage I—New psychiatric unit  
Completion August 1996

Stage II—Clinical services block  
Completion 1997

Stage III & IV—Refurbishment of existing buildings  
Completion 1999

*Woree Community Health Centre*

Establishment of new facility  
Completion early 1998

*Smithfield Community Health Centre*

Establishment of new facility  
Completion early 1998

*Gold Coast Hospital*

Redevelopment addressing engineering services and refurbishment of wards  
Completion late 1998

*Palm Beach Community Health Centre*

Establishment of new centre  
Completion 1997

*Nambour Hospital*

Replacement of existing facilities and enhancement of services  
Completion mid 1999

*Redcliffe Hospital*

Stage I—Fitout of shell area for theatres  
Completion December 1995

Stage II—Upgrading of rehabilitation facilities and inpatient wards  
Completion late 1998

*Caboolture Hospital*

Expansion of facilities and services  
Completion mid 1999

*Ipswich Hospital*

Stage I—New acute psychiatric facility  
Completion October 1997

Stage II—New day surgery, medical and obstetrics facilities  
Completion 1999

The Honourable Member for Toowoomba South is well aware that Master Planning exercises are being undertaken at many of the hospital campuses and until such time as agreement has been reached with the outcomes, the timing of such developments is difficult to nominate. The Government is determined to fast track much of the outlined developments to ensure that the very best of facilities are provided in order to maintain health service delivery.

**24. Secondment of CJC Officers**

Mr TURNER asked the Premier and Minister for Economic and Trade Development—

- (1) Which officers of the Criminal Justice Commission were seconded to the Office of Cabinet and certain Government departments in the period prior to the recent State election?
- (2) What was the reason for such secondments and what tasks did each officer perform?

Answer (Mr W. K. Goss):

(1) A Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) officer was a temporary employee with Office of the Cabinet from 21 November 1994 to 30 June 1995. A second CJC officer was seconded to the Department of Justice and Attorney-General from 15 May 1995 to 25 August 1995.

(2) With respect to the Office of the Cabinet, as a general policy, secondments both into and out of the Office are encouraged to improve understanding of policy development processes and encourage liaison between agencies. The Office of the Cabinet vacancy was created by the absence of two permanent officers, one on secondment to another department, the second on six months leave without pay. The CJC officer responded to an advertisement for the position and was selected on merit as the best applicant for the job. The officer worked in the Legal and Administrative Policy Unit, primarily on criminal law and police issues. The second officer worked as a policy coordinator in the Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee Secretariat (AJAC Secretariat). The AJAC Secretariat vacancy was created by a restructure within the Secretariat. While in the position the officer managed the Secretariat support to AJAC and provided policy advice to AJAC. The officer returned to the CJC when the position was filled on a two year contract.

## 25. Ambulance Service Overtime Payments

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Consumer Affairs—

With reference to *The Courier-Mail* of Monday 28 August which carried an article claiming an ambulance officer was refused permission to take a woman whose leg had been severed to hospital because it would have created a call on overtime payment—

- (1) Has he investigated this allegation?
- (2) Does he accept such administrative direction as being in the best interests of the patient?
- (3) What action has he directed to be taken as a result of his investigation?

Answer (Mr Davies):

The statement by Ambulance Officer Shaun Clark in the article appearing in the *Courier-Mail* of 28 August, 1995 relates to the Supreme Court Proceedings he has instituted against the Queensland Ambulance Service.

Accordingly, it is not appropriate for me to comment on this case.

Any future action in relation to this alleged incident will be taken in the context of the Supreme Court Proceedings.

## 26. Wageline

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

With reference to Gold Coast companies and businesses who are frustrated in dealing with the state wageline number when trying to find out details of appropriate award wages as the number is constantly engaged—

Will extra Telstra lines be installed at the Gold Coast office for the wageline number, or will a special 'hotline' or '008' number be provided for calls to the Brisbane office?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

The Southport "Wageline" number connects to two Client Services Officers and an Industrial Inspector all of whom are trained to give detailed advice on award wages and related employment legislation.

This telephone system permits a further queuing of four incoming calls each of whom receive an introductory message followed by a further message 45 seconds later. This second message is repeated regularly to callers unanswered in the queue and will help the caller ascertain whether or not to wait or call back later.

I am advised that this system, known as "Spectrum Gold", is also connected to all other Departmental offices at the same Southport address and is designed to accommodate an extremely high call volume.

The Spectrum Gold system is a pilot project undertaken by the Department and statistics on its operation have only recently been made available for evaluation.

I am advised that at this time it is not considered necessary to install extra Telstra lines for the Gold Coast Wageline number or to provide a special "hotline" or "008" number for calls to the Brisbane office of Wageline. The current pilot project needs to be assessed first for its effectiveness and efficiency in coping with incoming calls.

The Honourable Member for Burleigh is assured that the services provided to the public by the various Branches of my Department, including the Wageline office, are constantly under review. Every endeavour is made to provide an efficient service consistent with available resources.

## 28. Woorabinda Aboriginal Council

Mrs McCAULEY asked the Minister for Family and Community Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Status of Women—

With reference to the Woorabinda Aboriginal Council, which has suffered financial mismanagement in recent times and the previous Minister for Family Services' attempts to put an administrator in to manage the Council—

Will she move to appoint an administrator as the present Aboriginal administration has admitted it has no chance of getting out of its financial tangle without extra funding from the State Government, and therefore those many creditors who are owed money by the Woorabinda Aboriginal Council cannot be paid because her Government is refusing to assist with the extra funds?

Answer (Mrs Woodgate):

In response to the question posed by Mrs McCauley, I can advise as follows:

The Woorabinda Council is facing serious financial difficulties. In essence, the Council is insolvent and unable to meet its debts as they fall due.

Now that the financial position of the Council has been reasonably accurately established, the Government will shortly be in a position to determine what action needs to be taken to resolve the current financial crisis. To date, the Government has made no decision as to whether, or not, this action will involve financial assistance. The Council is aware that one of the options that may be considered by Government is whether it would be appropriate to appoint an administrator under Section 21 of the *Community Services (Aborigines) Act 1984*.

My position is that we must shortly achieve a situation where people who have supplied credit to the Council in good faith, and whose accounts are not disputed, are paid, and where a satisfactory standard of financial administration is in place at Woorabinda.

The Council has been and, of course, will continue to be given all appropriate notice and opportunity for discussion on these matters. I expect to be in a position to make a statement on this issue before the end of November 1995.

**30. Pacific Highway, Coomera**

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to yet another accident on the Pacific Highway at Coomera, resulting in horrific personal and property damage—

- (1) What plans does his department have in place for the provision of new bridges, the upgrading of this section of highway and parallel service roads and the installation of the concrete buffer wall between north and south carriageways?
- (2) What expenditure has been allocated and what time frame is in place for works to be completed?

Answer (Mr Elder):

(1) Concept plans are being prepared for the realignment of the southbound carriageway to allow for the construction of the new bridge and approaches at Coomera, as well as the service road system. It is to be hoped that separation of the carriageways will be such that concrete buffer walls between the carriageways will not be necessary. However, this will be resolved in the design process.

(2) The construction of new bridges and service road is part of the six laning commitment for the Pacific Highway and will be completed within the four year time frame that I have indicated previously.

**33. Police Resources, Toowong**

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

- (1) What was the full-time equivalent police establishment figure for the "Toowong cluster" as of (a) 31 May 1994 and (b) 31 May 1995?
- (2) How many police officers were actually assigned to full-time duty within the "Toowong cluster" in (a) April and May 1994 and April and May 1995?
- (3) How many of the officers identified in (2) above were principally assigned to office or desk duties during (a) April and May 1994 and (b) April and May 1995?
- (4) What was the frequency distribution for patrols in the "Toowong cluster" by officers assigned to that cluster in (a) April and May 1994 and (b) April and May 1995?

Answer (Mr Braddy):

(1) The authorised strength of the Toowong Division was 68 as at 31 May 1994, and 57 as at 31 May 1995.

(2) The actual strength of the Toowong Division was 68 as at 31 May 1994, and 56 as at 31 May 1995.

The reduction in police numbers was the result of a Statewide rationalisation of regional police resources undertaken in accordance with the Queensland Police Service Human Resource Model. Within the Region, resources were then reallocated amongst Divisions based on the frequency of calls for police assistance together with the reported crime rate for each Division.

(3) Two officers (Senior Sergeant Administrator and Inspector in Charge) were principally assigned to office or desk duties during both periods.

There are a number of tasks which require personnel to be assigned to office or desk duties, including three shop front counters, roster clerk duties and other administrative duties. Officers are usually required to work no more than one eight hour shift per fortnight to operate these positions.

(4) It is not desirable to disclose information pertinent to operational policing numbers. However, the most important concern is that uniform patrols, consisting of two member units, operate 24 hours a day.

Traffic patrols consist of one member (motorcycle) and two person (car) patrols which are intelligence driven and subject to divisional needs and operations.

CIB and JAB crews are subject to a rotational roster involving all plain clothes branches within the region. This ensures at least one plain clothes crew is available on a 24 hour basis. Additional crews are rostered according to operational needs.

It is noted that although CIB, JAB and Inquiry staff are rostered for duty they do not perform patrols as such, as they have specific duties to perform which do not fit patrol criteria.

**34. Juvenile Aid Bureau Officer, Coolum Police Station**

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to the recent State election campaign when he attended a meeting with members of the Coolum community in the electorate of Noosa to discuss the appointment of a Juvenile Aid Bureau officer to the Coolum Police Station—

When will a Juvenile Aid Bureau officer be appointed to the Coolum Police Station?

Answer (Mr Braddy):

(1) Officers from the Sunshine Coast District Juvenile Aid Bureau are based at Kawana Waters, Maroochydore, Nambour and Noosa Heads. These officers are available to perform duty as required in all Divisions within the district, including Coolum.

The incidence of juvenile crime in the Coolum area is considered by the Police Service to be less of a problem than in other areas of the Sunshine Coast District.

There are no plans to appoint a Juvenile Aid Bureau Officer to the Coolum Police Station at this time.

**35. Dairy Farmers**

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

With reference to comments on the local radio news, that dairy farmers could benefit from the implementation of efficiencies available to the dairy industry—

What efficiencies are available which, in his opinion, are not being fully utilised by the dairy farmers?

Answer (Mr Gibbs):

1. Modern dairy farming is a complex business and dairy farmers are required to make complex decisions about complex technical matters.
2. Herd recording is a universally accepted tool to assist dairy farmers to make critical decisions about their herds and individual cows. Progressive dairy farmers regard herd recording as an essential management tool to enable them to continually improve their herds' productivity and milk quality, enabling them to compete in an increasingly competitive world.
3. Unfortunately, almost half of Queensland's 1700 dairy farmers are not current users of herd recording.

### 36. Court of Appeal Judges

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for the Arts—

- (1) What funds have been budgeted for in 1995-96 for overseas travel by Court of Appeal Judges?
- (2) What funds have been budgeted for in 1995-96 for domestic travel by Court of Appeal Judges?
- (3) What are the details of the abovementioned proposed travel for 1995-96?
- (4) What are the details of overseas travel taken in 1994-95 by Court of Appeal Judges?

Answer (Mr Foley):

- (1) For 1995-96 financial year, \$108,000 has been allocated towards overseas travel for Court of Appeal Judges.
- (2) For 1995-96 financial year, \$35,200 has been allocated towards domestic travel for Court of Appeal Judges.
- (3) Mr Justice C.W. Pincus and his wife travelled to and attended the American Bar Association Conference and the Canadian Bar Association Conference, both held in August 1995, the former in Chicago and the latter in Winnipeg. Mr Justice Pincus also attended a Judges' Conference held with each of the Bar Conferences. He also had discussions with relevant academics at the University of Chicago (Professor N. Morris) and Columbia University (Professor R. Uviller) concerning criminal law topics; further His Honour attended a sitting of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals during his visit.

In September 1995, Justice G.L. Davies and Spouse travelled officially to the United Kingdom. He attended the 39th Congress of International Association of Lawyers, in London. Also in London, the Judge had discussions with The Right Honourable The Lord Woolf and the Woolf Inquiry Team in relation to litigation reform. The Judge also had discussions with Dr Zuckerman from Oxford University about a draft paper on the reform of the civil justice system.

Mr Justice B.H. McPherson proposes to travel to the United Kingdom in January, 1996 to deliver a paper at an international legal conference on equity at Cambridge University.

Justice G.E. Fitzgerald is considering attendance at an appellate judges' seminar in the first half of 1996, but has not made a final decision.

(4) In April, 1995, Justice G.E. Fitzgerald and Spouse travelled officially to the USA and Canada. In Canada, the Judge attended the 1995 Canadian Appellate Court Seminar. In New York, the President met with the presiding Judge and other Judges from the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

In January, 1995 Justice G.L. Davies and Spouse travelled officially to Germany. The Judge delivered a paper to a seminar at the Max-Planck-Institut in Hamburg and had discussions with scholars of that Institute and Judges on civil justice reform. In Berlin, the Judge had discussions with various academics, judges and practising lawyers on questions of procedure and substantive law and took part in a seminar on comparative procedure at Berlin University.

### 37. Jury Service Exemptions

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for the Arts—

With reference to exemptions under the *Jury Act* which state that any female person may apply for exemption from jury service without giving any reasons and that male persons over 65 but under 70 years of age may apply for exemption from jury service without giving any reasons—

Will his Government amend this Act to prevent discrimination against male persons, in the first instance, and female persons over 65 but under 70 years of age, in the second instance, to allow Justice Department court staff more scope in jury selection, particularly in rural and regional areas?

Answer (Mr Foley):

The *Jury Bill 1995* was introduced into Parliament on 13 September 1995. The *Bill*, when passed by the Parliament, will replace the *Jury Act 1929* and represents a substantial reform to the current jury system.

One of these major reforms is that juries will be more representative of the community. The *Jury Act 1929* contains a wide range of exemptions from jury service. The *Jury Bill* abolishes most of these exemptions and provides, among other things, that there will be no age limit for jury service and no special exemption requirements relating to female persons.

### 39. Clermont Hospital

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to a pre-election promise made by the Minister that \$6m would be made available to rebuild the Clermont Hospital—

When will funds be available for this project?

Answer (Mr Beattie):

The 3 Year Capital Rolling Program 1995/96 to 1997/98 within the \$1.725 billion 10 Year Hospital Rebuilding Plan makes provision for the total project



budget of \$6 million to undertake the preliminary planning, design and documentation and construction of the Clermont project within this period.

#### 40. Oncourse Bookmakers

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

Will he (a) give an assurance to all on-course bookmakers in the racing industry that he will support their retention on-course and (b) oppose any moves to remove bookmakers from racecourses generally?

Answer (Mr Gibbs):

Under the Racing and Betting Act 1980, the appointment of on-course bookmakers is a matter under the jurisdiction of the relevant Control Body.

Decisions to authorise the continued fielding of on-course bookmakers, both at specific venues and more generally, resides with those bodies.

In arriving at any resolutions regarding the viability of bookmakers, control bodies would naturally take into account the views of clubs and other racing participants.

However, more importantly, the resilience of bookmakers to survive in a modern racing industry will rely on the standard of service they offer.

#### 41. Use of CJC Officers as Consultants

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

- (1) In what official capacity did a consultant with the Fraud And Corruption Prevention Section of the Criminal Justice Commission work in the directorate office of Bremer Institute of TAFE recently?
- (2) If this person worked as a consultant, what was the total cost of his consultancy services?
- (3) Were other consultants invited to tender for the supply of such services?
- (4) At what other colleges/institutes has this officer, or other officers of the Criminal Justice Commission worked as paid consultants?
- (5) In each instance, what was the total cost of the consultancy service provided?
- (6) Does this work involve a conflict of interest, particularly in any unit where the Criminal Justice Commission is likely to be asked to investigate fraud or corruption?
- (7) Who authorised the use of such Criminal Justice Commission consultants in the Department of Employment, Vocational Education, Training and Industrial Relations?
- (8) Why is the department's evaluation and strategic audit unit considered to be unable to review financial processes and "make risk management strategies", the tasks undertaken by the Criminal Justice Commission consultant at Bremer Institute?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

- (1) The Official Misconduct Division of the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) carried out an investigation for official misconduct at the Bremer Institute of TAFE in 1994. This investigatory report recommended that the CJC's Corruption Prevention Division assist the Institute with risk analysis and assessment advice in terms of the requirements of the *Criminal Justice Act* s.29(3)(e).
- (2) The CJC's review and advisory services were provided at no cost to TAFE Queensland.
- (3) Tenders were not required or applicable as the advisory service is provided at no cost to TAFE.
- (4) None.
- (5) Nil.
- (6) No. Risk management advice is provided at no cost to the agency. The decision to accept and implement any recommendations is the agency's Principal Officer.
- (7) Following an official misconduct investigation the CJC offered risk analysis assistance which was accepted by the Director-General.
- (8) The CJC's risk management specialists work in close liaison and complement the work of agency internal audit staff. This has occurred at the Bremer Institute of TAFE.

#### 42. Power Grid Distribution Losses

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

- (1) What are the power grid distribution losses expressed as a percentage for electricity transmitted from each of the generators listed below to each of the destinations also listed below (summer and winter)—
  - (a) From Swanbank to Normanton
  - (b) From Tarong to Cairns
  - (c) From Gladstone to Townsville
  - (d) From Callide B to Mackay
  - (e) From Stanwell to Rockhampton and
  - (f) From Bayswater to (i) Longreach, (ii) Quilpie, (iii) Warwick, (iv) Toowoomba, (v) St George and (vi) Brisbane?
- (2) What are the typical power grid distribution losses per 100 kilometres for both summer and winter for (a) 330kv line, (b) 275kv line, (c) 132kv line, (d) 110kv line, (e) 66kv line, (f) 22kv line, (g) 11kv line and (h) 415 volt distribution line.
- (3) What are the typical power grid distribution losses in the step-down from (a) 275kv to 132kv, (b) 275kv to 110kv, (c) 132kv to 66kv, (d) 66kv to 22kv, (e) 22kv to 415 volt distribution line, (f) 110kv to 11kv and (g) 11kv to 415 volt distribution line?
- (4) What are the anticipated power grid distribution losses in the step-down from 330kv ("Eastlink") to 275kv?

Answer (Mr McGrady):

(1) I am advised that in a transmission network with multiple generators at various locations (such as Swanbank, Tarong, Bayswater) and customers at various locations (such as Normanton, Cairns, Brisbane) it is not possible to assign actual network losses to a customer at a particular location because it is not possible to identify which generator supplies that customer.

The concept of point to point transmission implied by the question may be used in an analytical technique to calculate marginal loss factors as a basis for economic dispatch of generators and for recovering the cost of losses from customers.

The customer's marginal loss factor at a particular instant is the power in megawatts (MW) required to be produced by the "marginal" system generator (that is the last generator dispatched) required to supply the last megawatt of customer load.

Marginal loss factors vary with load, time of day, day of week and season of the year. Recovering the cost of losses using marginal loss factors will overcharge (compared with the actual losses) and a method has to be devised to return the overcharge to customers in an equitable way.

I understand that the matter of determining a charging method for losses is presently being examined for the National Electricity Market development. The results of that investigation will be presented through the National Grid Management Council process.

Actual energy loss in the Queensland network is of the order of 11% of customer energy purchases, distributed approximately equally between the transmission and distribution networks.

(2) Losses in transmission lines depend on the conductor size and the load on the line. For typical conductors and assumed load levels and utilisation levels losses are estimated to be as follows:

VOLTAGE KV	LINE LENGTH KM	CONDUCTOR AREA SQ.MM ALUMINIUM	LOAD MVA (NOTE 1)	LOSS LOAD FACTOR (BASED ON TYPICAL LEVEL OF USAGE)	ANNUAL ENERGY LOSS (NOTE 1)(MWH)
330	100	1110	390	0.3	9145
275	100	1274	290	0.3	6096
132	100	1 x 282	50	0.3	4757
110	100	1 x 282	35	0.3	3364
66	100	1 x 206	12	0.3	1629
22	100	1 x 206	1.5	0.3	552
11	10	1 x 206	1.0	0.3	79
(NOTE 2) 0.415	1	1 x 206	0.25	0.3	251
(NOTE 2)					

NOTE 1: MVA—Mega volt amperes; MWh—Mega watt hours

NOTE 2: Shorter line lengths have been assumed for 11kV and 415V lines because 100km would be unusually long for 11kV and impractical for 415V.

3. Typical losses in step-down transformers are:

VOLTAGE KV/KV	TRANSFORMER NUMBER X RATING (MVA)	MAXIMUM LOAD MVA	LOSS LOAD FACTOR (BASED ON TYPICAL LEVEL OF USAGE)	ANNUAL LOSS ENERGY
275/132	2 X 200	400	0.3	4500 MWh
275/110	2 X 200	400	0.3	4500 MWh
132/66	2 X 80	160	0.3	1700 MWh
66/22	2 X 10	20	0.3	460 MWh
22/0.415	1 X 0.5	0.5	0.3	21MWh
110/11	2 X 25	50	0.3	1070MWh
11/0.415	1 X 0.5	0.5	0.3	20MWh

4. Losses in stepping-down from 330 to 275kV at the Queensland terminal of Eastlink are estimated to be about 17 000MWh hours per year for 500MW maximum power transfer and loss load factor of 0.3.

#### 44. Detoxification Programs for Watch-house Inmates

Mr RADKE asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

As drug dependent inmates of watchhouses commence detoxification programs without any apparent form of medical/nursing supervision other than the visitation of the Government Medical Officer, has any consideration been given to providing a designated nursing presence (Sunday to Thursday normal business hours and 24 hours on

Friday and Saturday) in the City and Holland Park watchhouses?

Answer (Mr Braddy):

Consideration has been given to this issue. The Health Department recently commissioned Dr Peter Livingstone (former Director-General of Health) to undertake a study in relation to the services provided by Government Medical Officers. This study was to include the provision of such services to watchhouses. The Health Department is currently reviewing Dr Livingstone's report and

recommendations on this issue. Meanwhile, the Operational Procedures Manual for Police clearly spells out the procedures to be adhered to by police to ensure that their duty of care is exercised while meeting their responsibilities in watchhouses.

#### **45. South-East Arterial Traffic Signs; Leisure Unlimited**

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to Department of Transport tender QDOT 50/94 for supply and installation of twelve variable message traffic signs for the South East Arterial—

- (1) Did Queensland Transport undertake any financial review of the successful tenderer, Leisure Unlimited?
- (2) If so, did the investigation reveal an overall credit risk score of 6, meaning suppliers should operate only on a C.O.D. basis?
- (3) Has Queensland Transport attempted to collect late delivery penalties of \$500 per calendar day as provided in the contract with Leisure Unlimited?
- (4) Was a sample from Leisure Unlimited tested by Queensland Transport as were those of other tenderers whose samples were tested on 25 May 1994?
- (5) Given the credit risk of Leisure Unlimited, and the already two-month delay in delivery of the signs, will he give an assurance of the worth of the ten-year warranty offered by the company?

Answer (Mr Elder):

- (1) & (2) A credit assessment was not obtained of any of the tenderers. The contractor has lodged a security deposit of \$75,000 as required by the contract.
- (3) No late delivery penalties has been collected as the contract is still in progress. Liquidated damages for late delivery are determined after the date for completion is adjusted for any extensions of time successfully claimed by the contractor and the date of completion is final.
- (4) The Ferranti Packard 18" character, 2" diameter hybrid flip disc sign display elements offered by Leisure Unlimited were tested on 25 May 1995. The sample supplied by Leisure Unlimited was not used for this test. As the same sign display was offered by a number of tenders only one sample was required to test the visibility of this product.
- (5) Should a warranty claim arise Queensland Transport will pursue appropriate remedies considering the strength of the claim and sound commercial practice.

#### **46. Police Resources, Maroochydore**

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to Maroochydore police resources that are being stretched to look after the district watchhouse prisoners and the fact that these prisoners are imprisoned at Maroochydore for up to 60 days without proper facilities—

- (1) Will the Government increase police numbers for the Maroochydore area?
- (2) Will the Government guarantee that no more prisoners will be held past the 30-day legislated limit in this or other watchhouses?

Answer (Mr Braddy):

- (1) The Queensland Police Service is now undertaking a review of police watchhouses throughout the State and this review includes the recommended staff levels at 24 hour watchhouses. Maroochydore watchhouse is included in this review and the issue of staffing levels at Maroochydore is in the process of determination.
- (2) It is not possible to give such a guarantee. At the same time, the Police Service and the Corrective Services are doing everything in their power to alleviate the situation of corrective services prisoners being detained for lengthy periods in watchhouses.

#### **47. Termite Barrier**

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

With reference to the demise of Organochlorins as barriers against termites in under-slab constructions and their replacement with an organophosphate known as Chlorpyrifos, which will add great expense and inconvenience to the owner/occupier of the construction, due to its limited lifespan of some six years and the need for drilling and re-treating the slab—

- (1) Is he aware of the great economic costs and potential threat to new constructions should the proposal currently before the National Registration Authority, for the hand-spraying of the organophosphate Chlorpyrifos as an under-slab termite barrier, gain approval and be adopted as acceptable practice in Queensland?
- (2) If so, does he condone this practice, even though it undoubtedly means future massive costs and displacement in order to maintain the termite barrier, especially when viable alternatives are available?

Answer (Mr Gibbs):

1. The decision to phase out organochlorine insecticides for termite control was taken in 1992 and the time table for the withdrawal re-affirmed at ARM CANZ in April 1994. The building industry has been well aware of the impact that decision would have on the industry.

At present there is a continuing need for chemical treatment despite the introduction of non-chemical methods which are gaining increasing acceptance. I am aware that the National Registration Authority has been considering an application for the hand spraying of the chemical chlorpyrifos for that purpose. Because the expected life of this treatment to control termites will be less than the economic life

of the building, retreatment may be necessary after a number of years.

2. The proposed use of chlorpyrifos will be only one of the options available to the building industry for termite control for new constructions. Although retreatment may be necessary, I do not accept that its use will involve future massive costs as has been suggested. Drilling and retreating the slab should not be necessary. Perimeter treatments may be all that is required.

#### 48. Live Cattle Exports, Karumba

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to the loss of revenue experienced by Queensland cattlemen because of the lack of necessary infrastructure at the Port of Karumba and to the wealth generated through the Port of Darwin mainly by Queensland cattle filling Northern Territory live export contracts—

- (1) What plans does the Government have to upgrade this important facility at Karumba, so that the financial benefits from live cattle exports can be retained in Queensland?
- (2) If it is to be upgraded, will the Government fast track this important project and give our cattlemen a better option to access this viable market?

Answer (Mr Elder):

Firstly, let me say that cattlemen have not lost revenue because a lack of necessary infrastructure at the Port of Karumba. As Minister for Business, and now as Transport Minister I have personally been involved in the development of this innovative venture to export live cattle.

As this business has grown and developed this Government has worked hand in hand with the industry to facilitate the further expansion of this venture. Given the projected growth in this industry we are now looking to dredge the Karumba Port to enable larger shipments to leave this port.

In doing this, there are a number of factors to consider including the concerns of the community and the environment. We have taken a cooperative and inclusive approach in facilitating this work.

The initial dredging report will be finalised in October at which time the Ports Corporation of Queensland (PCQ) intends to circulate this report and form a dredging advisory group.

This group will provide a forum for all interests to be represented, and to progress the dredging plan.

PCQ plans to have all follow up studies and a final dredging report, constituting a long term dredging plan for the port of karumba, completed by the end of 1995.

PCQ will then apply all necessary regulatory approvals with the aim of being in a position to commence dredging, subject to all environmental approval, in early 1996.

#### 49. Seagulls Rugby League Team

Mr VEIVERS asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Tourism, Sport and Youth—

- (1) Is he aware of the situation regarding Seagulls Rugby League Team endeavouring to move to Carrara Stadium?
- (2) As this move has the support of the Gold Coast City Council and the business community of the Gold Coast and a consortium has already moved to make this happen, will he and the Government support this move so that a senior rugby league football team can compete from the Carrara venue?
- (3) What form will that support encompass?

Answer (Mr Burns):

(1) I received a letter from Dr Douglas Daines, Chief Executive Officer, Gold Coast City Council in my office on 14 September 1995 outlining a proposal to develop the Carrara Sporting Complex as a national and regional sporting complex.

Dr Daines also advised that the Council called a Special Meeting of Council on Friday, 15 September 1995 to consider a proposal by a consortium to develop the Sports Complex at a cost of \$16 million, with \$10 million being provided by the consortium.

The letter from Dr Daines also requested that the Government consider assisting the Council by providing part of the \$6 million for the development of Carrara as a national and regional sporting complex to service a wide variety of sports.

The proposal considered by the Council on Friday included the establishment of an Australian Rugby League Team at Carrara, and other sports including rugby union, hockey, baseball and equestrian events.

(2) I have received a formal submission from the Gold Coast City Council and my Department is in the process of determining what type of Government support can be provided for the project.

(3) The Gold Coast City Council will be advised to submit a proposal under the 1996 National Standard Sports Facility Program to enable the project to be assessed by the Government in more detail.

#### 50. Fire and Ambulance Services, Rockhampton

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Consumer Affairs—

With reference to the purchase of land by both the Fire and Ambulance Services on Yaamba Road in Rockhampton to provide new premises for those services—

- (1) What type of facility is to be built?
- (2) What services/operations will be housed there?
- (3) When does he expect the facility to be constructed?
- (4) What is the estimated cost of the project?

Answer (Mr Davies):

(1) Queensland Emergency Services is planning to establish a combined Ambulance and Fire facility at

North Rockhampton which would incorporate a combined Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) and Queensland Fire Service (QFS) Regional Communications Centre.

(2) QAS is intending to provide a facility that will provide for up to six ambulance vehicles, which would provide both emergency response and non-urgent transport to North Rockhampton and surrounding areas. In addition, the facility will provide back-up for the Yeppoon and Emu Park areas. The QFS facility will incorporate three fire appliance bays.

(3) QFS and QAS have identified the construction of the joint facility at North Rockhampton in the 1996/97 Capital Works Program.

(4) The estimated cost of the joint facility is expected to exceed \$1M. Detailed planning and cost analysis is not completed at this stage.

### 51. Challinor Centre, Ipswich; Institutions for Disabled

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Family and Community Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Status of Women—

With reference to the residents of Challinor who appear to be at risk of relocation and to the parents of profoundly handicapped children in other institutions who have expressed concerns generally that they wish the status quo to remain—

- (1) What is the department's position regarding each institution now operating in Queensland?
- (2) What contingencies have been put in place?

Answer (Mrs Woodgate):

(1) The Government is committed to reforming Queensland's outdated institutions for people with disabilities.

In February this year Cabinet endorsed the *Queensland Government Policy Statement and Planning Framework for Institutional Reform*. This is a landmark document which details the requirements that must be adhered to ensure that the necessary key community supports are in place before the person leaves an institution.

The *Institutional Reform Policy* in fact sets out three objectives:

- to support residents of institutions to move to community living;
- to provide adequate supports for people at present in the community who would otherwise have to move to institutions; and
- to provide quality care for those people who continue to live in larger residential arrangements.

This makes the Queensland approach very different to that of other States, which often merely means the closure of institutions, usually with no additional resources or in fact as a cost-cutting exercise.

In May 1994, the Government announced the approval for the 3 year plan to relocate residents of Challinor Centre, at Ipswich.

At this stage, the Government has made specific decisions to close five Centres for people with disabilities. In addition to the Challinor Centre, these are Basil Stafford Centre at Wacol, Maryborough Disabled Persons Ward, Leslie Wilson Home, Hervey Bay and W.R. Black Home.

The *Queensland Government Policy Statement and Planning Framework* for Institutional Reform does not mean that all institutions will close, but provides a safeguard and framework to ensure that approved reform activities such as those mentioned previously will occur in a well planned and managed way, and where there are sufficient resources.

(2) It should be noted that as yet there has been no relocation of any residents from any of my Departments institutions under the current process of institutional reform. I am committed to ensuring that the key community supports which people will need will be available before any persons relocate. The *Planning Framework* calls for individualised planning in consultation with the person with the disability, their families, friends and advocates to determine the community based services which best suit their needs.

In relation to the concerns of parents of children with severe support needs, the W R Black reform process is recognised as a particularly innovative project, with a large number of the children supported to move to family based care—a much preferred option to institutional care for children.

The various projects to date have all seen additional resources approved, increasing expenditure to in excess of \$140 million over the next three years.

These additional resources are to ensure the provision of specific support services for individuals. For example, in relation to the Challinor and Basil Stafford Centre reform projects, packages of supports for individuals will include case management, behaviour intervention, family support, independent representation, and an emergency response strategy.

The process of providing financial support to agencies to provide the range of support services to individuals has also been individualised, enabling individuals to move location or service provider should their current situation not be providing the best outcomes for individuals.

The support provided to individuals will also be reviewed regularly, with the Case Manager having a particular role in relation to monitoring the quality of services provided to individuals not only at the point they leave the institution but to ensure the services adapt to the individual's needs throughout their lifetime.

My Department has made substantial progress in setting up the range of services required and will continue to work with other State Government Departments and the community to ensure the success of institutional reform in Queensland.

The reform projects in Queensland are seen as innovative programs in that there is a whole of government approach being taken to the reform with the departments involved linking very closely to ensure effective coordination of supports for people in the community.

## 52. Sporting Facilities, Sunshine Coast

Miss SIMPSON asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Tourism, Sport and Youth—

How much has the State Government spent on sporting facilities in capital grants on the Sunshine Coast, listing the individual amounts awarded to recipients on a yearly basis since 1989?

Answer (Mr Burns):

- (1) \$1,115,986
- (2) 106 projects have received funding:

1989/90			
\$1,800	\$1,000	\$1,600	\$3,400
\$1,700.00	\$1,100.00	\$ 446.00	\$3,200.00
\$4,920.00	\$ 240.00	\$ 877.00	\$ 644.00
\$4,370.00	\$4,841.00	\$ 890.00	\$1,060.00
\$3,000.00	\$26,242.00	\$1,920.00	\$1,336.00
\$3,400.00	\$8,093.00	\$16,000.00	\$3,500.00
\$1,500.00	\$2,120.00	\$ 884.00	\$4,400.00
\$40,000.00	\$ 714.00	\$1,156.00	\$2,936.00
\$12,000.00	\$3,000.00		
Total		\$164,289.00	
1990/91			
\$3,948.00	\$3,000.00	\$18,400.00	\$1,120.00
\$13,000.00	\$ 388.00	\$1,200.00	\$ 528.00
\$29,000.00	\$14,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$8,287.00
\$10,118.00	\$1,200.00	\$3,000.00	\$24,880.00
\$16,192.00	\$2,500.00	\$1,000.00	\$20,000.00
\$1,984.00	\$ 593.00	\$20,700.00	\$2,739.00
Total		\$221,777.00	
1991/92			
\$ 980.00	\$ 220.00	\$ 160.00	\$11,200.00
\$ 300.00	\$ 336.00	\$1,800.00	\$4,118.00
\$ 120.00	\$3,300.00	\$ 825.00	\$ 324.00
\$ 440.00	\$12,935.00	\$20,000.00	\$ 180.00
\$ 400.00	\$13,936.00	\$1,260.00	\$3,429.00
\$ 500.00	\$4,000.00	\$32,000.00	\$18,400.00
Total		\$131,163.00	
1993			
\$2,700.00	\$1,516.00	\$10,562.00	\$5,000.00
\$ 308.00	\$1,708.00	\$100,000.00	\$71,858.00
\$ 213.00	\$2,040.00	\$1,090.00	\$4,980.00
Total		\$201,975.00	
1994			
\$4,975.00	\$90,000.00	\$6,982.00	\$49,500.00
\$36,384.00	\$6,750.00	\$20,941.00	\$4,000.00
\$60,000.00	\$75,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$22,250.00
Total		\$396,782	

## 53. Queensland Rail Workshops, Staffing

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

- (1) How many employees are currently employed by Queensland Rail in its workshops throughout the State and what are the respective numbers in each workshop?
- (2) What does Queensland Rail envisage will be the cuts in this area over the next 12 months?

Answer (Mr Elder):

1. As at 3 September 1995, a total of 1905 staff were employed within the Queensland Rail Workshops

Group, the distribution of staff throughout the state are as follows:

Ipswich	724
Redbank	333
Rockhampton	529
Townsville	262
Banyo	57
	1905

2. At present I am currently undertaking a review of all workshop activity in the Queensland Rail workshops. I am undertaking on site visits, meeting with staff, unions and management.

No employees will be sacked or forced to relocate.

## 54. Senior Management Positions, TAFE Colleges

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

- (1) How many senior management positions in Queensland TAFE colleges and regional departmental offices continue to be filled by managers in an acting capacity?
- (2) Why have some of these positions been 'acting' positions for many months and what impact has this situation had on the level of morale and on the consistency of decision making within the TAFE system?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

(1) 6 out of 19 Institute and State Office Directors are holding positions in an acting capacity. These 6 Institute Director positions have been advertised.

(2) The restructuring of TAFE Queensland has resulted in the amalgamation of 33 colleges into 16 Institutes of TAFE. State Office has also been restructured to form 3 Directorates.

The Institute model was established to enable TAFE Queensland to adapt to the competitive training marketplace and to meet the changing needs of business and industry. Improvements in resource use will facilitate cost savings to create extra student places, new courses and better long-term facilities development planning.

TAFE Queensland staff at all levels are facing organisational change as a result of the National Training Reform Agenda and the need to effect workplace reform. The restructuring of the College/Institute network, as part of this reform process, has meant that some staff have experienced uncertainty. This experience and the reaction of staff is no different from employees elsewhere in Australia in both public and private sectors faced with organisational change. TAFE Qld has put in place a number of strategies to assist staff cope with workplace change. Senior Management is involved in all decisions affecting the TAFE system thus ensuring consistency.

## 55. Townsville TAFE College

Mr STONEMAN asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

With reference to the Management Review of Townsville College of TAFE, 29 March-2 April 1993 and as the review team, comprised of the three most senior members of the Department's evaluation and strategic audit unit, indicated in the very first sentence of their report "that financial control had been inadequate at the college for at least the last two financial years"—

- (1) Were the members of the review team asked to explain why their unit had failed to act to rectify this situation, particularly as their report indicates, in the same first sentence, that departmental records had indicated this inadequacy in financial control?
- (2) Were the same senior officers asked to explain why similar problems were able to continue for considerable lengths of time at a number of other colleges (eg at Ipswich from 1989 onwards) despite repeated detrimental reports from the Auditor-General?
- (3) As the review team was trenchant in their criticism of a former Director of Townsville College (a) was that director promoted, despite what the report refers to as his inappropriate "risky" management style and lack of financial expertise, to a position requiring even higher levels of team leadership, managerial skills and budgetary expertise, (b) who were the members of the selection panel which promoted him and (c) in view of this report, have they been asked to account for their decision?
- (4) Were the interview panels who promoted individuals who lacked relevant financial management skills, according to this report, into the top financial management positions at Townsville, ever asked to account for their actions?
- (5) In other colleges/institutes where financial mismanagement has been cited by the Auditor-General, has any selection panel responsible for selecting officers for promotion into senior financial management positions, ever been held accountable for their decision?
- (6) If so, will she detail the selection exercises involved?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

- (1) The Review Team's recommendations, which included (i) the development of prerequisite financial information required by the College Executive to provide relevant and timely data, and (ii) monitoring of the College's financial performance by the Regional Director with monthly reports to the Executive Director, TAFE Queensland, were accepted and implemented as a matter of urgency.
- (2) I am advised that, in all instances, decisive and ongoing corrective action has been implemented at State Office and College levels as soon as the Queensland Audit Office reports were presented to the Director-General. In the First Report of the Auditor General on audits performed for the Financial Year ended 30 June 1993, the Auditor-General, commenting of the actions taken by the Department was quoted as stating that:

"The prompt and comprehensive manner in which the Director-General has responded to the audit issues, many of which I consider are of a serious nature, is acknowledged."

(3) The then Director of the Townsville College of TAFE, was promoted on 6 February 1992. The Management Review of Townsville College of TAFE was undertaken 29 March 1993—2 April 1993.

As a result, the two events are not linked and the question is therefore not relevant.

(4 to 6) The role of the Interview Panel in the recruitment process is to nominate persons on the basis of their satisfaction of key selection criteria contained in the Position Description and their respective skills, experience and merit in comparison to other applicants.

The responsibility for ensuring the effectiveness of persons appointed to positions involving Institute financial management resides with the Director of the Institute concerned. An officer's performance is monitored through the application of various Public Sector Management Standards, including Performance Planning and Review, Training and Development, and Diminished Work Performance.

#### **56. Bremer Institute of TAFE; Skillshare, Ipswich**

Mr TURNER asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

Have any agreements been entered into between the senior management and/or the Institute Council of the Bremer Institute of TAFE and Ipswich Skillshare/YUPI during the term of the current Institute Director and will she table copies of all the agreements which may have been signed?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

The Institute Administrator has entered into three Memorandums of Agreement with the YUPI Organisation in Ipswich and I am happy to table each of these documents.

Benefits to TAFE Queensland and the community include:

1. Income generation to The Bremer Institute of TAFE of \$385,339.00 received from training programs conducted as part of the strategic alliance.
2. Graduation of students from 22 Work Options courses for which the strategic alliance holds a standing offer agreement with DEET.
3. The current placement of 208 people who were looking for work into programs funded by New Work Opportunities within the Working Nation Initiative of the Commonwealth Government.

#### **57. TAFE Staff Redundancies**

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

With reference to the redundancies policy of Queensland TAFE—

Will she arrange for a completely independent survey of all TAFE staff who have been made redundant during the past three years to determine (a) whether any staff were coerced into signing the documents for "voluntary" early retirement, (b) how many "redundant" staff subsequently noticed their former positions being readvertised and filled and (c) the number of "redundant" staff whose "redundancy" followed their lodgement of PSMC appeals or grievances?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

The Department is not aware of any staff members who have been coerced into signing voluntary early retirement documents and has received no grievances from any staff member in this regard. I am not prepared to authorise an independent survey in these circumstances.

I am advised that a small number of positions have been advertised subsequent to VER offers being made and accepted in the same area. In these cases, the persons made the VER offers no longer possessed the skills needed to meet the profile needs of the Institute concerned. These positions have been filled by officers whose skills are more appropriate to the current and future needs of the organisation.

Departmental records show that there were three (3) people who lodged stage 3 grievances who were subsequently offered VERs. In two cases, the grievances were lodged two (2) years prior to the offer of VERs and the grievances had no relationship to the VERs.

In the third case, the grievance related to TAFE Queensland's initial reluctance to offer a VER, believing that the person fell outside the scope of the employment categories endorsed by the PSMC as part of the process of realigning the staffing mix required to deliver the TAFE Queensland training profile. This situation was later clarified and a VER offered.

Additionally there was one person who lodged a number of appointment appeals with the PSMC who was subsequently offered a VER. This person however was in a classification of officers where the skills were no longer appropriate to the needs of the organisation.

## 58. Public Housing, Cairns

Ms WARWICK asked the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Rural Communities, Minister for Rural Communities and Minister for Provision of Infrastructure for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities—

With reference to the proposed construction of public housing at 7 and 9 Le Grande Street, Freshwater, Cairns—

- (1) What does he propose to do with these sites?
- (2) Are units, townhouses, detached houses or other structures going to be built on these sites?
- (3) If so, how many on each block?
- (4) How many will be (a) rental, (b) purchase and (c) rental purchase?

- (5) What is the proposed completion date?
- (6) When will tenders be (a) advertised or (b) let?
- (7) What is the likely cost of each of these buildings?
- (8) If this public housing construction proceeds, what community facilities will be provided?
- (9) What contributions will be made to the local council?

Answer (Mr Mackenroth):

The project at Le Grande Street is included in the 1995/96 Capital Works Program for construction of additional public rental accommodation to meet the strong housing demand in Cairns.

The sites at 7 and 9 Le Grande Street can be amalgamated into one parcel of land or treated as two separate sites. The decision on this matter has not yet been taken. Apartments will be constructed on the site if it is developed as one parcel of land. If the project is managed as two separate sites, then a combination of seniors units and apartments will be constructed.

If the land is developed as one site, it will be possible to construct up to 13 x 1 bedroom apartments. If it is developed as two sites, it will be possible to construct 6 x 1 bedroom seniors units and 6 x 2 bedroom apartments.

The accommodation would be provided as additional public rental stock.

At this stage, it is intended that the dwellings would be available for occupation in late 1996 or early 1997.

Tenders should be advertised by mid-January 1996 and a contract should be let in March 1996.

The estimated cost of dwellings under the two possible development options are:-

- (a) 13 x 1 bedroom apartments—\$65,000 per unit; and
- (b) 6 x 2 bedroom apartments—\$88,000 per unit and 6 x 1 bedroom senior units—\$65,000 per unit.

8. It is likely that a small gazebo and possibly a barbecue will be incorporated to provide a community facility for the tenants.

9. Headworks charges and drainage fees will be paid to Cairns City Council.

## 59. Mingela Range Highway

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to the \$8.9m for reconstruction and replacement of the existing narrow and winding highway over the Mingela Range—

Due to the increased heavy vehicle traffic on this highway and the regular accidents on this section, will he give an indication if this project may be fast tracked to 1996 instead of the proposed work set down for 1997?

Answer (Mr Elder):

The proposed project extends from the Haughton River to the top of the Mingela Range, a distance of 7.3 km.



The accident history on this road from 1984 to 1995 reveals 3 fatalities out of a total of 39 reported accidents.

The traffic volumes on this section of road show a consistent 2% growth for the last 5 years with 1200 vehicles per day travelling the Mingela Range with 17% commercial for this region and does not add extra pressure to the road system at these low volumes.

The currently approved Road Implementation Program schedules the reconstruction of this section of road in the period October 1996 to December 1997. The acceleration of the works earlier than this is not possible due to the lead time required to complete the design of the project, call tenders and award the contract.

### 60. Poisons Hotline

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to a recent incident when a constituent was placed on hold for 10 minutes when contacting the Poisons Hot Line in an emergency situation and as this delay could have caused a fatality—

- (1) Will he investigate this matter to ascertain if callers are regularly being placed on hold?
- (2) Will he ensure that these time delays are minimised?

Answer (Mr Beattie):

(1) The matter has been investigated. The Poisons Hotline receives approximately 25,000 calls per year and of these some 8,000 are automatically diverted to the Accident and Emergency Department when the Hotline number is engaged.

I understand the process of dealing with calls to the Poisons Hotline varies at different times of the day. During daytime hours the Poisons Hotline is attended by staff of the Royal Children's Hospital. These staff also have other patient/client responsibilities. When received incoming calls are prioritised to ensure that all critical calls are addressed immediately. Some less critical calls can be placed on hold for several minutes until staff become available to attend to the caller. In the evening calls are automatically diverted to the Accident and Emergency Department.

In either situation I am advised, it is extremely rare that a call would not be responded to for 10 minutes.

Some callers also ring the Casualty Department direct rather than go through the Poisons Centre Hotline. This practice is not actively encouraged as it compounds the already heavy workload of the Accident and Emergency Departments.

Some calls overnight are transferred to the NSW Poisons Centre which operates a 24 Hour Service. Queensland Health pays for this service provided by the NSW Poisons Centre and my Department liaises regularly with the NSW Poisons Centre to ensure that quality client service is provided to Queensland callers.

If Mr Malone could provide some further information on time and day of the call involved then the particular case could be investigated more fully.

(2) While there will be occasions when calls will be put on hold for short periods, I understand every effort is made to ensure that the delays are minimal, in keeping with the emergency nature of the Hotline service.

### 61. South East Freeway Noise Barriers

Mr RADKE asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

What is the progress of the Noise Barrier Program along the South East Freeway, particularly the area from Marshall Road to Gaza Road?

Answer (Mr Elder):

The Noise Barrier Scheme for this section of the South East Freeway is being prepared and a display board indicating the alignment of the noise barriers has been completed and will be available for public comment.

Public consultation will take place prior to the calling of any contract in order to assess the residents' response to the proposal.

This public consultation process will include letter box drops and public meetings, as required.

It is anticipated that the full public consultation process will be finalised by the end of this calendar year, and tenders for the construction of these barriers will be called in early 1996.

### 63. Workers' Compensation

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

- (1) Will she detail the associated rates of workers' compensation premiums each department pays, including the breakdown according to employment description?
- (2) What is the total premium each department pays, broken down by division?
- (3) When will it be payable?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

I table Attachment 1 which contains details of Government Departments with new workers' compensation policies effective from 1 July 1995, including premiums and premium rates. The employment description is not used in the premium rate calculation as premiums are calculated on previous claims history.

The State Actuary was consulted in the assessment process.

The majority of Departments have applied for one workers' compensation policy only to cover the liability of all divisions of those Departments.

As this cover commences from 1 July 1995 the premium calculated is a provisional premium and these have all been paid.

I table Attachment 2 which lists the Departments and Divisions of Departments which had policies prior to July 1995. Premium notices are currently being issued to renew these policies to 30 June 1996.

**64. Regional Health Authorities**

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) What are the responsibilities and guidelines for regional directors in the offering of payment of cash settlements to people or relatives with claims against a hospital or health authority.
- (2) What financial limits apply to any amounts able to be offered by the regional directors?

Answer (Mr Beattie):

(1) Offers of payment of cash settlements to persons with claims against a Regional Health Authority are made on the basis of legal advice supporting the making of such offers and in accordance with the requirements of relevant instruments of financial delegation and the *Financial Delegations (Expenditure, Losses and Special Payments) Policies and Guidelines*.

(2) Under existing Special Payments delegations, Regional Directors have authority to approve the making of "special payments" (which include the payment of money under a settlement) of up to \$500,000.

**65. Gordonvale State High School**

Mrs WILSON asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) When will work commence on the manual arts facility at the Gordonvale State High School?
- (2) When is it anticipated that it will be completed?

Answer (Mr Hamill):

Site acquisition procedures are currently underway involving a preferred site for the Gordonvale State High School manual arts block. A schematic design will then be completed and due processes of consultation, planning and tendering will follow.

Construction of the facility is expected to commence on 19 February 1996 and to be completed by 24 June 1996.

**66. South Coast Motorway**

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

- (1) How many properties have been paid for by the Department of Transport along the entire proposed South Coast Motorway route?
- (2) How many properties have been bought by the department but have yet to be settled?
- (3) How many properties are presently under negotiation?
- (4) How many property owners received letters from the department saying it was interested in purchasing?
- (5) Of those initial recipients who received letters of intent who have not commenced negotiations, what time frame has been set for the finalisation of the offer?
- (6) How much money has already been paid out?

Answer (Mr Elder):

1. 55 properties have been paid for from 52 owners, including 4 properties where acquisition has been by proclamation.

2. 9 properties from 9 owners.

3. 54 properties, including 34 involving partial acquisitions by proclamation.

4. A total of 155 property owners received letters inviting commencement of negotiations.

5. Landowners who have received letters of intent but where negotiations have not commenced will be contacted by my Department regarding the present and future status of their cases.

6. A total of \$28,673,080 has been paid out in property acquisitions.

**67. South Coast Motorway**

Mr CARROLL asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to negotiations by Queensland Transport to purchase various properties either in the path of, or necessary for depots to be used in the construction of, the proposed South Coast motorway—

- (1) On how many properties has the sale been completed?
- (2) Of those acquisitions settled, how many were unconditional contracts as at 15 July and were then completed between 17 July and the date of his response?
- (3) Of those acquisitions settled, how many were still "subject to Ministerial approval", "subject to finance approval", or "subject to ..." other conditions, though had an agreed price specified as at 15 July and were then completed between 17 July and the date of his response?
- (4) How many of those proposed acquisitions, where negotiations had reached agreement on price and all other conditions, remain ready to settle, but uncompleted?

Answer (Mr Elder):

1. Property sales have been completed on 55 properties (52 owners), including 4 properties that were totally or partially resumed by proclamation.

2. There was one acquisition completed between 17 July and the date of my response of August 2, 1995, when the promise was made that the 26 property transactions held in abeyance would proceed to finalisation.

3. Of the acquisitions settled, one had an agreed price at July 15, subject to Financial Approval, and completed between July 17 and August 2, 1995, the date of my response.

4. For the acquisitions that were the subject of my response of 2 August 1995, all are now completed.

For all subsequent acquisitions, 9 have reached agreement on price but are still to be completed.

**68. RZ Mines; Sandmining, Capricorn Coast**

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

- (1) Did RZ Mines (Nisshoi Iwai) meet with representatives of Department of Environment and Heritage, Livingstone Shire engineers and the Lands Department in Central Queensland on Monday 11 September 1995?
- (2) What was the purpose of this meeting, when the Environmental Impact Study is not expected to be completed until at least the end of 1996 and 96 per cent of the Capricorn Coast population do not want sandmining in their area?

Answer (Mr Barton):

(1) Yes, RZ Mines met with the planning steering committee of the Byfield Coastal Advisory Group (BCAG). The members of the Byfield Coastal Advisory Group are the Department of Environment and Heritage, Department of Lands, the Livingstone Shire Council, the Department of Minerals and Energy, the Department of Primary Industries and the Commonwealth Department of Defence.

(2) In July 1995, the Byfield Coastal Advisory Group initiated a formal process for the development of an interim management plan for the Byfield coastal area. The primary objective of this interim management plan is to propose, under current tenure restrictions and authorisations, strategies and actions that will improve the management of recreation, conservation and development in the Byfield coastal area. The strategies and actions will form a coordinated whole of government approach to the area's management until issues such as sandmining and native title rights are resolved through due process. The planning process has a strong element of community involvement and a number of public groups, companies and agencies were invited to address the planning steering committee for the interim management plan to express their view and interests. These groups include Queensland Association of 4-Wheel Drive Clubs Incorporated, Stockyard Point Progress Association, Byfield Resident Action Group, Capricorn Conservation Council, Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland (Capricorn Branch), Darumbal Noolar Murri Corporation, Capricorn Sunfish, Keppel Island Lifestyle Aboriginal Corporation, Capricorn Tourism and Development Organisation, Capricorn Coast Tourist Organisation, National Parks Association of Queensland, Queensland Commercial Fishermen's Organisation, Capricorn Bushwalking Club, State and Federal parliamentary members, as well as RZ Mines Pty Ltd and Mineral Deposits Ltd. Most of these groups have responded to the request and have made presentations to the Steering Committee.

#### 69. Southbank Institute of TAFE

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

- (1) What practical, measurable, corrective procedures has the senior management of the department put in place to address the following serious issues arising from the survey of more than 5,000 students of Southbank Institute of TAFE in March; (a) less than half of

respondents were satisfied with the efficiency of institute administrative procedures; (b) six percent of students (344 respondents) indicated concern with harassment; (c) aspects of safety (information, standards, enforcement) were of concern to many respondents; (d) international students were the group least satisfied with the education and training they were receiving and (e) students had little knowledge of essential services such as counselling and job placement?

- (2) At what other institutes has this survey (or a similar survey) been administered?
- (3) Will she table in this House the findings of such surveys?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

(1) The Honourable Member has misinterpreted the results of the survey as 69% of students did not disagree that the campus administration procedures were inefficient.

Despite the Member's inaccurate information, the Director has provided the following details which indicates that considerable progress has been made in decentralising administration functions into faculties where 92% of students were satisfied as demonstrated in the same survey.

The Southbank Institute of TAFE has responded to information gained through the Student Services Survey in March 1995 by:

- (a) decentralising administrative procedures to educational faculties. This has reduced dissatisfaction to 9%;
    - introducing enrolments by mail;
    - installing a new integrated telephone and data communication system; and
    - providing staff development programs for staff in key areas, including financial management, administration procedures, audit review, and human resource management.
  - (b) Forming the Institute Student Association which is addressing the issue of harassment;
    - providing the services of four full-time and two part-time student counsellors; and
    - inviting student representation on all decision-making bodies.
  - (c) Providing safety information, including Workplace Health and Safety information, through Student Information Kits, student diaries, drills and inductions, and classroom instruction.
  - (d) Convening a Working Party to assess and improve service to international students;
    - In addition an International Students Support Officer is based at South Brisbane; and an International Student Counsellor is located at Annerley and
  - (e) approximately 94% of students enrolled at the Institute are part-time and employed, and do not use these services.
- (2) This survey has not been administered at any other Institute, however next month thousands of TAFE Queensland students and staff will be

surveyed to provide feedback for the improvement of services that Institutes are providing to almost 400,000 people across Queensland.

(3) I am pleased to table the findings of the Southbank Institute survey.

#### 70. Southbank Institute of TAFE

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

- (1) With reference to the Southbank Institute staff survey and particularly to the general findings that (a) staff do not believe the institute's structure is conducive to an efficient system of operations; (b) staff do not feel the institute rewards people for contributing to the institute's goals and mission; (c) staff do not believe that resources are allocated adequately, or in a timely manner to those who require them and (d) to the most disturbing staff responses to survey categories 7, 8, 15, 16, 23, 26, 26, 47-60, 52 and 60, in what specific ways does she intend to modify the management and structure of TAFE institutes if it is found that the results of the survey of staff at Southbank institute are replicated at other institutes?
- (2) What specific steps have been put in place to address the problems identified by this survey at Southbank?
- (3) Who are the officers responsible for measuring improvement in diagnosed problem areas?
- (4) Will she table their progress reports as they are received?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

1. The results of the Southbank Institute staff survey will provide a source of information for the ongoing management of the Southbank Institute. The organisational structure was approved following consultation with staff and community members and has been promulgated and discussed throughout the Institute. Minor adjustments are made to the structure on an ongoing basis to address operational needs. The survey was implemented to allow staff in management, teaching and support to express their views and perceptions of operating conditions within the Institute and background information was also sought from each respondent to enable the data to be analysed for each Faculty as well as for the various groupings and roles performed in the Institute. The management and structure of TAFE Institutes are designed to meet the needs of each Institute, and each will be adjusted if there is a demonstrated need.

2. Results from analysis of the survey data have been forwarded to each senior manager for the development and implementation of appropriate corrective strategies prior to the next survey period. The results will be used as the 1994 benchmark against which improvement in performance may be compared.

3. The Institute Director, Finance Director, Business Services Director, Education Services Director, and Human Resource Management Director are the

officers responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of the strategies implemented.

4. Southbank Institute plans to undertake the survey annually as part of the process of developing the Institute, and in each case the results will be made public.

#### 71. Fire and Ambulance Services, Toowoomba

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Consumer Affairs—

With reference to the opening of a joint communications centre for the QAS and the QFS in Toowoomba by the Honourable Tom Burns just prior to the July State election and as the QFS communications centre is still operating from the fire station—

- (1) Is he aware that the professional opinion of firemen is that the best, safest option is to have a communications base located at a fire station?
- (2) Is he aware that the new joint communications centre is to be replaced within four years?
- (3) Will he reconsider this administrative decision in view of the advice of local firemen?

Answer (Mr Davies):

(1) Yes I am aware that it is the opinion of some of the firefighters from Toowoomba that the communications centre should not be moved from its current location at the Toowoomba Fire Station, Kitchener Street. However, since 1974 the Anzac Avenue Fire Station has been turned out by the existing communications centre at Kitchener Street (4.3 kilometres away) and there has never been any problems with communications. The new joint QAS/QFS Communications centre is located one kilometre from Kitchener Street Station and 3.3 kilometres from the Anzac Avenue Station. A contemporary communications system will be installed in the new communications centre providing a more efficient and effective turnout system.

Experience in other parts of the State has shown that firefighters have the same initial concerns, but that these disappear with experience under the new system.

(2) There are no plans to replace the new joint communications centre within any particular time period. The performance of the new centre will be monitored and any necessary changes made to enhance efficiency.

(3) The decision to move the communications centre to the new joint facility at the Toowoomba Ambulance Centre is currently not being reconsidered, as this type of system has been proven to work very effectively in Brisbane, North Coast and the South Coast regions.

#### 72. Alleged Telephone Tapping by Corrective Services Commission

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to an allegation in *The Weekend Independent* of 8 September which links the

Corrective Services Commission Internal Investigation Unit to the tapping of the unlisted home telephone of a journalist on that newspaper—

- (1) Is he absolutely confident that this unit has not tapped this telephone as alleged; if so, what is the basis of his confidence?
- (2) Will he guarantee that the Criminal Justice Commission investigation into this allegation, an investigation confirmed in writing to me by the Acting Chairperson, Mr L F Wyvill QC, will not be hampered in any way by the Government's continuing refusal to make the Corrective Services Commission accountable to that body?

Answer (Mr Braddy):

(1) The Member for Crows Nest question is again based on a false premise. The article referred to in the question raises allegations against the Corrective Services Investigation Unit (CSIU), an independent unit of the Queensland Police Service, not the Corrective Services Commission Internal Investigation Unit. The CSIU advise me the unit has never been involved in any investigation concerning *The Weekend Independent* or any of its journalists. In addition at present there is no legislation empowering officers of the Queensland Police Service to obtain warrants to perform telephone interceptions. Investigations requiring telephone interceptions rely on liaison with other law enforcement agencies such as the Australian Federal Police, National Crime Authority or the Criminal Justice Commission whereby a joint investigation is conducted utilising the various powers vested in each organisation. Warrants are issued by Supreme Court Justices and would only be issued in relation to criminal offences, mostly in relation to major or organised crime. The CSIU has not made an application through any Federal agency or the Supreme Court for assistance in the use of telephone interceptions for any investigations. The allegations include that the journalist referred to in the question was given a copy of a 'telephone traffic operation sheet' listing her name and silent phone number, other telephone lines with names and details of dates, and times and recordings made of incoming and outgoing calls. This document is alleged to carry the notation 'auth.QPS.933.'. The document is alleged to have originated from Telstra's Head Office for the period Monday 28 August 1995 to Thursday 31 August 1995. Telstra have informed the CSIU that the term 'telephone traffic operations sheet' is not a term used by Telstra for any official correspondence. Additionally, the reference number 'auth.QPS.933' has no meaning for either the CSIU or the Telstra Liaison Officer. Current CSIU records indicate that there have been no requests for call charge records relating to any telephone numbers for August or September 1995. In addition, Telstra advise that call charge sheets show STD calls and not local calls as allegedly is the case in this document.

(2) The Member for Crows Nest apparently still does not understand that the Corrective Services Investigation Unit is a unit of the Queensland Police Service, and as such, falls fully under the jurisdiction of the Criminal Justice Commission.

### 73. State Government Environmental Policy

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

With reference to the Environmental Commitments sought from the Goss Government submitted by the Australian Conservation Foundation, Australian Marine Conservation Society, Australian Rainforest Conservation Society, Queensland Conservation Council, The Wilderness Society, Threatened Species Network (Qld) and the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland and which was provided as the ALP election policy—

- (1) Did officers from the Environment and Heritage Department play a part in the preparation of the response; if so, which officers were involved?
- (2) Did Australian Rainforest Conservation Society director, Aila Keto contribute to the response; if so, what was her contribution and in what capacity did she make the contribution?
- (3) Did any other officials from the above organisations contribute; if so, what was the nature of their contribution?
- (4) Do or have any of the officials of the above organisations hold or held consultancy or other positions with any unit of government; if so, would he provide details of the positions?

Answer (Mr Barton):

(1) In relation to questions 1, 2, 3, 4, I can understand the disappointment and frustration on the part of the Honourable Member for Burnett at the conservation movement's unwillingness to support the coalition in the election campaign. If the Honourable the Member wants more details on why this was so he is best advised to consult the conservation movement directly.

### 74. Pilchard Netting

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

Will he assure this House that before any licence is granted for the purse seine netting of pilchards in Queensland, a full resource and environmental impact study is completed and all relevant community groups such as recreational and game fishermen and the general public are consulted and their views taken into consideration?

Answer (Mr Gibbs):

1. Applications to undertake exploratory or developmental fishing such as fishing for pilchards are made under the new *Fisheries Act 1994* introduced by the government earlier this year. Under the Act, applications are to be made to the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority (QFMA).

Applications are subject to the provisions of a policy on exploratory and developmental fisheries which has been approved recently by QFMA.

That policy provides for applications to be considered in a framework involving the use of an Information Paper about the known status of the fish stock to be targeted. It adopts the recently

introduced consultative scheme of Management and Zonal Advisory Committees as the primary source of advice and consultation about proposals lodged.

2. An Information Paper referring to the application for a Developmental Fishing Permit for Pilchards has been prepared and circulated to the Management Advisory committee for subtropical fin fishes (Sub Tropical FINMAC) and to zonal advisory committees for areas from the Queensland/NSW border to Bustard Head (north of Bundaberg). All stakeholder interests are present on these committees. These include direct fishing interests, aboriginal, conservation, local government, tourism amongst many others.

The application will only be considered by the QFMA once the advice from all those sources has been received.

### 75. Bird Breeders' Licences

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

With reference to his department's Recreational Wildlife Licence for the keeping of native Australian birds—

- (1) What is the current fee for an Aviculturist keeping a variety of single species native birds, ie one bird of each species for non-breeding purposes, given that the variety may include species such as a Red Tailed Black Cockatoo and a Major Mitchell Cockatoo?
- (2) What is the current licence fee for the keeping of more than one bird of the same species, such as the Red Tailed Black Cockatoo or Major Mitchell Cockatoo for non-breeding purposes?

Answer (Mr Barton):

Schedule 12 of the *Nature Conservation Regulation 1994* sets out the full range of birds classified as restricted wildlife, which because of the wild status of those species are likely to be threatened by widespread trade and keeping, and therefore, while keeping is not precluded, require an aviculturist to be the holder of a Recreational Wildlife (Specialist) Licence which costs \$150 per year plus a \$30 charge per bird for once-off DNA sampling and a microchip implant. The Red Tailed Black Cockatoo and the Major Mitchell Cockatoo are two examples of those species listed in Schedule 12.

Recognising the special case of birds such as the Red Tailed Black Cockatoos and Major Mitchell Cockatoos which have long been kept as family pets, a number of options are available for the owners of these birds:

1. If a person keeps one or two birds as pets only (that is they do not breed), and they were formerly the holder of an E Class Licence under the *Fauna Conservation Act 1974*, then an annual 'permit to keep' will apply at a cost of \$30.00 (previously \$22.00), with a once off charge of \$30.00 per bird for DNA sampling and a microchip implant;
2. If a person keeps one or two birds as pets only (that is they do not breed), and they were obtained as sick, injured or orphaned wildlife, or the birds have been family pets for a long time, then a permit to

keep will be issued without fee, with a once off charge of \$30.00 per bird for DNA sampling and a microchip implant; or

3. If a person keeps more than two Red Tailed Black Cockatoos or Major Mitchell Cockatoos or breeds and sells birds on Schedule 12, then they must hold the standard Recreational Wildlife (Specialist) Licence at a cost of \$150.00.

### 76. Board of Architects

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Administrative Services—

With reference to the House of Representatives' Standing Committee on Community Affairs which established, in December 1994, an inquiry into migrant access and equity and as the Committee is giving particular reference to (a) the effectiveness of accreditation of overseas qualifications and the impact of overseas qualifications on access to education, training and labour market programs, and employment; (b) as assessment (or analysis) of barriers faced at entry points to services and/or at any other point in accessing a full service, including availability and suitability of interpreter services; (c) the level of cultural sensitivity of organisations and institutions providing such services and the existence of suitable cross-cultural training programs for staff; (d) the impact of access and equity principles on service delivery and (e) the existence and adequacy of mechanisms to monitor such services in order to guarantee access and equity principles—

Does the Board of Architects administer their Act in a way which ensures that access and equity principles are met; if so, how does this Board satisfy each of the five references enumerated in the preamble above?

Answer (Mr Milliner):

The Board of Architects, Queensland administers the *Architects Act 1985* in a manner that ensures that access and equity principles are met.

The purpose of the Board is to:

- protect the public interest by ensuring that only competent, qualified persons practise as registered architects;
- register natural persons holding the prescribed qualifications as architects in Queensland;
- approve companies holding the prescribed qualifications as approved architectural companies in Queensland;
- investigate complaints against architects and/or approved architectural companies, conduct hearings, either private or public and impose penalties;
- instigate legal proceedings against non-registered natural persons and/or non-approved architectural companies for breaches of the *Architects Act 1985*;
- undertake accreditation visits and approve courses in architecture;
- maintain a register of architects; and
- conduct examinations.

Section 17 of the Architects Act 1985 provides that a person shall be entitled to be registered as an architect if the Board is satisfied that the person is of good character and reputation and has passed either the prescribed examinations conducted by the Board or a course of study in architecture (the syllabus of which has been approved by the Board) and has such practical experience in architectural work as is prescribed.

Architectural principles do not have geographic boundaries. Therefore, experience and qualifications gained overseas are recognised.

As with other State and Territory Boards, the Queensland Board of Architects has neither the financial nor human resources to maintain records of all academic qualifications in architecture issued by overseas institutions. Reliance is therefore placed on the offices of other organisations with the resources and skills to perform accreditation of architectural qualifications. These organisations include the Architects Accreditation Council of Australia Inc (AACAA) and the National Office of Overseas Skill Recognition (NOOSR).

The AACAA comprises representatives of all Australian State and Territory Registration Boards of Architects including Queensland, as well as a representative from the Royal Australian Institute of Architects. NOOSR is a division of the Commonwealth Department of Employment, Education and Training.

One of the principal objectives of the AACAA is to recognise, accredit and where appropriate, coordinate acceptable standards of architectural education for National and international reciprocity. Both organisations have compiled comprehensive records over a number of years relating to accreditation of overseas qualifications.

By relying on these bodies for accreditation of overseas qualifications, and through a National system of accreditation of the schools of architecture in Australia, a uniform approach is made to the evaluation of all qualifications for registration for all registration Boards in Australia.

The registration activity undertaken by the Board is addressed to all persons on an equal basis, regardless of their background.

#### 77. Enduring Power of Attorney

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and minister for the Arts—

With reference to representations from the Alzheimer's Association (Queensland)—

When will he move to (a) legalise substitute decision making arrangements such as Enduring Power of Attorney to cover medical and lifestyle decisions, (b) modify current legislation dealing with financial administration matters, (c) establish procedures for appointment of a substitute decision maker for an adult person who has lost legal capacity but has no Enduring Power of Attorney and (d) establish statutory substitute decision makers of last resort where there is no suitable person to make decisions on behalf of a disabled person?

Answer (Mr Foley):

Although the question was asked in four parts, I have answered them together as the same answer applies to each part.

Problems in this area are currently resolvable through the use of a variety of legal and legislative provisions, including the *Public Trustee Act 1978*, the *Intellectually Disabled Citizens Act 1985* and the *Mental Health Act 1974*.

The Government is currently awaiting two final reports of the Queensland Law Reform Commission—in relation to adult persons, the Final Report on Assisted and Substituted Decisions, and in relation to children, the Final Report on Consent to Medical Treatment of Young People.

The Queensland Law Reform Commission is presently considering submissions received in response to its draft report and discussion paper on these two topics and hopes to complete its final report, including draft legislation prepared by the Office of Parliamentary Counsel, in early 1996.

These reports will make recommendations on the issues the subject of representations from the Alzheimer's Association (Queensland).

If the Honourable Member has any particular problems, I would encourage her to take them up directly with the Intellectually Disabled Citizens Council and the Public Trustee. In addition, although the deadlines for the receipt of formal submissions has passed, I would also encourage the Honourable Member to make her views known to the Queensland Law Reform Commission.

Finally, for the information of the Honourable Member, the matters raised in her question also have significance for my colleague, the Minister for Family and Community Services.

#### 78. Importation of Chicken Meat

Mr PERRETT asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

With reference to the united opposition by the state's 102 chicken meat growers to plans by the Labor Federal Government to relax quarantine restrictions on the importation of poultry meat into Australia—

What representations has he made to his Federal colleagues to assist in averting the certain disease and economic risks associated with relaxation of the quarantine restrictions?

Answer (Mr Gibbs):

1. Import controls and quarantine issues are Commonwealth responsibilities. Draft protocols for the importation of cooked chicken meat products from the USA, Thailand and Denmark were released by the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service (AQIS) in June 1994.

2. As yet, the Commonwealth has not determined its final decision in relation to the importation of cooked chicken meat. From a quarantine perspective, the Commonwealth needs to assure itself that any such importation would not jeopardise Australia's animal health status.

3. In response to a previous submission from my predecessor, the Federal Minister for Primary Industries and Energy, Senator R Collins, stated on 14 November 1994 that my Department would be kept informed of developments in the risk assessment process.

4. As there have been no new developments or information to submit on this matter, I have made no further representations to the Commonwealth but will do so if further information on the risk assessment is unsatisfactory.

5. While it is important to ensure that Australian industries are not subject to unfair import market competition, the nation, as a major agricultural exporter, has much to gain from trade liberalisation.

### 79. Gambling

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Family and Community Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Status of Women—

With reference to the burgeoning gambling economy in Queensland, will he detail the Government's new initiatives to counter the adverse social problems now beginning to manifest themselves in society today?

Answer (Mrs Woodgate):

In 1992/93 this Government allocated \$925,000 in recurrent funding from the charitable levy on the turnover of gaming machines in hotels to services for problem gamblers and research into the effect of gaming machines on Queensland.

The research component is being conducted over three years by the Australian Institute for Gambling Research (AIGR) at the University of Western Sydney and the Queensland University of Technology. This comprehensive research was designed to identify any social problems linked to the introduction of gaming machines into clubs and hotels, as well as any positive social and economic impacts. In March this year, my Department released the first year report on the Social and Economic Impact of the Introduction of Gaming Machines to Queensland Clubs and Hotels. Overall, the research findings support the Government's introduction of gaming machines, citing: the lack of obvious negative implications within the general population; favourable community attitudes; the benefits to the clubs and hotels industry; and the net economic benefit accruing to the State. Of particular note is the finding that machine players were no more likely to experience economic hardship than non-players. The research also found strong support for the regulatory regime established for the gaming industry and the establishment of services to assist problem gamblers and their families. I am also pleased to advise that this study has been acknowledged by the University of Nevada as, to date, the most comprehensive social impact assessment conducted any where in the world.

Previous research has suggested that only a small proportion of gamblers will experience gambling problems. Such problems are hardly new, having long been raised as a concern in connection with

TAB betting and casino gambling. Today, however, a response to this issue is provided by the four resource centres for problem gamblers, known as Break Even services, funded by the Department of Family and Community Services. Funds of \$815,849 per annum have been allocated to these services since 1992/93. Located at Brisbane (including Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast), Toowoomba, Rockhampton and Cairns, the services are innovative in design and originally unique to Queensland. They offer a multi-disciplinary approach to assist the client and the client's family through the provision of addiction counselling, financial counselling, family counselling, and information and education. This service model has subsequently been taken up by Victoria and South Australia.

The funds used to support the AIGR research project are now available for redistribution and are being allocated for enhancement to services. From 1995/96 additional recurrent funds of \$109,000 have therefore been allocated to the network of Break Even services to increase their capacity to provide services to problem gamblers.

Community education and other measures aimed at early intervention and prevention are vital responses to the issue of problem gambling. To strengthen gaming industry efforts to prevent problem gambling, the Department of Family and Community Services is currently in the process of establishing a Problem Gambling Advisory Committee. The committee will comprise representatives from the Break Even services, the gaming and liquor industries, and government departments. It will provide an ongoing forum for monitoring the impact of problem gambling and have a key role in initiating industry strategies further to address problem gambling issues.

### 81. Mahogany Glider

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

With reference to mahogany glider habitats in the Ingham Tully region and to a number of Interim Conservation Orders which were issued prior to the 15 July election—

- (1) Why did the department issue these orders at such short notice when they had years to inform landholders that the endangered species may be habitating their property?
- (2) When will the matters be resolved of landholders who have mahogany glider habitats on their property?
- (3) If compensation is the final outcome, will the amount received equate to market value of the area in question?

Answer (Mr Barton):

- (1) The mahogany glider thought to have been extinct since early this century was only rediscovered by Queensland Museum researchers in 1989.

The mahogany glider is a nocturnal, hollow-dwelling mammal. It is these characteristics which have made it difficult to define the distribution and population status of the species. Scientists in cooperation with



the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage have been assessing the status of the mahogany glider in key localities under current threat of clearing while a further study is looking at the ecological aspects of the glider.

General expansion of the cane industry, which has grown by 30% in area in the last 5 years and is now further enhanced by the Sugar Industry Infrastructure Package (SIIP), means that caneland will continue to rapidly encroach into remnant native forest areas. In the Tully area only 15% of lowland habitat remains.

(2) There has been ongoing liaison with landholders as surveys have proceeded, with the focus being on those landholders having particularly significant habitat (due to size, habitat quality, continuity with protected habitat, or important corridors between significant habitat).

While these negotiations have been continuing a conservation plan is being prepared by the Department for the mahogany glider. The plan will focus on the key known habitat areas and those other key areas where the glider is likely to occur.

The proposed strategy will provide permanent protection for mahogany glider habitat. This strategy is composed of several components including the dedication of critical habitat, acquiring land and entering into voluntary conservation agreements. This will ensure mahogany glider colonies can travel throughout their full range in search of food.

It is proposed that this plan will be released for draft comment in several weeks.

(3) Section 126 of the Nature Conservation Act provides for compensation if:

(1)(a) a conservation plan is approved for an area identified under the plan as, or including, a critical habitat or an area of major interest; and

(1)(b) a land-holder's interest in land in the area is injuriously affected by a restriction or prohibition imposed under the plan on the land-holder's existing use of land.

(2) The land-holder is entitled to be paid by the State the reasonable compensation because of the restriction or prohibition that is agreed between the State and the land-holder or, failing agreement, decided by the Land Court.

Furthermore, if lands are acquired by the Department, fair market value will be paid based on Crown valuations.

**82. Recategorisation of Properties in Ipswich City, Boonah, Laidley and Gatton Shires**

Mr FITZGERALD asked the Minister for Lands—

With reference to the Ipswich Land District—

How many properties have been recategorised under the *Valuation of Land Act* from primary production status to another category in (a) Ipswich City, (b) Boonah Shire, (c) Laidley Shire and (d) Gatton Shire?

Answer (Mr McElligott):

The number of properties recategorised for each of the local government areas requested for the periods

1 July 1994 to 30 June 1995 and 30 June 1995 to 5 September 1995 are as follows:-

Local Government Area	1 July 1994 to 30 June 1995	30 June 1995 to 5 September 1995	Total
(a) Ipswich City (incorporating Moreton Shire)	16	3	19
(b) Boonah Shire	13	0	13
(c) Laidley Shire	2	1	3
(d) Gatton Shire	12	1	13

**83. Tinaroo Dam**

Mr GILMORE asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

Due to the prolonged drought in Far North Queensland, water reserves in Tinaroo Dam are not considered sufficient to sustain full allocation to irrigation farmers in the district. In considering the alternatives of (a) having the dam remain at less than capacity or the construction of the North Johnstone Diversion to Tinaroo Dam or (b) having the dam filled and losing considerable volumes of valuable water over the spillway—

- (1) Will he give a commitment to (a) the installation of an inflatable extension to the height of Tinaroo Dam, or some other mechanism to increase the capacity of the Dam or (b) In the event of an overflow, departmental estimates indicate the loss of some 2 million kgs of barramundi from the reservoir?
- (2) Will he give a commitment to the installation of a device suitable to the containment of barramundi in the dam?
- (3) Due to the general deterioration of distribution infrastructure relating to the dam and extra demands on that infrastructure, will he commit to the funding of urgently needed maintenance to the channel system and the duplication of the Granite Creek Syphon?

Answer (Mr Gibbs):

1. The prolonged drought throughout Queensland has impacted significantly on all water storages in Queensland. Tinaroo Falls Dam is no exception.

The supply available from the dam was always assessed on the basis that during prolonged drought when the dam was low some restriction in supply would be necessary.

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is evaluating a number of options to augment supplies available from Tinaroo Falls Dam to meet future water demands in the area.

These options include a Fabribag on Tinaroo. A report will be available in the near future. Until this report is finalised and the outcomes of the feasibility study for a Sugar Industry on the Tablelands are known, I am unable to make a commitment to any of these options.

2. In relation to barramundi in the dam, it was always recognised some fish would be lost over the spillway during times of flooding. The DPI has considered ways of preventing such losses but there are problems by using any physical barrier.

Investigations into acoustic, light and electric barriers have not given promising results.

3. As water demand from the MDIA has grown the necessity to duplicate the Granite Creek siphon has been recognised. Accordingly for this current year \$800 000 has been allocated for this purpose. Other funding for replacement of drop boards and refurbishment of control gates is continuing.

#### 84. Maroochydore TAFE Building

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

- (1) When the State Government negotiated to buy the old Newspaper Place building in Maroochydore for use as a TAFE building, what professional advice was taken regarding the cost and extent of the redevelopment of the building before the purchase?
- (2) Will she release that advice and any subsequent advice following the purchase of the building?
- (3) Will she advise if there has been any change in the projected cost of redeveloping the building?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

1. TAFE Queensland sought professional advice from the Department of Lands, the Administrative Services Department and the Physical Resources Branch of TAFE Queensland relating to the redevelopment of the building prior to its purchase.

2. I am prepared to release the advice provided by the Department of Lands and Administrative Services Department should the Honourable member request it. Access to this information was granted to Mr Bruce Laming MLA on 19 May 1995. The advice provided by Physical Resources Branch, TAFE Queensland, was a budget estimate for refurbishment of the building. This advice was part of a submission to Executive Council, and therefore in accordance with government policy, I am not prepared to release this information.

3. Following purchase and vacancy of the building, a more detailed investigation of the refurbishment requirements was able to be conducted by the Administrative Services Department. There has been no further change in the projected cost of the building.

#### 85. Gladstone Judo Club

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

What action does he intend to take to rectify the current situation with regard to the seizure of funds by the Gladstone Police Youth Club of their associate club, the Gladstone Judo Club, which appears to be an inappropriate confiscation of funds, requiring intervention?

Answer (Mr Braddy):

The Queensland Police Citizens Youth Welfare Association (QPCYWA) is a private company limited

by Guarantee not having share capital. The Company was incorporated in the State of Queensland on 20 May 1948 under the then *Companies Act 1931*.

The QPCYWA is not part of any Government Department and acts independently of the Government.

The QPCYWA is administered by a Board of Directors which was established under the provisions of Clause 46 of the Articles of Association of the QPCYWA. Those Articles are approved by the Australian Securities Commission.

In relation to the specific question asked by Mrs Cunningham, I have no jurisdiction as Minister for Police to intervene in the business of a private company, and therefore propose to take no further action. Furthermore, I understand that the Gladstone Judo Club has initiated legal proceedings against the QPCYWA and it would therefore be improper for me to interfere in these proceedings.

#### 86. Fire Service, Warwick and Stanthorpe

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Consumer Affairs—

- (1) What is the current status of any review which may have been conducted into the staff numbers and arrangements at both the Warwick and Stanthorpe Fire Stations?
- (2) What changes, if any, have been made or are planned to be made at these stations as a result of any recent review which may have been conducted into the abovementioned matters?

Answer (Mr Davies):

(1) There is no review being conducted into staff numbers and arrangements at the Warwick and Stanthorpe Fire Stations.

The workplace reform package is currently being conducted and this does not affect staff numbers and arrangements.

(2) No changes have been made or are planned for these stations as a result of any recent review.

#### 88. Board of Professional Engineers

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Administrative Services—

With reference to the House of Representatives' Standing Committee on Community Affairs which established, in December 1994, an inquiry into migrant access and equity, giving particular reference to (a) the effectiveness of accreditation of overseas qualifications and the impact of overseas qualifications on access to education, training and labour market programs, and employment; (b) as assessment (or analysis) of barriers faced at entry points to services and/or at any other point in accessing a full service, including availability and suitability of interpreter services; (c) the level of cultural sensitivity of organisations and institutions providing such services and the existence of suitable cross-cultural training programs for staff; (d) the impact of access and equity principles on service delivery and (e) the existence and adequacy of

mechanisms to monitor such services in order to guarantee access and equity principles—

Does the Board of Professional Engineers administer their Act in a way which ensures that access and equity principles are met; if so, how does this Board satisfy each of the five references enumerated in the preamble above?

Answer (Mr Milliner):

The Board of Professional Engineers of Queensland administers the "*Professional Engineers Act 1988*" in a manner that ensures that access and equity principles are met.

The purpose of the Board is to:

protect the public interest by ensuring that only competent, qualified persons practise as registered professional engineers;

prevent Registered Professional Engineers from performing or attempting to perform in connection with commissioned engineering services that are outside their area of professional competence;

ensure that professional engineers maintain appropriate technical and professional standards; and

provide a mechanism whereby complaints by the public can be realistically assessed and meaningful redress can be taken where appropriate.

The requirements for registration under the *Professional Engineers Act 1988*, are that applicants have academic qualifications that satisfy the Institution of Engineers, Australia National Competency Standards and five years experience as a professional engineer. All engineers, irrespective of background, must possess these qualities. The five years experience can be obtained in Australia or overseas or in any combination of both. Engineering principles do not have geographic boundaries so there is no reason to require Australian experience for migrant engineers, although they are expected to make themselves familiar with Australian Codes of Practice. The Board is bound to comply with these requirements of the legislation.

In the administration of the Act, the Board has become aware of the difficulties faced by persons with non-English speaking backgrounds in accessing registration, maintaining continuing education or addressing complaints about the professional conduct of registered professional engineers.

The Board does not itself accredit overseas qualifications. It relies on the National Competency Standards of the Institution of Engineers, Australia. The Standards have been developed by the Institution under a jointly funded contract with the Commonwealth Government through the National Office of Overseas Skill Recognition (NOOSR). They are particularly relevant to the evaluation of migrants whose qualifications and experience cannot readily be assessed through existing mechanisms. The Standards stimulate continuing professional development, recognise levels of expertise, and facilitate the maintenance of professional and technical competence.

It has been the experience of the Board that overseas applicants for registration have English as first or second language and no difficulties in this respect have been encountered. The Registrar has participated in the Horizon Work Skills Workshops for migrant engineers from a variety of countries, conducted through the auspicing body of the Queensland University of Technology and the funding body of the Office of Labour Market Adjustment, Department of Employment, Education and Training; and the Skills Recognition Branch, Department of Employment, Vocational Education, Training and Industrial Relations.

The Board recognises the Queensland Government Ethnic Affairs Policy which seeks the establishment of equal, effective and comprehensive rights, including political, legal and industrial rights for all people regardless of ethnic background and is guided by these principles. Board activities are addressed to all persons on an equal basis regardless of their background. It has not been identified that anyone has been disadvantaged because of cultural background.

### 89. Landsborough-Maroochydore Spur Line

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

Will he give details of the feasibility study undertaken, including (a) costs for land acquisitions, (b) costs of construction, (c) construction timetable and (d) proposed route through to Maroochydore for the "\$90m spur line from Landsborough to Maroochydore", as promised by the Government prior to the recent State election?

Answer (Mr Elder):

The text of the commitments correctly indicate that this issue has, to date, been considered primarily at a concept level, and that more detailed consideration is required prior to the accurate determination of route and costs, etc. Hence the commitment to allocate \$1 million towards planning in 1995/1996. Nevertheless, indicative information in respect of the spur line is available as follows:

#### (a) Cost of Land Acquisitions

As previously mentioned, investigations to date have been preliminary only, and it is not possible to provide a precise estimate for land acquisition costs at present. Total land acquisition costs will, of course depend upon the exact route taken. An indicative figure is approximately \$20 million (ie. the figure included in the commitment as representing "preliminary works").

#### (b) Costs of Construction

Again, only preliminary investigations have been undertaken. The construction costs are however, currently anticipated to be in the vicinity of \$4 million per kilometre (current prices). With a route distance of approximately 27 to 35 km (depending on the alignment), this suggests that total construction costs would be between approximately \$110 million—\$140 million.

**(c) Construction Timetable**

A detailed timetable, has of course, not yet been prepared. However 4-5 years has been mentioned in the election commitment for preliminary works, and approximately 3 years will be required to construct the line and stations.

**(d) Proposed Route through to Maroochydore**

As mentioned, the route has been considered in indicative terms only. A precise route can only be determined following detailed investigations and extensive consultation.

**90. Highway Maintenance Program**

Mr FITZGERALD asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

What is the maintenance program to remove tyre retreads that are on and beside highways, in particular (a) the Cunningham Highway in the Ipswich City and the Boonah Shire and (b) the Warrego Highway in Ipswich, Laidley and Gatton Shires?

Answer (Mr Elder):

The maintenance program includes a daily patrol on weekdays, of both the Cunningham and Warrego Highways to remove any pieces of tyre rubber or any other obstacles that may have potential to cause harm to the public.

**91. Beehives, Disease Control**

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

With reference to difficulties being encountered by large numbers of bee-keepers with American Foul Brood Disease—

- (1) How many inspectors does the Department of Primary Industries employ to cater for the needs of the State's 140,000 registered hives?
- (2) How many inspections have they made for this disease in the past six months?
- (3) What is the extent of the inspection backlog?
- (4) What plans have been put in place to provide additional inspection services to meet the industry's needs?

Answer (Mr Gibbs):

1. The Department of Primary Industries employs two inspectors to service the beekeeping industry.
2. Approximately 50 apiaries with widely varying numbers of hives have been inspected in the past six months.
3. As of September 1995, there are 47 apiaries warranting attention.
4. Strategies now in place to manage the disease include:
  - (a) The inspectors have increased their time in the field.
  - (b) Honorary inspectors have been appointed to assist with the inspection process.

(c) Adoption of a compulsory honey testing scheme to locate American Foulbrood has been agreed with industry.

(d) Seminars have been conducted to educate beekeepers on how to identify and eradicate the disease. Ten seminars have been conducted and a further five are scheduled for this year.

(e) Many other beekeeper meetings and field days on the identification and eradication of this disease have been attended, to advise beekeepers and encourage a self help approach to the problem.

**93. Health Capital Works Program Signs**

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the hospital capital works signs erected at major hospitals just prior to the 1995 State Election—

- (1) How many such signs were erected?
- (2) What was the location and cost of each sign?

Answer (Mr Beattie):

(1)	21 at 17 sites.	
(2)	LOCATION	NO. OF SIGNS
	Herston Complex	3
	The Prince Charles Hospital	2
	Princess Alexandra Hospital	2
	Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Hospital	1
	Logan Hospital	1
	Redland Hospital	1
	Ipswich Hospital	1
	Gold Coast Hospital	1
	Caboolture Hospital	1
	Toowoomba Hospital	1
	Toowoomba Community Health Centre	1
	Cairns Hospital	1
	Hervey Bay Hospital	1
	Bundaberg Hospital	1
	Maryborough Hospital	1
	Wide Bay Group Linen Service, Maryborough	1
	Woree Community Health Centre	1
	Total	\$124,843.44

The erection of signs at locations involving capital funds is a common practice within the building industry and has been adopted both within the public and private sectors. The erection of such signs was a practice adopted by the previous Government. In fact, a Manual of Procedure was issued outlining the process to be utilised for signage associated with capital developments.

Records of the previous Government's expenditure on signage is either lost or held in the files kept by the former Hospital Boards. It surprises me that the Honourable Member would raise this issue given the National Party's proven and demonstrated record of

abuse in spending taxpayer funds on Government promotion.

Fortunately, the Queensland public can now enjoy an accountable system of Government in this State.

#### 94. Home Base, Aspley

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Consumer Affairs—

With reference to the annual fire levy payable by the owners of Home Base, Aspley and as the owners were advised that their annual fire levy was to increase from \$5,830.24 to \$65,511.00—

- (1) Has this levy been reviewed?
- (2) If so, what is the revised levy and how is this new levy justified?

Answer (Mr Davies):

(1) Representatives of the Commissioner of Queensland Fire Service met with the owners of Home Base, Aspley on 6 September 1995 to advise that the levy has been reviewed and reduced.

(2) It has been recommended that this property be assessed as Group 12 which is \$37,516.40 "Drive-in shopping centre 40,001—60,000m<sup>2</sup>" as the actual area of the property for assessment purposes was 59,703m<sup>2</sup>. This assessment is consistent with other similar properties, eg. Home Base, Jindalee, which is practically identical to Home Base, Aspley.

The owners of Home Base, Aspley did not agree with this assessment and were invited to put forward what they consider to be the correct category. They have not responded as at 5 October 1995.

There is no appeal against the final determination of the Commissioner, QFS.

#### 95. Sunshine Motorway Tolls

Mr TURNER asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to the decision made by the Goss Government on the South Coast Tollway—

What steps does he intend to take to fulfil the Labor Party's long-standing promise to remove the tollways from the North Coast highways?

Answer (Mr Elder):

The Sunshine Motorway was originally established by the former National Party Government as a tollway facility as funding was not available from other sources for its construction ahead of normal road programs. It has been necessary for this Government to continue with the toll principle in order to contribute towards the cost of servicing the resultant debt.

The decision to proceed with Stage Two followed a lengthy planning process and comprehensive public consultation confirming majority support for the extension of the Motorway.

Consequently, it would be unfair of me to create local community expectations of lifting these tolls as the current Government has made no commitment to the removal of the tolls earlier than planned.

However, I have agreed to review the Sunshine Coast Motorway generally, bearing in mind the social impacts of the tolls for local residents. I am particularly concerned that these residents are not gaining the full benefit of the early construction of the motorway.

#### 96. Property Crime Squad

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

Will he confirm or deny police sources concerns that the budget for the much vaunted Property Crime Squad has now, post-election, been slashed, thus reducing the Squad, to quote police, "running on a shoe-string and virtually now at a standstill"?

Answer (Mr Braddy):

The Property Crime Squad has actually been strengthened in the period since the election. It has experienced a reallocation of budgetary resources during the post-election period due directly to the development of new strategies to combat major and organised property offenders.

Intelligence and research this year indicated that offenders were becoming aware of the Squad's covert and conventional policing methods. In order to maintain and enhance the Squad's effectiveness, innovative strategies were devised. A major initiative was to increase the utilisation of covert police operatives by the Squad in its investigations.

Since the election the squad's approved strength of 28 police including a 5 officer surveillance team, has been supplemented by the allocation of a further 5 police personnel to this Squad. This police staffing is supported by 4 permanent civilians performing data entry and 1 research officer. In response to the increasing workload of the Squad and, in recognition of the need for timely and accurate intelligence to be disseminated, it has been necessary to employ an additional two temporary data personnel since the election.

#### 97. Bunya Mountains National Park

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

With reference to proposals to include parts of State Forest 151 Parish of Haly, Neumugra and Tureen and the whole of State Forest 510 Parish of Cooyan within the Bunya Mountains National Park Estate—

- (1) Will he reaffirm that it is not the Government's intention to support the areas nomination for World Heritage Listing?
- (2) What will be the annual budget for the management and protection of the extended national park area, particularly, in relation to fire management and prevention?
- (3) Is it the Government's intention to exclude cattle grazing and beekeeping from the area?

Answer (Mr Barton):

(1) As you may be aware, in considering the nomination of the Central Eastern Rainforests of Australia to the World Heritage List, the World

Heritage Bureau recommended that consideration be given to including the Bunya Mountains National Park within the listings.

Although there are strong ecological grounds for including the Bunya Mountains in this listed area, the Federal Government has indicated that it will not pursue this without the concurrence of the Queensland Government, in accordance with the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment.

The World Heritage listing of other sites in Queensland such as the Great Barrier Reef, the Wet Tropics and Fraser Island has resulted in the international recognition of the significance of these areas and produced considerable direct and indirect benefits to the local economies of the surrounding communities. However, it is apparent that some sections of the communities adjacent to the Bunya Mountains have misplaced concerns about the impact of World Heritage listing and the Queensland Government has indicated to the Commonwealth that it should not proceed with a possible nomination of this area without broad community support.

Prior to the last election, the Queensland Government gave a commitment to the conservation movement that it would "make measurable progress towards nomination of outstanding sites already deemed to have World Heritage value such as the Bunya Mountains and Cooloolo National Parks (including extensions)." It is important that the community has the opportunity to fully appreciate the positive outcomes that can flow from World Heritage listing and the Government is optimistic that once the communities in the Bunya Mountains area see the tourism and other benefits resulting from the listing of the Scenic Rim national parks, they will be more supportive of proposals to World Heritage list the Bunya Mountains.

(2) The total budget, including expenditure for fire management, for the existing Bunya Mountains National Park is about \$175,000.

The resources necessary to maintain existing standards of fire management for the State Forest areas will be available as part of the overall expenditure on management of the protected area estate.

(3) In relation to stock grazing, section 17 of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* establishes the constraints and limitations on the Chief Executive's powers with respect to permitted uses in national parks. Stock grazing is clearly not a permitted use. This is spelt out in section 53 of the *Nature Conservation Regulation 1994* which stipulates, in effect, that a stock grazing permit cannot be granted for a protected area that is designated as a national park.

However, section 36 of the *Nature Conservation Act* provides a transitional mechanism for new national parks by which the pre-existing stock grazing permits and special leases can be replaced with an authority pursuant to the Act. This authority enables the continuation of the lessees' or permittees' current usage of their respective areas, under essentially the same terms and conditions. However, the tenure for these authorities would be limited to the unexpired

term shown in each of the pre-existing stock grazing permits or special leases. They could not be reissued beyond that term.

In relation to beekeeping, the provisions of section 36 would also apply if any apiary permits under the *Forestry Act 1959* were in force prior to the excision of the land for national park purposes. However, I am advised that there are no current permits in force on those areas of State Forests 151 and 510 that are proposed for redesignation as national park.

#### 98. TAFE College Seminar Expenses

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

With reference to the ad hoc, incomplete and financially inadequate documents the then Minister tabled on 28 October 1994 in relation to my questions on seminar expenses—

- (1) Have officers of the department's Audit Unit examined the adequacy of these documents in relation to financial accountability requirements?
- (2) Why is the accounting process, if indeed the department uses one, so lacking in fundamental requirements, when page 70 of the TAFE Annual Report clearly indicates that CAP should provide, efficiently and accurately, the "specific details of all promotional seminars, workshops and meetings" that I requested?
- (3) Is CAP or any other program utilised to gather and collate financial data on seminars, conferences and meetings?
- (4) Why are salaries or fees paid to presenters not shown for any seminars?
- (5) Why are postage and administration fees shown for only one program?
- (6) Did any other program involve such costs?
- (7) Is there any rationale underlying the decision to charge participants fees for some programs but not for others?
- (8) Why is the same seminar sometimes run at TAFE colleges where there is no cost for hire of the venue and on other occasions expensive venues hired for the program, when local colleges would have been available?
- (9) Why do some TAFE colleges charge up to \$450 for use of their facilities (by 80 participants) whilst other colleges (attended by 110 participants) make no charge?
- (10) In the time that the former Minister had these documents which clearly are inadequate for the purposes of proper financial management and accountability, what was done to ensure that proper and complete records are produced, both for internal management purposes and for official audit?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

- (1) The Department has an annual audit program to satisfy all aspects of financial accountability, including the matters covered in the question raised by Mr Santoro.

(2) In the answer provided to Mr Santoro on 28 October 1994, it was indicated that it was not possible in the time available to provide specific details of all promotional seminars, workshops and meetings organised by DEVETIR during 1992/93 and 1993/94, given the widespread of activities for which the Department is responsible, and its location throughout the State.

The Department utilises the Queensland Government Financial Management System (QGFMS) as its primary corporate accounting system. At the corporate level, information was not held to identify whether expenditure charged on QGFMS in relation to seminars and workshops was directly attributable to "promotional" matters. Given the nature of the Department's portfolio, many such activities are conducted by the Department for purely educational and information purposes. The maintenance of such information at this level of detail is not considered to be a cost-effective use of the accounting system.

In response to the Honourable Member's reference to the TAFE Annual Report and its mention of the College Administrative Computer project (CAP), this system was designed primarily as a student record and educational management system for TAFE Queensland. As such it is not an accounting system although it does provide facilities to record and report on activities involving education of TAFE students.

(3) QGFMS collects financial data relating to seminars and conferences.

CAP is one of several supplementary accounting systems used by the Department to manage the largely decentralised financial arrangements operating within the Department. CAP includes modules to record the liability of TAFE clients for payment of course related fees and charges and to manage the timely payment of these fees and charges, including participants fees for seminars or conferences.

CAP does not provide the facility to record the costs associated with the conduct of any activity. Whilst resource utilisation (such as teachers, rooms, equipment etc) is recorded on CAP, no financial information relating to the costs of these resources is held on the system.

(4) The accounting system was not designed to maintain this information separately as it was not considered cost effective. In the majority of cases, presenters were existing staff of the Department.

(5) Postage costs were identified separately by the Division of Workers' Compensation as this was the one major promotional activity conducted by that Division in the period in question.

Given the broad range of ongoing promotional and awareness activities undertaken by other areas of the Department, postage charges for seminars are not isolated and costed on a project by project basis.

No separate administration fees were provided in the answer given to the Honourable Member on 28 October 1994.

(6) Please see answer to question 5.

(7) Participants are not charged fees for Departmental seminars where those seminars are clearly designed as information sessions and where it is decided that the Government has a responsibility to ensure clients are well informed about basic legislative/regulatory or other requirements. Fees are generally charged in those cases which do not meet these criteria. For example, on the advice of the Rural Industry Workplace Health and Safety Committee, no fees were charged to attendees at the "Managing Hazardous Substances at a Rural Workplace" owing to the financial hardship brought about by the drought.

(8) TAFE Colleges are frequently used for Departmental seminars. However, on some occasions, TAFE Colleges are not available or it is not considered appropriate to use them. The use of private venues, particularly in relation to areas of competitive operations (such as sessions relating to Competitive Funding of Providers Initiative Information Sessions), encourages the open participation of both private and public bodies in a neutral location.

(9) Within the provisions of Public Finance Standard 320, the charging policies of each TAFE Institute are determined by the respective Directors depending on the purpose of the seminar.

(10) See response to questions 1 and 2.

### 99. Mount Morgan Hospital

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to a commitment prior to the State Election to spend \$455,000 on improvements to the Mount Morgan Hospital—

What is the current status of that commitment and when is this work likely to commence?

Answer (Mr Beattie):

I thank the Honourable Member for his longstanding interest in the operation and maintenance of Mount Morgan Hospital. His outstanding representation on the health needs of Queenslanders, particularly those serviced by health facilities in Central Region, has resulted in major gains in service delivery for the Region.

Q-Build has been engaged to act as Project Managers for this project with Project Services being engaged to prepare documentation for the items identified in need of upgrading to meet current *Building Act* compliance standards.

Documentation is currently being prepared and construction is to commence on site on 13 November 1995 to achieve practical completion by 28 February 1996. As this point in time, actual progress is ahead of program by two weeks and it is envisaged that Q-Build will meet the target dates indicated.

### 100. Palm Beach Dental Unit

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to complaints I have received that the Dental Clinic at Palm Beach will only accept "urgent"

cases and that only residents living south of Tallebudgera Creek can access this clinic—

- (1) When will the proposed dental clinic be open for general business, ie normal appointments, not only "urgent" cases?
- (2) Is the arbitrary cut-off point of Tallebudgera Creek fact or fiction?
- (3) If such a dividing line is being exercised, will he move immediately to open up the Palm Beach dental services to all residents who require such services in order to take the pressure off the Gold Coast Dental Hospital at Southport?

Answer (Mr Beattie):

(1) Approval has been given for this proposal as a result of the energetic representations made by Mrs Rose, the Member for Currumbin, who has worked hard to secure better health services for residents on the Southern end of the Gold Coast—after years of National Party neglect.

The Palm Beach Dental Unit will offer both routine and emergency treatment and I commend the Member for Currumbin for her representations on the urgency of this new facility at Palm Beach.

Oral health services in the South Coast Region were integrated as of September 1995 to allow for a more responsive service to the heavy demand in that region.

(2) The arbitrary cut-off point of Tallebudgera Creek is fiction. Due to the location of the Palm Beach Dental Unit, the majority of patients who will access the service will reside on the southern end of the coast.

(3) Not applicable as my response to (2) answers this question.

### 101. Retail Meat Outlets

Mr PERRETT asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

With reference to the registration and regulation of retail meat outlets by the Queensland Livestock and Meat Authority—

- (1) How many retail butchery outlets are operating in Queensland at the moment?
- (2) How many of those outlets have been given Q-Safe accreditation?
- (3) How many are operating pending accreditation?
- (4) How many have indicated they will be unable to comply with accreditation requirements?
- (5) How many retail butcheries were operating one year ago and two years ago?
- (6) Have any Queensland communities been left without a retail butchery because operators were unable to meet the high cost of Q-Safe accreditation?

Answer (Mr Gibbs):

1. In Queensland there are 1,811 meat retail premises including traditional butcher shops, supermarkets, specialty poultry shops and delicatessens operating under interim, temporary or full accreditation.

2. The proprietors of 223 accredited meat retail premises have achieved Q Safe accreditation.

3. The proprietors of 145 accredited meat retail premises have submitted quality assurance manuals and are operating under temporary accreditation.

4. There has been no indication from Industry as to the number of proprietors that may be unable to comply with accreditation requirements. Nevertheless, it is estimated that about 60-75 traditional butcher shops could close within the next year or so. These closures cannot be attributed solely to non-compliance with accreditation requirements. Other factors such as aggressive competition from and between supermarkets, extended trading hours, long term low volume of business, poor shop and product presentation, change in shopping trends from the older traditional butcher shops to more modern facilities with extended ranges of value-added products and failure to maintain premises to prescribed standards, will contribute towards closures.

5. (i) There were 1,542 registered meat retail premises in Queensland as at 30 June 1993.

(ii) As at 30 June 1994, 1,610 persons were accredited to operate meat retail premises in Queensland. Much of this increase comprised specialty poultry shops.

6. A small number of butcher shops have closed in rural towns sporadically over a number of years. However, there has not been a noticeable increase in closures in rural towns since the introduction of the Meat Industry Act 1993 and associated Q Safe accreditation requirements. The reasons for these closures apart from those indicated above, could be attributed to lack of community support and, more latterly, an increasing availability of prepackaged meat from other retail outlets.

### 102. Heavy Vehicles on Highways

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to comments from motorists regarding heavy vehicles which travel close together along highways—

- (1) What is the minimum distance required between heavy vehicles travelling on highways?
- (2) What warnings and prosecutions have been made on vehicles breaching the regulation while travelling the highway between Cooroy and Gunalda?

Answer (Mr Elder):

In answer to the Honourable member for Gympie's question of 14 September 1995 about heavy vehicles travelling close together on the State's highways, the Traffic Regulations talk about long rather than heavy vehicles. Long vehicles include vehicles more than 8 metres in length, vehicles with dual wheels on any axle, or a vehicle towing another vehicle.



For any of these configurations the regulations require that wherever conditions permit, a distance of at least 60 metres should be maintained between two such vehicles travelling in the same direction on highways and the like.

This distance restriction for heavy vehicles does not apply in built-up areas or where the road includes two or more marked lanes for vehicles travelling in the same direction. In these situations the regulations simply require all drivers to keep a reasonable distance between vehicles having regard to factors such as speed, traffic and other road and weather conditions.

### 103. Queensland Building Tribunal

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Rural Communities, Minister for Rural Communities and Minister for Provision of Infrastructure for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities—

With reference to the Queensland Building Tribunal (QBT) which has come under a great deal of criticism lately by industry bodies and builders, contractors, sub-contractors and especially consumers and as the QBT was originally touted as a low cost solution to building disputes and as one of the most common criticisms of the QBT is that it is overly legalistic and, as a result, protracted and expensive—

- (1) How many actions have been resolved by the QBT over the last 12 months?
- (2) How many cases are on the current waiting list?
- (3) What is the current rate of hearing these cases?
- (4) What was the average wait for a hearing (a) last year and (b) this year?
- (5) How much is the average claim?
- (6) What was the total amount of claims awarded last year?
- (7) How much, in legal costs, was awarded?
- (8) What is the average legal cost awarded for each claim?

Answer (Mr Mackenroth):

- (1) In 1994, 1474 applications were resolved by the QBT. To 30 June 1995, 726 applications were resolved.
- (2) There were 450 applications on hand at 30 June 1995 and they were either at mediation or at various stages of preparation for hearing. There were no applications which were on a waiting list for a hearing date.
- (3) The QBT is currently holding 80 hearing days per month. This is an increase from 46 hearing days per month in 1994.
- (4) The average wait for a hearing from the Pre-hearing Conference to the date of hearing was
  - (a) last year—95 days
  - (b) this year—57 days and reducing.
- (5) The average claim in 1995 to 30 June was \$15,955. The claims ranged from \$273,273 to \$254.

However, in addition there are claims for rectification and other orders which are unquantified. This figure also does not include the amounts for any cross-claims or third party claims. The QBT also has jurisdiction to review decisions of the Queensland Building Services Authority ("the Authority") and to determine discipline applications brought by the Authority. These applications are not included in the above average claim figure.

(6) The total amount awarded in 1994 was \$1,694,809 in 197 applications. Rectification was also ordered in addition to a monetary award in 18 of these applications. In the other 60 applications no amount was awarded because rectification was ordered or the application was dismissed, stayed or transferred to a Court.

Out of 1995 applications received to 30 June, 87 have been disposed of by a hearing. In the 43 applications where monetary awards resulted the total amount awarded was \$331,097. Rectification was also ordered in addition to a monetary award in 4 of these applications.

In the other 44 applications no amount was awarded because rectification was ordered or the application was dismissed, stayed or transferred to a Court.

(7) Of the 272, 1994 applications which have been disposed of by a hearing, costs were awarded in 53 cases. In 18 of those applications the costs were not determined by QBT and are unknown. In the other 35 applications where the QBT quantified the costs they amounted to \$79,245.

In regard to the 1995 applications received to 30 June, 90 applications have been disposed of by a hearing and costs were awarded in 17 applications. In 6 of those applications the amounts were not quantified by QBT but left to the parties to agree or to come back to QBT. As the parties have not required the QBT to determine these amounts they are unknown. In the other 11 applications costs of \$8,275 were awarded.

(8) Of the 1994 applications where costs were quantified, the average amount awarded was \$1,495. However, in 16 of these applications only the application fee of \$200 was awarded and in 6 other applications costs of less than \$200 were awarded.

Of the 1995 applications where costs were quantified, the average amount awarded was \$752. However, in 3 of these 11 applications, only the application fee was awarded and in 2 others less than \$200 was awarded.

### 104. Atherton Tableland Sugar Mill

Mr GILMORE asked the Treasurer—

With reference to a public meeting in Mareeba prior to the election at which he gave a commitment to infrastructure spending of three times the amount of private funding invested in a sugar mill on the Atherton Tablelands—

Can the various consortia interested in sugar mill development and farmers in the district now depend on this commitment as part of their planning regime?

Answer (Mr De Lacy):

I refer to the Member for the Tablelands, Mr Tom Gilmore's question regarding infrastructure spending for a sugar mill on the Atherton Tablelands.

At no time did I promise to a "commitment to infrastructure spending of three times the amount of private funding invested in a sugar mill on the Atherton Tablelands".

These sorts of comments from the Honourable Member do him no credit and are certainly not in the best interests of his constituents.

The report which the Government has currently commissioned is designed to investigate the overall infrastructure requirements arising from the expansion of the sugar industry and the potential development of a mill on the Tablelands. This involves analysis of the potential land which would be available for the expansion of cane farming on the Tableland and the water infrastructure that would be required for any such expansion. Transport infrastructure (road and/or rail) that would be required is also being analysed along with the capacity of ports to handle increased tonnages of sugar.

The Government is seeking a clear understanding of the overall feasibility of the expansion of the sugar industry on the Tablelands. I am aware of two milling groups who are keenly interested in this region—it will be a commercial decision between the growers and the millers as to which group succeeds. In the light of this report, the Government will examine if and to what extent it would support the necessary infrastructure, remembering that industry would also have much to gain from this expansion.

#### **105. Grid Mains Power, Jundah and Windorah**

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

With reference to requests by citizens of the Barcoo Shire and, in particular, the towns of Jundah and Windorah for access to grid mains power—

- (1) When can the people of the Barcoo Shire expect to be connected to a State grid?
- (2) What is the likely cost to each of the 40 rural properties for such a connection?
- (3) What is the likely cost for householders in the two main centres for such a connection?
- (4) If this connection is to be denied, what alternative has the Government in mind and at what cost to individuals and property owners?

Answer (Mr McGrady):

I have sought advice from the Capricornia Electricity Corporation about the matters raised by the Honourable Member. The answer to this question rests with the landholders and their preparedness to meet the costs of extending supply. The Barcoo Shire landholders were offered electricity supply in 1989 for an average cost of \$164,000 for each of the 43 properties. Of this amount Capricornia Electricity Corporation was providing \$24,000 and each customer was to contribute \$140,000 as a non-refundable capital contribution. Only 12

properties accepted the offer and the scheme lapsed. It is therefore unlikely that the same group would now be prepared to meet costs which have increased since 1989.

The likely cost to each of the approximately 40 rural properties would probably have increased to the extent that the average cost of extending supply would be close to \$200,000.

As the householders in Jundah and Windorah are already supplied with electricity generated at diesel power stations in the towns, it is not feasible to expect them to pay any costs associated with alternative means of supply.

The alternative to extension of Capricornia Electricity Corporation's electricity supply network in Barcoo Shire involves the use of Remote Area Power Supplies comprising hybrid solar, wind and local diesel generators at each property. The cost of such RAPS plants suitable to supply the average homestead would vary depending on the extent of requirements plus the cost of diesel fuel and maintenance.

In February 1995, the Goss Government announced the introduction of the Remote Area Power Systems Scheme. Under this scheme, persons in remote areas can receive a grant of up to a maximum of \$7500 to install approved stand-alone power systems which incorporate renewable energy. This grant scheme will apply in locations where the cost to the householder of connecting to the nearest practical electricity grid exceeds \$30,000. The Government has already received over 800 expressions of interest in this scheme.

#### **106. Eastlink**

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

With reference to the proposal for the interconnection of the Queensland and New South Wales power grids via "Eastlink"—

- (1) What pressure either overt or covert has been applied on the Queensland Government by Prime Minister Keating, either directly or through his agents, to make this interconnection?
- (2) What price has been agreed between Queensland and New South Wales for the purchase by Queensland of New South Wales power?
- (3) For the construction of "Eastlink", what will be the area of (a) private land, (b) national park, (c) forestry reserve, (d) vacant Crown land and (e) Crown leasehold land covered by the easement or acquired access?
- (4) What area of currently standing forest will be cleared within Queensland to accommodate the line?
- (5) What is the anticipated cost of easement or acquired access for the line?

Answer (Mr McGrady):

(1) No pressure either overt or covert has been applied to the Queensland Government by Prime

Minister Keating, either directly or through his agents, to make this interconnection.

(2) A final price has not yet been agreed upon as negotiations are still continuing between the QTS and Pacific Power.

(3) The total area in Queensland required for easements is about 1600 hectares. The bulk of this land will be private land. Approximately 250 hectares of this will be in forest reserve, vacant Crown land and Crown leasehold. No area of national park will be covered by the easement or acquired access. The total area required for access, however, cannot be accurately assessed until the preferred route alignment is finalised and detailed structure siting has been completed. Access arrangements will involve the use of existing roads and tracks wherever possible and will be negotiated with individual property owners.

(4) It is estimated that approximately 700 hectares of easement in Queensland will cover land forested to some degree. Clearing of timber will only be necessary where trees constitute a hazard to the powerline. In environmentally sensitive areas every care will be taken to avoid unnecessarily removing vegetation where it is critical for soil stability and habitat maintenance.

(5) It is not possible at this preliminary stage to provide a meaningful assessment of compensation costs for easements and access. Once the final alignment has been selected in August 1996, compensation will be assessed on a case by case basis.

#### **107. Wet Tropics Research Station, South Johnstone**

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

As the first stage of the Wet Tropics Research Station at South Johnstone has been completed and staff have moved in, when will the research component of the station be built to carry out the important facets of support to a wide range of agricultural industries?

Answer (Mr Gibbs):

The second stage of the Centre for Wet Tropics Agriculture located at South Johnstone was released to public tender on September 1995. This stage will complete the expanded research facilities for investigating future strategies for sustainable nature resource management and primary industry development for this important area of Queensland.

I expect the second stage building to be completed for occupation by June 1996. With the completion of this stage the Government will have made a total investment in excess of \$4.5 million in developing this world class research and development facility. Facilities such as this are further tangible evidence of the benefits arising from the review of research where the commitment of my Department to a major research effort for the primary industries of this State was confirmed.

#### **108. Air Conditioner Gas**

Mrs McCAULEY asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

With reference to his responsibility for the introduction of new environmentally friendly refrigerant gasses for air conditioners—

- (1) Which product has been endorsed by his department?
- (2) Which products were considered and rejected?
- (3) What information was considered as part of the decision-making process?
- (4) Specifically, was the energy efficiency of each product considered and what was the outcome in each case?

Answer (Mr McGrady):

(1) As Minister for Minerals and Energy I do not have the sole responsibility for the introduction of such gases but have a responsibility to ensure that gases are used safely. No products have been endorsed by my Department. The issue is not one of endorsement, but one of consumer safety. While some refrigerant suppliers have advertised in the Queensland Government Mining Journal this certainly does not mean that these or any other products necessarily have the endorsement of the Department or the Government. The need for replacement refrigerant gases comes from the phasing out of refrigerant R12 and similar gases which, though non-toxic and non-flammable, have been banned from use at the end of 1995 under Commonwealth Greenhouse Legislation.

(2) No products have been considered and rejected. At the moment, while my Department has expressed the opinion that it will not endorse or approve flammable hydrocarbon gases as replacement products, there are currently no imposed regulations in place to prevent their use. There is no intention to reject any product, but rather to ensure safety limitations on their use. I have introduced a regulation making the use of flammable hydrocarbon refrigerants fall under the control of the Gas Act. This would bring the use of LP gas in refrigeration under the same jurisdiction as all other uses of these gases. Training and licensing of installers and service persons will also be considered to ensure that community safety is not compromised in any way.

(3) Consultation was held with all relevant Government departments and with major industry bodies. A public meeting attended, by some 70 stakeholders, was called to discuss these issues. Information arising from the public meeting was considered. I have also referred to existing reputable national and international standards and classifications in considering this matter.

(4) The energy efficiency of the products is not a matter of issue here. If flammable hydrocarbon gases can be used safely, then from an efficiency and environmental point of view, they have attractive properties.

### 109. Sporting Facilities, Gold Coast Campus of Griffith University

Mr VEIVERS asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Tourism, Sport and Youth—

- (1) What help does he intend to give to the location of a sports precinct at the Gold Coast Campus of the Griffith University?
- (2) Will this financial support be forthcoming in time for this complex to be completed for use by athletes training for the Olympics in the year 2000?

Answer (Mr Burns):

(1) Preliminary discussions have occurred at officer level with Griffith University representatives to establish a sports precinct at the Gold Coast Campus of the Griffith University.

The former Minister, the Honourable Bob Gibbs, wrote a letter to Griffith University which, while giving no commitment, supported the project in principle.

(2) The Griffith University project group developing the concept has been advised to submit an application for funding assistance to progress the project under the 1996 National Standard Sport Facilities Program.

The project application for funding will be assessed under the set guidelines for the National Standard Sport Facilities Program.

### 110. TAFE College Vehicles

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

- (1) In addition to spending approximately \$500 per working day on taxis, what did the Southbank Institute of TAFE spend on its fleet of 10 vehicles in 1994-95, in particular, what was the cost of (a) leasing/purchasing vehicles, (b) fuel, (c) registration, (d) insurance (if applicable) and (e) maintenance/repairs per vehicle?
- (2) What was the average distance travelled, per day, during 1994-95 (excluding use by staff to travel to/from work)?
- (3) What are the comparative daily usage figures of vehicles in the substantial vehicle fleets of the following institutes/head office sections (excluding use by staff travelling to/from work) (a) Far North Queensland Institute—Cairns TAFE, (b) Gold Coast Institute of TAFE, (c) Brisbane Institute of TAFE—Ithaca campus and (d) Vocational Education and Training Branch?
- (4) What is the justification for the disproportionately high number of vehicles at the South Burnett campus of the Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE?
- (5) How many vehicles was the department able to dispense with when the operation of colleges was rationalised and amalgamated with the creation of institutes?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

(1) During 1994-1995, Southbank Institute spent an average \$360 per working day on taxis. In the first two months of 1995/96 costs have been reduced to an average \$233.00 per working day. During this period, a fleet of 10 passenger vehicles was operated by the Institute. All of these vehicles were leased from Q-Fleet.

- (a) Leasing costs for the period amounted to \$48944.00. The average per vehicle was \$4894.40.
- (b) The total cost of fuel used by these vehicles was \$15895.00. The average per vehicle was \$1589.50.
- (c) The registration costs relating to these vehicles were included in the terms of the lease agreement with Q-Fleet.
- (d) Insurance costs relating to these vehicles were included in the terms of the lease agreement with Q-Fleet.
- (e) Maintenance/repair costs for the period amounted to \$392.03 and the average per vehicle was \$39.20.

(2) The average distance travelled per day during 1994-1995 (excluding use by staff to travel to/from work) was 91 kilometres.

(3) That the average daily business usage of all vehicles at each of these locations for 1994/95 was:

Far North Queensland Institute of TAFE, Cairns TAFE—56.85km

Gold Coast Institute—52.84km

Brisbane Institute of TAFE, Ithaca Campus—53.35km

Vocational Education and Training Directorate—50.78km

(4) The vehicle fleet of the South Burnett campus of the Southern Institute of TAFE consists of three station wagons, one sedan, two mini-buses, a four wheel drive troop carrier, a truck and three tractors. A Magna sedan is used by senior managers and all other staff to effectively deliver college and institute services. Two Commodore station wagons are used in the transport of college personnel involved in delivering government-funded vocational education and training and commercial activities at numerous sites off-campus and in the support of institute initiatives. A Toyota Coaster Minibus and a four wheel drive troop carrier are used for transportation of students involved in educational activities off campus.

An International truck is used primarily for activities associated with conducting training in the rural area, especially the transportation of supplies, livestock and equipment throughout the South Burnett district. The rural training provided by the campus is also supported by three tractors.

A Magna station wagon is used by the Manager of the Cherbourg Campus to visit remote aboriginal communities to determine the unique needs of these people and to participate in strategic management issues for the college and the Institute. This campus also utilises a Toyota Coaster Minibus to transport

students to outlying communities and off-site locations to broaden their educational experiences.

Because of the considerable distances travelled (average trip 350 kilometres) and the lack of efficient and timely public transport, the Institute advises that the use of its fleet for the transportation of students is the most economical method.

(5) TAFE Colleges were aggregated into Institutes in order to achieve administrative efficiencies and savings whilst maintaining and increasing the quality and variety of training provided to clients. In the Southbank Institute of TAFE this has resulted in a 9.9 per cent reduction in the cost of service delivery from \$6.94 per student contact hour in 1993/94 to a projected \$6.25 per student contact hour in 1995/96. Similar reductions are expected to be achieved in Institutes across that State as they develop more fully. The establishment and maintenance of an adequate vehicle fleet is an essential component of achieving these administrative efficiencies.

In addition, the restructure of Southbank has generated savings of \$800,000 in the first full year.

Vehicle usage for non-SES Q-Fleet vehicles is monitored on a monthly basis. Where a vehicle travels less than 1200 kilometres per month over a period of three months or more, the relevant Director is instructed to justify the retention of the vehicle. Twelve hundred kilometres is used as the benchmark to ensure that the vehicle will average 40,000 kilometres over the two year leasing period.

#### 111. Bremer Institute of TAFE

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

Have staff at Bremer Institute of TAFE been given verbal advice to be very careful about enrolling deaf students as the institute has to meet the cost of paying for an interpreter to assist such students?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

No. The Institute's policy in respect to students with a disability, is that following an assessment of needs of the student, appropriate assistance is provided.

I can advise that only one hearing impaired student has sought assistance during the past year and that this was approved.

#### 112. Transport Department, Sunshine Coast

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

- (1) What non-Government valuers have been used by the Queensland Transport Department in the Sunshine Coast district since 1989?
- (3) How much have they each been paid, and what is the department's criteria for selecting valuers?

Answer (Mr Elder):

1. Individual Case Files on Property matters are maintained to meet all legislative requirements,

however to allow an answer to this question computer records have only been kept since July 1990. The following is a list of valuers in these records:

Michael Slater  
Taylor Byrne  
Alan Carrick and Assoc  
Rafter and O'Hagan  
Egan Leggett and Rogers  
Randal Warren Valuations  
Sergiacomi and Gillespie  
Bugler Francis Valuers  
Henzells Agency Pty Ltd

2. A total of \$81991.40 has been paid to the previously mentioned valuers. As these contracts are commercial in confidence the amounts paid to each individual valuer is unavailable.

When selecting consultants, Queensland Transport treats each case on its respective merits. Selection of a valuer is based on experience in a particular line of work as well as familiarity in the area and in acquisition work in general.

#### 113. Queensland Rail Training Courses, Gladstone

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to approaches to me by a number of concerned Queensland Rail employees at Gladstone—

- (1) Is he aware that staff wishing to attend in-service training courses to gain advancement within Queensland Rail often face difficulties in obtaining the necessary leave and are told the reason for refusal is "staff shortages"?
- (2) Is promotion being impeded because there are insufficient staff available to fill positions left vacant through promotion within Queensland Rail?
- (3) Is it correct that the proposals in the Queensland Rail enterprise bargaining process will remove penalty allowances for employees for protracted hours of work and require them to accept unreasonable conditions (some of these concerns have been tabled before the Arbitration Commission)?

Answer (Mr Elder):

(1 & 2) Training opportunities in Queensland Rail have increased dramatically. Staff are encouraged to attend courses to further their skills and knowledge whenever possible. Practical limitations, however, influence the timing at which individuals can be catered for.

With respect to Gladstone I assume that the staff in question are examiners employed in the area.

Examiners play an integral role in maintaining the safe operation of our railway network. The skills employed by a railway examiner are unique to the

railway and consequently training is performed within the organisation. Classes typically consist of ten trainees and run for periods up to five months.

Examiners are located at all major centres throughout the state. At each location, the number of qualified staff is maintained to sufficiently perform the regular workload plus any foreseeable events. In the case of unpredictable events, staff coverage is provided by a combination of temporary secondment from other locations and by working overtime.

Training opportunities within Queensland Rail have increased dramatically. Staff are encouraged to attend courses to further their skills and knowledge whenever possible. Practical limitations, however, influence the timing at which individuals can be catered for.

In recent times, there has been an unprecedented level of staff departures throughout Queensland from the examiner ranks. The situation has been brought about mainly by promotion and transfer. Consequently, a temporary shortage of examiners has resulted. The workload is being maintained through overtime and revised work methods.

The shortage is minor and only temporary. New work methods with greater efficiency are being introduced and additional courses for new entry into the examiners ranks are being organised. All efforts are being made to allow staff fulfil their chosen career paths.

(3) All rail unions are a signatory to Queensland Rail's Enterprise Agreements (EA) which are ratified by the Industrial Relations Commission. There is a requirement by the Industrial Relations Commission that certified agreements are a completely agreed document between the parties, otherwise ratification by the Industrial Relations Commission will not be forthcoming.

The IRC also takes into consideration what effect the proposed agreement will have in respect of its Public Interest test and possible ramifications any issue may have on other awards of the Commission.

It was recognised during negotiations for EA2 that QR needed to review its existing method of payments for employees working shift work. This recognition was supported by the fact that a large number of QR employees were working shift work.

During the last 10 to 15 years there has been a greater emphasis placed on QR to provide a 24 hours per day / 7 days per week operation. Therefore, those employees which were normally considered day workers are now required to work around the clock.

Clearly those employees who have been working the new shift work arrangements have been receiving substantially higher wage outcomes due to the penalty payments which apply.

Any movement to a new shift work penalty payment arrangement will be addressed through consultation with the relevant unions concerned.

In respect of the issue being tabled in the IRC, QR and the unions have submitted a draft new award for QR to ratify. The draft award contains reference to the 'shift allowance' provisions only, while

maintaining the current conditions for shift work/overtime penalties for employees.

Any change to the current conditions would happen as a result of consultation and negotiation with the unions, resulting in an award variation.

Queensland Rail will commence negotiations to develop Enterprise Agreement 3 with rail unions in July 1996.

#### **114. Harness Racing, Mackay**

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

With reference to a strong rumour circulating in the Mackay region in regard to the future of harness racing which is worth more than \$1m to suppliers and supporters—

Will he give an assurance that there are no plans to downgrade the status of harness racing in the Mackay region?

Answer (Mr Gibbs):

The Mackay Harness Racing Club (MHRC) has been running up to 40 meetings per year, usually on Wednesday afternoons. The club is entitled to receive up to \$225,900 from TAB profit to fund its 1995-96 racing program.

After a period of disruption at local committee and club administration level, the Queensland Harness Racing Board has been providing managerial assistance to help keep this club afloat.

The Queensland Principal Club, the control body for the thoroughbred code, (through the Mackay Turf Club) is also examining options to assist the management of the Harness Racing Club, which shares the same venue as the Turf Club

Subject to the requirement that registered race clubs of all three codes of racing operate in a financially responsible manner, the MHRC will continue to make its contribution both locally and for the wider industry good.

#### **115. Mining Leases, Emmogen Creek**

Mr GILMORE asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

With reference to the request to his department by Mr Kenneth D Ritchie previous lessee of ML 719 and ML 720 situated in the vicinity of Emmogen Creek, north of Cape Tribulation for detailed information in respect of a chronology of events in respect of his mining operation in the period from 1980 to the time of forfeiture of the leases—

Will he provide such a detailed chronology and an explicit and detailed account of the reasons for the forfeiture and reasons why Mr Ritchie was not paid compensation for those leases?

Answer (Mr McGrady):

Mining Lease 719 was transferred to Mr Ritchie in February 1980 and Mining Lease 720 in November 1981. From the date of purchase of the leases to their forfeiture in January 1985, no mining activity as

required by the then Mining Act 1968 had been undertaken by Mr Ritchie.

In response to complaints from Mr Ritchie, the forfeiture of the leases was the subject of an investigation by the Ombudsman in 1985. The Ombudsman found that the administrative actions taken were not in any way improper or discriminatory.

On 3rd September 1987, Mr Ritchie issued a Supreme Court Writ against the State of Queensland claiming that (a) the leases were not validly forfeited; (b) damages for nuisance; (c) damages for disturbance of easement; (e) interest; and (f) costs.

As the Court action is still pending, legal advice has been that no comment should be made on the matter.

#### 116. Buy-back of Land, Cairns

Ms WARWICK asked the Premier and Minister for Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to a letter to him, dated 2 August 1995 from Mr Tom Pyne, Mayor of Cairns, concerning Consideration of Buy-Back—Whitfield, Cairns, and as to date no reply has been received by the concerned residents of Whitfield and in light of pre-election promises to fund the Hillslopes Buy-Back—

- (1) Has any contact been made by senior officers of his Government, with senior officers of the Federal Government and the CEO of Cairns City Council?
- (2) If so, what has been the outcome?
- (3) Is the Government willing to negotiate a buy-back in conjunction with the local and Federal governments?

Answer (Mr W. K. Goss):

The election commitment referred to a twelve point plan which, among other things, included planning controls and land acquisition as mechanisms to protect Cairns Hillslopes. I understand that as part of the FNQ2010 growth management process a Hillslopes Protection Strategy will be developed which will identify key areas of environmental value and consider options for protection of hillslope land in private ownership through planning controls, voluntary conservation agreements or acquisition. Discussions have been held between senior officers of the State Government and officers of the Commonwealth Government in relation to a Hillslopes Protection Strategy.

On 6 October Deputy Prime Minister Brian Howe announced a commitment of \$60,000 to the Hillslopes Strategy. The Commonwealth Government has not established whether it will contribute to the acquisition of identified parcels, however Minister Howe stated that "buybacks were not the first option to look at".

The State Government's position is that if the Hillslopes Protection Strategy identifies land as warranting acquisition, consideration will be given to purchase, preferably in conjunction with the Commonwealth Government and Cairns City Council

on the basis of a 1:1:1 contribution. In relation to the subject land at Whitfield, my understanding is that given higher priority hillslope areas for conservation, (some of which the State has already acquired), this particular parcel has low conservation value, would be poor value for money, and does therefore not warrant acquisition. I understand that Cairns City Council development conditions are very stringent on this site and if enforced, should minimise impacts. I have recently written to the Mayor of Cairns to confirm this position.

#### 117. Bond University

Mr QUINN asked the Treasurer—

- (1) Is he involved in providing funds by way of loan or overdraft to any university for the purpose of participating in the purchase of Bond University; if so, which university is involved and what arrangements have been made or are being considered to facilitate the loan/overdraft?
- (2) Has he granted permission for any university to enter into negotiations with respect to obtaining any advance by way of loan or overdraft from any bank, person or Government instrumentality for the purpose of participating in the purchase of Bond University; if so, which university is involved, what information did he request and what information was supplied?
- (3) Will he guarantee that no public funds will be used by any Queensland university or entities controlled by the university, to participate in the purchase of Bond University?
- (4) Is he satisfied that such a purchase would not be in breach of sections 46 and 50 of the *Trade Practices Act*?

Answer (Mr De Lacy):

(1) The Queensland Government has been approached by several preferred registrants regarding possible funding for the purchase of Bond University. Due to the commercial sensitivity of these proposals, I am not in a position to provide further information at this time.

(2) See answer to question (1).

(3) There will be no contributions from the Consolidated Fund for any preferred registrant for the purchase of Bond University.

(4) Any prospective purchaser would need to undertake a proper due diligence exercise as a matter of course and in this process they should consider the Trade Practices Act implications and obtain legal and financial advice as appropriate.

#### 118. Use of Former TAFE College Directors as Consultants

Mr TURNER asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

- (1) How many of the TAFE college directors, who retired with substantial financial benefits within the last 14 months, have continued working for the department as "consultants"?

- (2) Has such "consultancy" work been advertised so that other equally or better-qualified consultants could compete for it?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

1. Only one TAFE Queensland College Director has retired in the past 14 months since July 1994. This person has not been employed in the Department as a consultant.
2. See Answer No. 1.

### 119. Southbank Institute of TAFE

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

With reference to the memorandum of 7 October 1994 from the Director, Southbank Institute of TAFE, to all Program Directors, re Budget strategies—

- (1) How has the costing of \$5m p.a. referred to in item #4 been calculated?
- (2) How many permanent teachers at the institute were on reduced teaching hours during the first quarter of 1994-95?
- (3) In the first quarter of 1994-95, what was the total cost to the Institute of teachers who, having negotiated reduced teaching hours, then taught for more than the negotiated number of hours and then claimed for the "excess" hours at casual or penalty rates, as indicated in this memorandum?
- (4) What was the cost to the taxpayers of this practice throughout TAFE colleges in 1993-94?
- (5) Does she agree that the immediate withdrawal of delegated expenditure authority (point 5 of the memorandum) from all Strategic Business Unit Managers at Southbank clearly indicate that the director believes he cannot rely on their financial competence, integrity and responsibility?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

- (1) The \$5 million referred to in the memorandum represents the estimated cost in 1993 of Southbank Institute teachers teaching less than 21 hours per week. TAFE Queensland teachers are employed under the TAFE Teacher's Award—State (6 April 1991). Under this award, "within the ordinary weekly attendance hours, Teachers and Principal Teachers shall be entitled to eight (8) hours for associated functions and three (3) hours for incidental duties based on 21 hours teaching per week." Teachers teach less than 21 hours for a variety of reasons, including when there is insufficient industry and community demand for training relevant to their skills and experience. During these hours, teachers undertake additional duties of benefit to the Institute and students, including course, curriculum or special program development and review, industry liaison, professional development, course and career counselling.
- (2) During the first quarter 1994-95 an equivalent 86 teachers undertook these duties.

(3) It is not possible to identify the total cost to the Institute of teachers teaching less than 21 hours and claiming casual rates as permanent and casual pays are maintained through different payroll systems. This will be available when a new system (REDIPAYS) is introduced in early 1996. Several strategies have been implemented by the Institute to address inefficiencies resulting from this practice including reviewing and changing the skills mix of Institute staff against industry demand and the employment of specialist non-teaching staff to undertake incidental duties previously completed by teachers.

(4) It is similarly not possible to identify the total cost of this practice across TAFE Queensland during 1993-94. Institutes through their Enterprise Agreement Implementation Plans have however identified and implemented strategies similar to those adopted by Southbank in order to reduce these costs.

(5) No, I advise that the decision to withdraw delegated expenditure authority was made during the amalgamation of colleges to form the Institute, and prior to an Institute management structure being formalised. The decision did not reflect any lack of confidence in staff.

### 120. Ipswich TAFE College

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

With reference to financial accounting requirements, Ipswich College would have issued (and retained copies of) receipts for moneys collected from "The Training Post" for lease/rent of college premises/facilities situated at Ipswich Campus—

Will she produce copies of such official receipts from the time "The Training Post" first occupied such premises, till the present time?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

The Training Post rented College facilities from the period 1991-1994.

The arrangements were terminated in December 1994. As at June 1995 all debts owed by the Training Post to The Bremer Institute of TAFE (formerly the Ipswich College of TAFE) were paid in full. I table all relevant documents.

### 121. Ipswich TAFE College

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

With reference to my questions on 28 April 1994 to the then Minister for Vocational Education relating to financial mismanagement at Ipswich College of TAFE and to his response which indicated that (a) some documents could not be located in the limited time available (obviously neither the college nor TAFE head office had an efficient filing system), (b) some documents were unavailable as they had been referred to the Criminal Justice Commission (obviously TAFE head office photocopiers weren't



working so no copies had been made and kept) and (c) he would advise the Parliament of the result of the urgent investigations he had put in train in relation to matters raised in my questions and as the department has now had adequate time in which to ensure the appropriate documents are located or returned from the CJC, and investigations completed—

Will he now provide the documents necessary to answer the questions placed on notice on 28 April 1994 and advise the Parliament of the results of those urgent investigations put in train by her predecessor?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

In answer to Question 121, I table copies of payment details in relation to The Training Post, including details of the final payment.

I also table copies of all available approvals and claims for payment in relation to the fashion subjects, during which students made components of uniforms for the West Moreton Building Society.

No other agreements between the College and the West Moreton Building Society have been located.

As far as the Criminal Justice Commission is concerned, the investigation is now complete. It was the Commission's view, "having considered the advice of its financial analysts and the results of the investigation, that none of these allegations could be further productively investigated, in view of the state of record-keeping at the College at the time of the allegations and view of their age. The Commission accordingly intends to take no further action in these matters".

In view of the problems that the College had experienced, the Commissioner suggested to the College "that it might find an assessment by the Commission's Corruption Prevention Division of assistance". The Director-General accepted the offer.

In relation to the promotional video, the investigation found that:

- . the records covering the period when the videotape was produced are incomplete
- . the College Director of the time has taken leave to undertake vocational educational and training duties in the United Arab emirates
- . the Executive Director, TAFE Queensland wrote to that Director seeking information which will allow the Department to conclude its investigation
- . in the letter received from the previous Director he asserts that all Government guidelines were followed in the process re the production of the promotional video at Ipswich College of TAFE
- . investigations showed that expenditure vouchers associated with this purchase were in order.

I table documents relating to this purchase:

- the Requisition for Goods and/or Services
- the Purchase Order
- A letter of acceptance of quotes; and
- A letter of non-acceptance of quotes.

## 122. Mount Pleasant Private Hospital

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the recent licence approval of the Mt Pleasant Private Psychiatric and Rehabilitation Hospital at Birdwood Road, Greenslopes—

- (1) Why was this approval rushed through in one week following publicity in the *Sunday Mail*?
- (2) Was this approval in complete accord with the Cabinet approved guidelines for private hospital licensing and did the application have the approval of the appropriate officers within Queensland Health?
- (3) Did the application provide the required detail of bed mix and bed usage?
- (4) Did the listed directors change during the period of licence examination?
- (5) Why was this approval given ahead of other similar applications which had been before Queensland Health for longer periods of time?

Answer (Mr Beattie):

It would be irresponsible on my part if I failed to point out that the line of questioning being pursued here by the Honourable Member clearly illustrates just how out of touch the National Party is on health policy.

(1) The approval was not rushed through. This application was one of a number of applications for private hospital developments and expansions which had a major focus on psychiatric patients. Queensland Health had considered this application over a period of months. The application was finalised after the applicants met with me on 22 August 1995 and I directed my Department to reply within a timeframe of two weeks. My directive predated the *Sunday Mail* article.

(2) Yes

(3) Yes

(4) No

(5) As previously indicated, this application was one of a number of applications for private hospital licences which had a focus on psychiatric patients. These applications raised similar issues which required a Departmental position to be established. As a matter of common practice all applications are handled in date order of receipt except where extra information is required, or the complexity of the assessment requires additional time to be taken to determine the application.

I would extremely grateful if the Honourable Member made public his concerns about why this project should not have been approved.

## 123. Employment; Green Jobs in Industry

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

With reference to suggested job opportunities outlined in the book *Green Jobs in Industry* (pages 59, 61 attached)—

What efforts have been made by the Queensland Government to access available Federal funding for "large-scale job opportunities in water auditing ... waste water recycling and infrastructure development"?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

Inquiries to the Commonwealth Government have revealed that there are no new sources of funds from the Federal Government to provide job opportunities in "green" employment. Rather it is expected that the opportunities provided by current Labour Market Programs such as Jobtrain, SkillShare, LEAP (Landcare and Environment Action Program) etc. would be utilised to support innovative programs and work experience which will lead to green jobs.

Officers from my Department are consulting with officers from Department of Primary Industries and the Department of Environment & Heritage to explore options for further development of "green" employment initiatives as part of the Goss Government's Youth Jobs Plan initiative.

This initiative will provide 1000 young people with training and work experience in National Park projects through the Youth Conservation Corp. An anticipated 780 environmental traineeships will also be provided for unemployed youth. Departmental officers are exploring the possibilities of linking these initiatives to the Commonwealth "Green Jobs in Industry" proposals or developing new initiatives to assist in job creation.

#### 124. Personalised Number Plates

Mr FITZGERALD asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to personalised number plates for registered motor vehicles—

- (1) How many personalised number plates were purchased by motorists in 1994-95?
- (2) What amount of money was collected?
- (3) Are owners of "Hot Rod" vehicles able to register vehicles at concessional rates and purchase personalised number plates?

Answer (Mr Elder):

In responding to the Member for Lockyer's question concerning the number of personalised plates purchased in 1994-95, let me first explain that there are a number of different custom and personalised number plate products available for purchase from Queensland Transport. These include the standard "personalised" plate range, "black and white" plate, and prestige plates.

In 1994-1995 the department sold 11,086 sets of personalised plates, 1,293 sets of black and white plates, and 214 sets of prestige plates.

Gross income from the sale of these custom and personalised plate products was \$3.5M in 1994-95. The net income, after taking into account the costs associated with manufacturing these special plates, the salaries and administrative costs of the small unit responsible for managing custom and personalised plate business and the promotion and advertising

costs involved in marketing these products, was \$2.48M.

The Member for Lockyer also inquired concerning concessional registration of "hot rods" and whether owners of hot rods can purchase personalised number plates. Hot rod registration applies only to vehicles manufactured prior to 1 January 1948.

Concessional registration is granted to owners of these vehicles on the condition that they are only used for—

participation in rallies organised by the Australian Street Rod Federal;

participation in processions for which a permit has been issued under the Traffic Regulations;

exhibition at fetes and the like conducted for charitable or educational purposes; and

preparing for and proceeding to and from such activities.

While these vehicles typically are issued with standard number plates, there would be no reason why an owner could not purchase and attach a set of custom or personalised plates. Hot rods are able to be identified as having concessional registration by the special concessional windscreen registration label issued for these types of vehicles.

#### 125. Environment and Heritage Department, Closure of Far-north Queensland Roads

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

With reference to recent press reports that his department intends permanent closure and re-vegetation of the Clohesy River corridor from Lake Morris through to Davies Creek, the ABC road network from Lane Tinaroo to Davies Creek, the Mount Lewis, Mount Windsor, the South Johnstone Forestry network, the Culpa Road and the Koombooloomba Forestry Road network and the road through the Lake Eacham National Park—

- (1) What are the Government's intentions in respect of each of these abovementioned roads?
- (2) What technical advice has been considered by Government in determining that roads ought to be closed?
- (3) What community consultation was entered into by his department in respect of these proposed closures?
- (4) When can we anticipate such closures to proceed?
- (5) What is the anticipated economic loss to the Far North Queensland Tourist industry from such closures?

Answer (Mr Barton):

(1) to (5) None of the roads mentioned have been permanently closed.

A draft Wet Tropics World Heritage Area Management Plan is being prepared and will contain proposals for the future management of roads and

forestry tracks in the World Heritage Area. It will be released for community comment later this year.

The aim is a cost effective and manageable transport system that meets the community's needs, provides a range of visitor and tourism opportunities, and does not compromise Queensland's international obligation to protect the area's World Heritage values.

#### **126. Aboriginal Primary Health Care Support Network**

Mrs McCAULEY asked the Minister for Health—

As Minister responsible for Aboriginal health care, what support has he offered in respect of a submission by aboriginal groups to the Federal Government for funding for the Aboriginal Primary Health Care Support Network being established in Far North Queensland and does he support this proposition?

Answer (Mr Beattie):

I have not received a copy of the funding submission for the development of an Aboriginal Primary Health Care Support Network, and consequently I am unable to comment on this matter.

#### **127. State Government Land, Stafford Heights**

Mr J. N. GOSS asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

With reference to commitments and public assurances given by the Government to preserve bushland and the desire by residents of Stafford Heights for the preservation of the 6.1 ha of remaining bushland left in Stafford Heights—

What steps has he taken to ensure that the Remick Street Reserve bushland at Stafford Heights will be preserved?

Answer (Mr Barton):

While the Reserve does not contain sufficiently high conservation values to warrant acquisition by the Department of Environment and Heritage, it does have local significance as it provides a bushland node on the Downfall Creek corridor.

The Department of Environment and Heritage is unable to consider purchase of this area as its acquisition budget is fully committed to priority land purchases throughout the State.

It is suggested that the Brisbane City Council be approached as that authority may be interested in acquiring the Reserve as parkland, utilising funds which may be available from Council's Environmental Rate Levy.

#### **128. Peak Crossing Correctional Institution**

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

- (1) Is he, the Queensland Corrective Services Commission, or any agency associated with his department or the Commission, intending to establish a prison, prison farm or any other institution that will involve prisoners or other

offenders at or near Peak Crossing near Ipswich?

- (2) If so, (a) what is the institution and who will administer it, (b) how many offenders will it hold, (c) when will it open, (d) what type of offenders will be housed and (e) what is the cost of the proposal?

Answer (Mr Braddy):

No, the QCSC is not considering any such proposition at this time. The QCSC is actively investigating the site for a wilderness program for young offenders and is open to requests from the community for the establishment of WORC-type camps for offenders.

The WORC program has not been involved in consultations for the establishment of a camp in the Peak Crossing area. However, workers from the WORC program have been performing community work at the Kalbar showgrounds. Inquiries relating to the possible location for a youth Wilderness camp have not yet commenced.

If the member has any further information I would be happy to have the matter investigated.

#### **129. Housing Department Units, Yeppoon**

Mr CARROLL asked the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Rural Communities, Minister for Rural Communities and Minister for Provision of Infrastructure for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities—

With reference to home units being built for the Department of Housing at 23 Meikleville Street, Yeppoon and to the fact that the block is only small and there is little, if no suitable infrastructure nor transport in the area and the local community is very upset—

- (1) How many units are being built on this site and in this community?
- (2) What will be the proportion rented, and sold?
- (3) What infrastructure and transport assistance will he be supplying to the area?

Answer (Mr Mackenroth):

Eight one bedroom units are currently being constructed on this site. As a result, a total of 11 units are currently under construction in Yeppoon. A further 6 dwellings are programmed for commencement this financial year.

There is a strong demand for public housing in the area and current and future projects are assisting to meet that need. All eight dwellings being constructed at Meikleville Street will be available for rental purposes to applicants on the public housing wait list for the area.

This project has been planned in consultation with local government and meets requirements stipulated. It has been developed in an existing serviced residential area and no additional infrastructure was required. Provision has been made for adequate car accommodation on the site. Various amenities such as schools and the main business centre are available within a 2.5 kilometre radius of this site.

### 130. School Resources

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Education—

As I did not receive a reply to my question dated 7 June 1995, I again ask him (a) to explain the marked difference between resource levels provided to high schools and primary schools and (b) why primary schools in huge growth areas and with socio-economic difficulties are so gravely disadvantaged in comparison with secondary schools?

Answer (Mr Hamill):

(a) Resources are provided to schools according to a number of allocation methodologies. Generally these resources can be grouped under three headings, i.e. Staffing, Facilities and Financial.

#### Staffing

The staffing models which are currently used have developed over a considerable period of time. Consequently they are underpinned by the traditional view of need (eg. the significant management structure of secondary school has included heads of department and also the specialist nature of secondary subjects has led to smaller class sizes).

In addition, the model operates within industrial constraints, for example the non contact time differential between the primary and secondary sectors.

Recent developments which have increased the level of resources to primary schools include:

- the introduction of on hour contact time from January 1995;

- lowering the threshold enrolment figure at which a primary principal has a full teaching load from 157 to 126;

- introducing deputy principals with a half teaching load from enrolment 400;

- providing 1.5 hours per Year 2 class as key teacher time;

- employing 110 education advisers (literacy and numeracy);

- employing 135 educational advisers (english and mathematics) working primarily in the primary sector.

#### Facilities

In developing the capital works program (which includes minor works) priorities are set on the basis of needs. The sector (eg. primary or secondary) is not a factor in assessing priorities.

#### Financial Resources

Financial resources are provided to schools by way of the school grant.

The issue of the funding gap between the primary and secondary sectors was considered prior to implementing the *Helping P&Cs with the Basics* initiative. In order to narrow the gap, the greater percentage of funding provided through the initiative was allocated to primary schools (eg. in 1993/94 and 1994/95, some \$9 million of \$12 million was allocated to the primary sector).

As part of the preparation of the *Helping P&Cs with the Basics* initiative, interstate comparisons were made. These showed that the difference in funding levels between primary and secondary in Queensland was consistent with the situation in other States. Research also noted that the Commonwealth Government recognised the greater cost of providing secondary education and structured its funding to both state and non-state sectors accordingly.

Schools in huge growth areas and with socio-economic difficulties.

Additional support is provided to schools with high concentration of students from low socio-economic backgrounds through the Special Program School Scheme. The majority of the two hundred and fifty schools in the current three year program are primary schools.

### 131. Pork Industry

Mr PERRETT asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

With reference to the perilous state of the pork industry which is losing 100-200 producers in Queensland each year, given current returns approximately 28 cents per kilogram below the cost of production—brought about by unfair competition from subsidised Canadian pork, and increased prices for grain and protein—

Why has he refused requests for assistance by way of feed freight subsidy to an industry suffering the extraordinary circumstance of unfair competition in addition to drought?

Answer (Mr Gibbs):

The freight subsidy arrangements under the Government's Drought Relief Assistance Scheme are aimed at maintaining the breeding nucleus of herds and flocks where management practices have changed because of drought.

Pig producers do not qualify for this form of assistance for various reasons.

Firstly, their management or feeding practices do not change under drought conditions. This does not dispute the fact that the cost of feed grains can increase as a result of drought. Also, they continue to feed for growth as well as maintenance.

No pig producer feeds solely to maintain a breeding herd.

This is very different from the drought management practices in the grazing industries.

### 132. Greyhound Racing, Central Highlands

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

With reference to the Clermont Progress Association which is very eager to establish greyhound racing in the Central Highlands and which has the support of the Belyando Shire and surrounding mining centres—

- (1) What criteria is required to be met by the association to become registered for greyhound racing?
- (2) Would there be any assistance from Government for the establishment of such a project?

Answer (Mr Gibbs):

1. Should the Clermont progress association wish to establish greyhound racing in the central highlands, it needs to contact the Greyhound Racing Authority (GRA) of Queensland. This statutory authority has been set up to control, supervise, and regulate greyhound racing.

The Authority is also charged with promoting the greyhound code and would welcome any proposal to establish a new greyhound club and venue. The association would need to discuss with the GRA the criteria that it would consider in registering a new club.

2. Whether any assistance could be provided from the racing development fund for such a project would depend on the merit of the application and the recommendations of the GRA and the State's greyhound racing clubs.

### 133. School Transport

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Education—

As several young school children have become ineligible for transport assistance under current guidelines since the completion of Michigan Drive, Oxenford and because of the unusual circumstances, there is now no safe pathway or bikeway for access to their nearest school, will he relax the conditions governing eligibility until a safe alternative can be provided in this extremely hazardous situation?

Answer (Mr Hamill):

Conveyance of students to school has always been parental responsibility. Successive State Governments have provided various forms of assistance to schools in certain circumstances.

The main focus of the school transport scheme is to assist parents/guardians of geographically isolated students with the cost of accessing the nearest state school with the year level required.

With finite resources available, it is necessary to impose distance thresholds to establish eligibility:

- (a) Primary students must live more than 3.2km by shortest trafficable route from the nearest state primary school: and
- (b) Secondary students must live more than 4.8km by the shortest trafficable route from the nearest state secondary school.

A change of policy from 'nearest school' to 'school of choice' could not be achieved in the current economic climate without jeopardising other education services. It is therefore assumed that parents who choose a school other than their nearest State school, do so in the full knowledge of the costs involved.

All policy guidelines have been met in assessing the eligibility for transport assistance of those students referred to in the Member's request.

These ten children do not attend their nearest State school, Oxenford State School. Five attend Coomera State School and the other five attend non-state schools. There have been no changes to safety conditions in the area, and students still travel on the same bus to and from school.

Some students may be eligible for assistance under the safety net provision for financially disadvantaged students.

To determine eligibility they should contact the Transport Services Officer, Queensland Transport on (07) 3553 1197.

### 135. Driving Instructors, Compulsory Accreditation

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

Will he indicate whether or not compulsory accreditation will be introduced for driving instructors or does the Government still favour a voluntary accreditation proposal, given that the State's 620 driving instructors who are currently licensed and subject to police and Queensland Transport scrutiny, fear that a voluntary system will lead to deteriorating standards of driver training?

Answer (Mr Elder):

While there is growing acceptance among driving instructors for accreditation, I am aware that many within the industry remain concerned about the voluntary nature of accreditation. I have received direct representations from the Australian Driver Trainers Association (ADTA) concerning their preference for compulsory accreditation.

Accordingly, I have requested Queensland Transport to work with industry representatives to develop a model of compulsory accreditation for my consideration which best meets the needs of consumers, industry and government.

This model will need to -

- minimise costs to consumers, industry and government;
- ensure consumer protection;
- ensure a satisfactory level of client service;
- provide flexibility for an improvement in standards; and
- take into account the Hilmer process.

Once I have considered the model developed by the Driving Instruction School Industry and the department, I will be taking a submission on the matter to Cabinet.

### 136. Liquid Waste Disposal

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

With reference to Volume 1 of the CJC report on its public hearing into the improper disposal of liquid waste in South East Queensland, in which the Inquiry made a very strong call for a further investigation into the impact of mining in Queensland by a person or

body possessing appropriate power and expertise, and while acknowledging that the Government called for an industry environmental protection policy to be undertaken on the mining and petroleum industries—

- (1) Does he acknowledge that the environmental protection policy process does not fully address the main basis for the further investigations recommended by the CJC Inquiry—that being the conflicting nature of the Department of Minerals and Energy and the necessity for environmental requirements to be grounded in regulation rather than in administration?
- (2) What measures is he going to take to ensure that these issues will be addressed in the manner and depth recommended by the CJC Inquiry, thus regaining some credibility for his Government on this issue?

Answer (Mr Barton):

(1) No. The Environment Protection Policy which is being developed for mining is subordinate legislation under the Environmental Protection Act 1994. The Policy, which in accordance with the Act, will be developed through a full and detailed public consultation process managed by the Department of Environment and Heritage in consultation with the Department of Minerals and Energy, requires approval by the Governor in Council following consultation of all submissions made to myself as the Minister responsible for administration of the Act. Early development of the Policy is being assisted by a steering group comprising the above two Departments, the Queensland Mining Council, and the Queensland Conservation Council. It should be noted that following approval of the Policy, the administering authority must give effect to the policy. Thus the environmental requirements for mining will be grounded in regulation, not administration.

(2) It is Government policy that the Environmental Protection Policy for Mining will incorporate at least the following components:

Review of the current Environmental Management Policy for Mining in Queensland involving a refinement of policy objectives, planning framework to achieve objectives, environmental management performance measures and security deposit system.

Policy on environmental impact assessment process covering all stages of mineral development from project feasibility, tenure application and approval and tenure relinquishment.

Policy on environmental compliance auditing, monitoring and enforcement procedures.

Comprehensive technical guidelines setting out environmental best practice technology for a range of environmental impact issues common to the exploration and mining industry.

As indicated in (1) above the Policy will become subordinate legislation under the Environmental Protection Act, and important components will be incorporated into the environmental provisions of the Mineral Resources Act 1989. Such action will provide a clear and enforceable legislative basis for the environmental aspects of the important mining

sector, and in the view of the Government, will be the most comprehensive and environmentally progressive instrument dealing with mining within local Australian jurisdictions.

### 137. Fire Service, Staffing

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Consumer Affairs—

With reference to the cost of providing safe manning levels on first response fire vehicles, his predecessor promised the use of overtime to achieve this until new firemen were trained and later announced capital works expenditures would be needed to allow this to be funded—

- (1) How much is overtime costing the Queensland Fire Service each week to make safe manning levels possible?
- (2) What items of capital expenditure have been cancelled so far because of this?
- (3) What else is to be axed in 1995-96?

Answer (Mr Davies):

(1) From 1 July 1995 to 30 September 1995 the average overtime cost for the QFS has been \$96,830 per week.

(2) No items of capital expenditure have been cancelled because of this overtime.

(3) Nothing is planned for cancellation in 1995-96 financial year. However the QFS will be monitoring Capital Expenditure, as it monitors all expenditure.

### 138. Electricity Industry

Mrs SHELDON asked the Treasurer—

With reference to the \$1.4 billion market value of the debt of the Queensland electricity supply industry at 31 December 1994, as per the final half-year report of the former Queensland Electricity Commission, and to the combined debt of the generation and transmission arms of the industry in its fully corporatised format at 30 June this year of \$2.7 billion—

Why is the debt of the Queensland electricity supply industry in June 1995 recorded as over a billion dollars more than it was six months earlier?

Answer (Mr De Lacy):

On 1 January 1995 the Queensland Generation Corporation (QGC) and the Queensland Transmission and Supply Corporation (QSTC) were established as Government Owned Corporations, replacing the Queensland Electricity Commission and the seven Electricity Boards.

An important component of corporatisation is the establishment of commercial capital structures as means of replicating private sector commercial disciplines. After detailed review of the balance sheet of the electricity corporations and a comparison with other State and international electricity organisations, a gearing ratio (debt: debt plus equity) of 33% was determined for the electricity corporations, which translated to a debt transfer of \$1.3 billion to the corporations. This was

outlined earlier this year in a press release issued by the Minister for Minerals and Energy on 27 March 1995 and was also referred to in the May State Budget.

I confirm that the market debt of the electricity industry was \$2.7 billion at 30 June 1995 compared with \$1.4 billion at 31 December 1994. The increase is explained by the transfer of this \$1.3 billion of public debt to the new electricity corporations as part of the process of corporatisation. This level of gearing is in fact, conservative. The average gearing ratio of companies in the 'All Industrials' on the Australian Stock Exchange is considerably higher at 77%.

It must be stressed that the overall level of State debt has not been affected. The transfer of debt to the electricity corporations merely represents a re-allocation within the State Government sector.

#### **140. Ipswich and Redbank Railway Workshops**

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to the winding down of the Ipswich Rail workshops and the transfer of all future works in that region to the Redbank facility—

Will Redbank be able to engage in contracts such as is being undertaken for National Rail by the Ipswich workshops?

Answer (Mr Elder):

The Workshops Strategy as approved by Queensland Rail in July 1993 considered the transfer of all functions undertaken at Ipswich to the new Centre of Excellence at Redbank.

An investment of \$36 million at Redbank over three years provides for a number of new facilities to accommodate Ipswich functions including an 80 metre x 80 metre wagon manufacture shop, the biggest by far in Australia which will have the capability to undertake all wagon manufacturing work usually performed at Ipswich as well as additional wagon manufacture either for Queensland Rail or external customers such as NRC.

Potential workloads for wagon manufacture during 1996/97 include 100 container wagons per year, 150 coal wagons and 200 NRC container wagons per year and would require the full utilisation of the new facilities at Redbank.

In addition Redbank Workshops will have the capability for the overhaul or repair of wagons to meet the ongoing maintenance needs of Queensland Rail's large wagon fleet, and will have ongoing capacity for development and modification of the existing fleet to meet specific needs of QR's customer groups.

#### **141. Boat Ramps, Hinchinbrook Electorate**

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

As boat ramps are important facilities on the eastern seaboard areas of the State will he give details of any program in place to provide all tide, all weather boat ramps throughout the Hinchinbrook Electorate?

Answer (Mr Elder):

The Queensland Government currently owns various boat ramps within the Hinchinbrook Electorate which can be classified as all tide/all weather. These are at Dungeness, Mourilyan Harbour and Innisfail. All tide facilities are also available at Clump Point but launching may be difficult in adverse weather conditions.

The present situation is that the Queensland Transport 1995/96 Maritime Capital Works Program does not include the provision of a new facility within the Hinchinbrook Electorate.

However, Queensland Transport's Northern Region is about to invite Local Government Authorities to submit boat ramp projects on a priority basis to establish a five (5) year program for the construction of ramps in that Region.

The issue of providing all tide/weather facilities is a difficult one. There are significant problems associated with providing facilities such as this.

Ramp sites with natural low tide access in all weather conditions are limited.

Those sites where such access could be provided initially by dredging would suffer from excessive siltation and costly ongoing maintenance dredging, apart from other limitations on usage because of wind and wave exposure.

Other sites fringed by mangrove lowlands, such as in the Hinchinbrook Channel, render the deepwater passages inaccessible by land without major engineering effort and environmental damage.

Alternative methods of construction may need to be considered such as an elevated ramp extending to deep water. However structures such as this are costly to construct and an estimate on a concept proposal for Cardwell has indicated that this may be as high as \$1.4 million. This would be a major investment for this type of facility and would need to compete for funding priority on a statewide basis.

I can assure you that the needs of the Hinchinbrook Electorate will be fully considered in the development of Queensland Transport Northern Region's five (5) year Maritime Infrastructure Program.

#### **143. Teachers Numbers**

Mrs WILSON asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) Is teacher morale at an all time low?
- (2) Why is teacher stress level so high?
- (3) Is it very difficult to find relief teachers?
- (4) Why do teachers constantly complain about lack of disciplinary measures (student behaviour management) in the classroom?

Answer (Mr Hamill):

(1 and 2) Teacher Morale is not at an all time low. Schools are now resourced better than ever. The

increases in staffing and funding over the past six years has been well documented and, as a direct result of the funding initiatives of the current Government.

The introduction of initiatives from Shaping the Future have changed the work practices of many teachers. These initiatives have generally been well received by teachers. Additional relief time and support have been provided to assist teachers to implement the initiatives and minimise any discomfort that teachers may feel in the short term as changes are consolidated in the workplace.

The incidents of occupational stress in teachers should be considered in relation to the proportion of stress related claims lodged by sectors Departmental employees. Teachers are counted as 71% of Departmental employees and lodged 80% of stress related claims in the 1994/95 financial year. Hence stress levels in teachers are not significantly higher than other employees in the Education Department.

The Department of Education is one of five Government agencies participating in seven occupational stress initiatives.

The purpose of these initiatives is to reduce the negative impact of occupational stress on our employees and similarly reduce the cost of workers compensation to the broader community.

(3) Some regions are experiencing some shortages of relief teachers for schools. This is due to a number of factors including:

Implementation of professional development for Shaping the Future initiatives. In 1995 teachers were being provided with training in the Year 2 Net, Year 6 Test and SPS Maths, whereas this will not be an issue next year.

The implementation of key teacher relief time through Shaping the Future. This time is currently provided by relief teachers but it is planned to remove some of this to permanent part-time appointment, which will relieve the relief teacher pressure.

High levels of sick leave caused by significantly increased epidemics of various strains of influenza.

(4) Education is currently receiving much media attention, including methods for dealing with disruptive student behaviour.

At various times during the debate on behaviour management, some individuals have chosen to 'blame' members of the school community including teachers, parents, students or the Department of Education. Student behaviour is sometimes seen as purely a problem located within individual students, rather an issue which has to be addressed systematically by the whole school community.

The Department of Education policy "Schools and Discipline: Managing Behaviour in a Supportive School Environment" provides a framework which allows all members of the school community to feel safe and valued. Individual schools are now finding ways of doing this which best suits their community.

Where student behaviour issues are more severe than a teacher feels they can manage alone, there are a range of support systems throughout the State which teachers and their schools can access. The "Maintaining School Discipline" reform package announced in the election will provide additional support for teachers in this area of student discipline through the appointment of 56 additional staff and the establishment of a range of alternative education programs across the State.

#### 144. Home Hill Hospital

Mr STONEMAN asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to announcements in respect of the problems of financial mismanagement in the Northern Health Region and undertakings to correct the present situation—

- (1) What assurance can be given to the people of Home Hill that there will not be another proposal to close the facility down as part of any new plan?
- (2) Why is the Home Hill Hospital experiencing continuing removal of infrastructure capacity?
- (3) What commitment will he give to the community that there will be no negative change to funding for the hospital to such an extent that it becomes an empty shell and subject, therefore, to closure by default?

Answer (Mr Beattie):

(1) The Honourable Member has embarked on a campaign to downgrade the importance of the Home Hill Hospital. This adversely impacts on the dedicated staff who work at the hospital and the patients who are treated there. The Northern Region's current draft 10-year health services plan outlines no intention to close the Home Hill Hospital.

(2) The Home Hill Hospital, together with several other health facilities, has experienced improved services in recent months as a result of a rearrangement of resources allocated across the region. For example, I am advised that last year provided its central sterilising machine to the Bowen Hospital. To ensure that Home Hill would have adequate access to sterilisation facilities, the Ayr Hospital took responsibility for the sterilisation of Home Hill's equipment. The result is that Home Hill's sterilisation needs are being met more quickly and efficiently than it ever did under the previous Government as a direct result of inter-regional coordination of services.

In addition, one of Home Hill's three renal dialysis machines was lent to Townsville last month to meet higher demand for the machines there. Home Hill currently has one dialysis patient and therefore still has one machine. Should the demand for renal dialysis machines increase in Home Hill the machine that was borrowed by Townsville will be returned.

The Honourable Member should tell his Townsville based constituents that in his view they should not have the spare dialysis machine. Obstetrics, theatre and laundry services were closed down at Home Hill Hospital more than eight years ago under a National



Party Government, of which he was a senior member, because the services could be more efficiently and effectively provided at Ayr Hospital—14 km away.

Home Hill Hospital recently employed a full-time courier to ensure that turnaround times for the delivery of laundry, stores and sterile equipment are kept to a minimum.

While some services and infrastructure have been wound down at Home Hill Hospital over the past decade because of the hospital's inability to attract and retain appropriate trained staff, the quality of patient service has actually improved because of the expanded services available at nearby Ayr Hospital.

(3) In recent funding discussions concerning the Northern Region no moves were made to alter the current level of funding for the Home Hill Hospital. However all services throughout the region may experience some changes over time, according to the changing demands and needs of the community.

#### **145. Rugby League Grounds**

Mr VEIVERS asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Tourism, Sport and Youth—

(1) Has the Queensland Government made any decisions regarding the allocation of grounds for playing rugby league in Queensland to either Rupert Murdoch's Super League or the Ken Arthurson/John Quail Australian Rugby League syndicate?

(2) If so, what are the details?

Answer (Mr Burns):

(1) The Government has made no decision with regard to the allocation of grounds for playing rugby league in Queensland.

The use and allocation of venues for the playing of rugby league is the responsibility of individual venue management agencies, which in the case of Suncorp Stadium is the Lang Park Trust, and in the case of Stockland Stadium is the Thuringowa-Townsville Joint Local Authority Board.

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**29. Tablelands Electorate Road Funding**

Mr GILMORE asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

What is the budget amount in both actual and real terms (adjusted for inflation) for each of the sections of main road mentioned below contained within the Electorate of Tablelands for the past five years, (1990/91 to 1994/95) inclusive, for both capital and maintenance and projected figures for 1995/96 to 1997/98 inclusive—

- (1) Kennedy Highway—(a) Cairns to Kuranda, (b) Kuranda to Mareeba, (c) Mareeba to Atherton, (d) Atherton to Ravenshoe, (e) Ravenshoe to Mt Garnett and (f) Mt Garnett to the Mt Surprise turnoff;
- (2) The Mareeba By-pass;
- (3) The Atherton By-pass;
- (4) The Palmerston Highway—Millaa Millaa to the Electorate boundary;

- (5) The Malanda to Millaa Millaa Road;
- (6) The Bourke Development Road (a) Mareeba to Chillagoe and (b) Chillagoe to the Mareeba Shire boundary;
- (7) The Peninsula Development Road—Mareeba to Electorate boundary;
- (8) Herberton to Irvinebank Road;
- (9) Irvinebank to Petford;
- (10) The Upper Barron Road;
- (11) McHugh Road and
- (12) The Topaz Range Road?

Answer (Mr Elder):

(1-12) (Refer to Table 1). Based on previous allocations of funding and proposed allocations identified in the October 1995 version of the RIP, budgeted amounts for various sections of State-controlled Road in the Tablelands Electorate is described in the attached Table.

ELECTORATE OF TABLELANDS  
CAPITAL AND MAINTENANCE FUNDING FOR ROADS

QUESTION	SECTION	MAINTENANCE						CAPITAL WORKS									
		90/91	91/92	92/93	93/94	94/95	95/96	TOTAL	90/91	91/92	92/93	93/94	94/95	95/96	97/98	TOTAL	
1	KENNEDY HIGHWAY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
1A	CAIRNS—KURANDA	Not in Tablelands Electorate						Not in Tablelands Electorate									
1B	KURANDA—MAREEBA	1,102	338	438	516	450	457	3,301	1,325	2,439	1,528	2,470	3,421	-	-	-11,183	
1C,1D	MAREEBA—RAVENSHOE	954	980	630	601	520	780	4,465	380	49	-	409	2,104	80	660	190	3,872
1E	RAVENSHOE—MT GARNETT	266	172	305	184	268	228	1,423	-	-	618	937	941	1,001	1,750	1,000	6,346
1F	MT GARNETT—MT SURPRISE	210	150	210	153	315	226	1,264	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	MAREEBA BYPASS	HARDSHIP RESUMPTION ARE ONLY PROPOSED EXPENDITURE															
3	ATHERTON BYPASS	HARDSHIP RESUMPTION ARE ONLY PROPOSED EXPENDITURE															
4	PALMERSTON—MILLA MILLA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
5	MALANDA—MILLA MILLA	232	264	102	226	203	200	1,227	1,153	1,627	462	219	162	7,003	2,200	-	7,523
6	MAREEBA—CHILLAGOE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	MAREEBA—DIMBULAH	339	138	231	283	156	200	1,347	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	DIMBULAH SHIRE BOUNDARY	994	523	632	568	676	596	3,989	944	798	543	3,723	1,102	50	610	1,840	8,259
7	PENINSULA DEV ROAD	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	MAREEBA ELECTORAL BOUNDARY	511	349	399	297	395	371	2,322	1,715	10	608	623	-	-	-	-	2,956
8,9	HERBERTON—PETTFORD ROAD	210	102	104	197	169	155	937	16	164	-	-	-	-	-	-	180
10	UPPER BARRON ROAD	41	46	48	67	45	41	288	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11	McHUGH ROAD	62	58	117	109	116	191	653	42	234	497	0	0	10	202,550	3,353	
12	TOPAZ ROAD	54	85	35	108	58	66	406	-	-	-	145	30	-	-	-	175
	TOTALS	5,143	3,323	3,443	5,043	4,273	5,900	22,331	5,594	5,321	4,256	5,175	9,760	1,940	6,240	5,580	43,866

**149.Overseas Visits by Ministers**

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Premier and Minister for Economic and Trade Development—

- (1) Which Ministers have travelled overseas since the 15 July General Election?

- (2) What was the purpose of each trip, which countries were visited and what was the cost of each individual trip and the total cost incurred?
- (3) Who accompanied Ministers at taxpayers' expense and what was the length of each ministerial visit?

Answer (Mr Goss):

Since the recent General Election six Ministers have travelled overseas namely: the Honourable Tom Burns, Deputy Premier and Minister for Tourism, Sport and Youth; the Honourable Keith DeLacy, Treasurer; the Honourable Jim Elder, Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development; the Honourable Paul Braddy, Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services; the Honourable David Hamill, Minister for Education; and myself.

On 16th September, 1995 I travelled to Papua New Guinea for that country's Independence Day celebrations. I was accompanied by Mr Loftus Harris, Director-General, Department of the Premier, Economic and Trade Development and Senior Constable John Hodge of the Queensland Police Service. I returned to Brisbane late that evening.

From 9th to 11th October, 1995 I travelled to New Zealand on an investment mission to have discussions with some of New Zealand's largest companies which currently have operations based in Brisbane and to attract investment from a range of other smaller companies. I was accompanied by Mrs Goss and Mr Loftus Harris. Other officers from the Department of the Premier, Economic and Trade Development were also in New Zealand at the time of my visit as part of routine marketing activities, however they were not accompanying me.

The costs in relation to these two trips are currently unavailable as all expenditure is normally billed to the Government's American Express Business Travel Account which takes several months to process.

Full details of all Ministers missions will be provided by each Minister to Parliament in due course. Details of costs will be provided by the Treasurer in a separate report to Parliament and at present the costs are not currently available.

### 158. Broadwater Electorate, Constituent

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for the Arts—

With reference to the case of a constituent claiming to be owed \$16,000 by a former employer and the failure of his departmental officers to investigate the matter or even to take details and since my constituent's first approach to the Minister's officers was on 5 June 1995—

- (1) When will my constituent's case be dealt with?
- (2) How does he justify the constant delays?
- (3) What does he consider to be an appropriate period for handling such complaints?
- (4) If there is a shortage of industrial inspectors and support staff, what action is being taken to redress this situation?

Answer (Mr Foley):

In regards to the Honourable Member's question my ministerial colleague the Honourable Wendy Edmond, MLA has administrative responsibility for the Awards Management Branch of the Department of Vocational Education, Training and Industrial

Relations. I suggest the Honourable Member address the question to my colleague.

### 165. Queensland Building Tribunal

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Rural Communities, Minister for Rural Communities and Minister for Provision of Infrastructure for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities—

With reference to the Queensland Building Tribunal (QBT), which in the interest of fairness is and should be seen to be impartial in its determinations—

- (1) What proportion of QBT determinations were found in favour of (a) the home owner and (b) the home builder in the years 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95?
- (2) Was there any reason for the change?

Answer (Mr Mackenroth):

In answering this question, I am advised by the Chairman of the Queensland Building Tribunal that it is assumed by determination, what is meant is determined by the Tribunal at a hearing or by order of the Tribunal. In relation to domestic building disputes this excludes approximately sixty (60) percent of applications which are finalised without the need for a hearing. These applications are settled by the parties at mediation conducted by the Tribunal, by the parties on their own or are withdrawn. The applications which do not settle at the mediation phase usually are more emotional, involve more physical defects and/or are more contractually complex.

Because the Tribunal has jurisdiction to deal with disputes between building contractors and owners and building contractors and sub-contractors, plus suppliers or other persons and a combination of these parties, building contractors are likely to be parties to more applications than the other categories of litigant. This also results from the fact that owners can lodge complaints about defective or incomplete work with the Queensland Building Services Authority without any application fee.

While the Tribunal's application form does collect data on whether the applicant is a home owner or a home builder this information is not recorded on the Tribunal's determinations. The determinations simply record what the applicant or respondent are ordered to do by the Tribunal.

Most domestic building disputes involve a number of issues which the Tribunal must determine to resolve the dispute. These include allegations of defective and incomplete work, defective materials, money claims including contract payments, claims for variations and legal issues such as termination of the contract and rights under the contract etc.

In resolving individual domestic building dispute applications the Tribunal will frequently determine some issues in favour of the applicant and others in favour of the respondent. The resulting order might then require the respondent to pay the applicant a monetary sum or, because of the respondent's counter-claim being successful, the applicant may be ordered to pay the respondent. The order may also

require the building contractor to rectify defective or incomplete work or the application may be dismissed. The order may also reflect a combination of the above.

Because of the number and complexity of the issues decided and reflected in the various orders made by the Tribunal, and because the relevant information is not required for the Tribunal's purposes, statistics which would enable the Tribunal to answer the Member's question are not maintained. The information required would not necessarily be reflected in the orders—which simplify and consolidate the decision. Therefore, to obtain the information would require an examination of all decisions and the extraction of the reasons for the decision in most cases.

### **167. Radioactive Waste Facility, Esk**

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the radioactive waste facility at Esk—

Will he provide a detailed list of the types of waste now stored in that facility?

Answer (Mr Beattie):

The radioactive material currently stored at the Esk facility, other than a small number of smoke detectors, consists only of all the material previously stored at the Department's old Petrie Bight store.

The majority of this radioactive material is low level waste suitable for ultimate disposal in a national shallow ground burial facility. Some Americium 241 and Radium 226 sources can be categorised as intermediate level waste and not suitable for shallow ground burial. Such sources will therefore require indefinite storage pending availability of a suitable national disposal facility. A detailed inventory of all radioactive substances currently stored at the Esk facility is tabled.

### **168. Payouts to Spouses of Former Public Servants**

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Treasurer—

With reference to recent approaches to the Government by spouses of former Queensland Public Servants in the Merry Widows Pension-Superannuation Scheme—

Will he provide an early payout to the spouses of the former public servants covered by the scheme?

Answer (Mr De Lacy):

It is not within my power to make an early payout to former public servants with residual widows' entitlements under the State Service and Police superannuation schemes. The benefit conditions are set in the relevant Acts governing the Schemes and prescribe that benefits are payable to eligible widows of certain former members. The benefits were actually set in 1984 by the previous Government and do not provide for the payment of a surrender value as sought by some members. No payout could be made without the legislation being amended by the Legislative Assembly.

### **170. Primary Industries Department Debt**

Mrs SHELDON asked the Treasurer—

With reference to page 88 of the 1995 Queensland Treasury Corporation (QTC) Annual Report, under the departmental section of the QTC on-lendings appendix, it is recorded that, as at 30 June 1994, the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) had no outstanding debt whatsoever, however as at 30 June 1995, the total debt outstanding for the DPI had risen to \$146.8m—

What was the reason for this increase in debt and what will the borrowings be used for?

Answer (Mr De Lacy):

The Department of Primary Industries' (DPI) debt with the Queensland Treasury Corporation (QTC) has been raised only for the purpose of financing the Department's commercial activities, in this case Forestry.

Over time the DPI has raised debt for these activities from a number of sources including directly from the State and more recently from the QTC.

Over the past financial year, the source of DPI's debt has changed as a result of a whole of Government restructuring of financial assets and liabilities. In this regard, the debt owed by DPI to QTC results from the refinancing by QTC of Consolidated Fund debt.

It should be noted that over the past financial year DPI has reduced its total debt by almost \$250M, due to further write-off of Consolidated Fund debt as part of the commercialisation process for Forestry.

### **183. Agricultural Land**

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Rural Communities, Minister for Rural Communities and Minister for Provision of Infrastructure for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities—

With reference to the Government's 1992 Planning Policy for the Preservation of Good Agricultural Land and in view of the fact that not all good land is of a size to be economically viable—

Will he take action to ensure that implementation of this policy takes into account the economic viability of the land for agricultural use?

Answer (Mr Mackenroth):

In State Planning Policy 1/92: 'Development and the Conservation of Agricultural Land', the Government sets out its commitment to protect Queensland's most productive farmlands. The Policy states that good quality agricultural land is a finite national and state resource that should be protected from development that may lead to its alienation or diminished productivity.

Conserving our best quality agricultural land is responsible resource management. It is also sensible economics. The value of retaining a diverse agriculture base is particularly important in current circumstances where drought is affecting our pastoral production and cropping. For example, sugar is the state's third largest export earner and the sugar industry is a significant source of employment. Yet sugar mills are in danger of being closed down if

caneland continues to be lost to rural residential development and urban expansion.

Nevertheless, the State Planning Policy is not being used by the Government to protect all best quality farmland irrespective of economic viability. There is however, an important difference between 'farm' viability and 'land resource' viability. A farm holding or allotment might not be viable in itself, but it might have the potential to be amalgamated or farmed in conjunction with other nearby or adjoining farmland. In other words, the unviable farm is part of a larger 'resource' area which is viable overall and has a long-term future. Such land should generally be protected and farm re-structuring encouraged in response to changing market and industry conditions.

Planning policies and controls that clearly safeguard such areas from development can create the climate for re-structuring by removing the expectation of development value. As the Policy makes clear, allowing development to occur on our most productive lands merely because a farm holding or allotment is too small could only encourage greater development pressures and fragmentation of a precious resource. Furthermore, development of a small area amongst productive viable farms can give rise to serious land use conflict between the residential and farming areas.

On the other hand, the Policy acknowledges that if good quality farmland is significantly fragmented by urban uses or isolated from other productive areas, farming may no longer be viable. This may occur where land is too heavily constrained by conflicts with urban uses or too small to form a feasible area for medium or long term production. In these circumstances, the application of the Policy is carefully assessed by local and state government, to reach agreement on the future use of the land in terms of its potential for agricultural production and the justification for development.

### 187.Q-Clean

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Administrative Services—

With reference to the Q-Clean business unit of the Administrative Services Department and to the ongoing offering of voluntary early retirement packages (VERs) to the staff of this particular unit—

- (1) What is the total number of voluntary early retirement packages to be offered to cleaning staff within Q-Clean?
- (2) What is the projected cost for the planned number of VERs to be offered?
- (3) What is the time limit for cleaning staff within Q-Clean to accept VERs?
- (4) How many cleaning staff have accepted VERs to date?
- (5) What has been the total cost to date for the acceptance of staff VERs from Q-Clean?

Answer (Mr Milliner):

- (1) The maximum number that may be offered during the term of the current Enterprise Bargaining

Agreement is 241 which equates to 141 Full Time Equivalent Employees.

(2) The average cost of each VER is estimated at \$15,000 plus the particular employees Long Service Leave entitlements.

(3) All VERs will be offered in accordance with the Public Sector Management Standard for Staffing Options to Manage Change in the Queensland Public Sector i.e Two weeks from the day of offer if they wish to receive the full incentive payment.

(4) The total number of VERs accepted by cleaning staff to date is two.

(5) The total cost of staff VERs to date is \$46,571.

### 216.Senior Executive Service Officers

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Premier and Minister for Economic and Trade Development—

- (1) How many public servants are employed in the Senior Executive Service (SES)?
- (2) How many SES officers are there in each individual department?
- (3) How many SES officers are women?
- (4) What is the salary applicable to SES officers at each of the four scales?

Answer (Mr Goss):

(1) As at 20 October 1995 there is a total of 525 public servants in the Senior Executive Service.

(2) The breakdown of SES officers by department is as follows:

Administrative Services	29
Qld Audit Office	8
BIRD	12
DEVETIR	39
Education	47
Environ. & Heritage	16
Family & Community Services	20
Health	39
Housing, Local Govt. & Planning	18
Justice & Att.-Gen	46
Lands	20
Minerals & Energy	15
Premiers	29
—Office of Cabinet	11
—PSMC	11
Police	12
Qld Emergency Services	12
Primary Industries	53
TS & Y	6
Transport	53
Treasury	29

(3) There are 84 women appointed to SES positions. This is 16% of SES appointments.

(4) The terms and conditions of employment of SES officers are prescribed in the Public Service Management and Employment Act and Regulations.

Current superannuable salary for each level is:

CEO.3	\$136,988
CEO.2	\$116,708
CEO.1	\$109,610
4.2	\$108,973
4.1	\$ 99,619
3.5	\$ 99,308
3.4	\$ 95,982
3.3	\$ 92,344
3.2	\$ 88,706
3.1	\$ 85,068
2.5	\$ 84,020
2.4	\$ 80,383
2.3	\$ 76,745
2.2	\$ 73,627
2.1	\$ 70,509
1.4	\$ 68,942
1.3	\$ 65,824
1.2	\$ 62,706
1.1	\$ 60,107

### 219. Queensland Infrastructure Financing Fund

Mrs SHELTON asked the Treasurer—

- (1) What funds are being held by the Queensland Infrastructure Financing Fund at present?
- (2) Will he detail the source of these funds?
- (3) In what account or accounts are they being held?
- (4) For which projects are these funds to be used?
- (5) What will be the commencement dates of these projects?

Answer (Mr De Lacy):

(1) As at 30 September 1995, the Queensland Infrastructure Financing Fund had a balance of \$306,680,775.30.

(2) When established at the beginning of 1995, the Infrastructure Financing Fund had initial equity funds available of approximately \$295m which was obtained by the refinancing of QFleet (\$107m), as well as retained earnings and sale proceeds from the Government's share of Nickel Resources North Queensland (\$188m). Since establishment, the Fund has earned approximately \$11.6m in interest through being invested in the QTC Cash Funds and the QTC Medium Term Investment Fund.

(3) In January, 1995, a separate fund, known as the Infrastructure Financing Fund was created within the Queensland public accounts pursuant to the Financial Administration and Audit Act. This Fund, which is managed by Queensland Treasury, holds the equity which is set aside for investment into approved QIFF projects.

As it is appropriate that no available funds remain uninvested, the Infrastructure Financing Fund has its holdings placed in two Queensland Treasury Corporation (QTC) investment facilities. As of the end of September, 1995 the balance of the Fund was \$306,680,775, of which \$12,534,406 is held in QTC's Medium Term Investment Fund and the remaining \$294,146,369 is placed in the shorter term Cash Fund.

(4) Funding will be used for strategically important projects which are not presently fully commercial stand-alone projects but which are expected to become so in the future. Investment returns will be used over time to invest in further infrastructure projects.

This contrasts with the Opposition strategy exposed during the election campaign of balancing their proposed budget by raiding the QIFF fund.

To make responsible decisions, QIFF projects, like all major development projects, require extensive engineering, economic and financial feasibility analysis, together with environmental impact assessment. This process is well under way but at different stages of completion for a number of projects including possible dams on the Dawson and Comet Rivers and water pipelines from Eungella Dam in Central Queensland and Lake Julius in North West Queensland. A number of transport projects that may be financed through QIFF are also being progressed.

(5) The commencement date will depend upon the finalisation of the necessary commercial arrangements, in most instances involving third parties. The most advanced projects, i.e. the water pipelines, are contingent upon the commitment decisions of relevant mines.

### 239. Indoor Sporting Facility, Toowoomba

Mr HORAN asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for Tourism, Sport and Youth—

With reference to a promise made by the Honourable T M Mackenroth at a public meeting at Newtown Hall, Toowoomba, during the recent election campaign, that the Government would provide \$1m and an annual 20 per cent subsidy to assist in the development of an indoor basketball and netball facility in Toowoomba—

If an application is received from the organisation undertaking this project, can this promise be honoured in either 1995-96 or 1996-97?

Answer (Mr Burns):

I am advised that the Member for Toowoomba South has been misinformed about comments made by Mr Mackenroth. Mr Mackenroth advises that he spoke in general terms indicating that the State Government would consider an application for funding if an appropriate application was received.

I can assure the Honourable Member that any application received will be assessed like any other application against the Department's funding guidelines.

### 256. Tree-clearing Guidelines; Eastlink

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Lands—

With reference to the Government's development of new tree clearing guidelines—

Will the Queensland Electricity Transmission Authority be bound to follow these guidelines in clearing a corridor for the Eastlink Transmission Line?

Answer (Mr McElligott):

No. The Queensland Electricity Transmission Authority is not a lessee under the Land Act. The Queensland Electricity Transmission Authority has powers under the Electricity Act 1994 to clear corridors for transmission lines.

### 260. Supply of Real Estate Information by Gold Coast City Council

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Lands—

For some years, the Gold Coast City Council has provided a computerised information service on all real estate property in the old Gold Coast City Council and Albert Shire Council areas to ratepayers, real estate valuers, real estate agents and other associated industries. As this service will be terminated on the expiry of the current agreement—

- (1) Is it proposed to (a) introduce legislation so that the Gold Coast City Council will only be advised of ownership changes and (b) introduce legislation that will require property owners to advise only the Lands Department of changes of address; if so, will the Lands Department provide regular updates to the Council?
- (2) Will the Gold Coast City Council be permitted to supply current and future users with the same information that is currently supplied and by the existing methods, ie over the counter, modem or diskette methods?
- (3) Is it proposed to introduce legislation to prohibit the provision of this information by modem and/or diskette and only allow over the counter searches?

Answer (Mr McElligott):

The existing Notification of Change of Ownership, Form 100, will be replaced progressively by 31 December 1995 with a Property Transfer Information Form 24. This form will be received by the Registrar of Titles with accompanying transfer documentation, and the information entered by keyboard into a database by the Department of Lands.

1. There will be no new legislation enacted; the Gold Coast City Council will receive all relevant information from this database electronically, obviating the need for manual processing. This includes regular updating at the discretion of the Council.
2. There will be no commercial restrictions placed on the use of the data by the Department of Lands.
3. There is no legislation proposed to restrict the provision of this information to clients in any form.

### 275. Building Units and Group Titles Act

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Lands—

Will he clarify the situation regarding letting and management contracts in light of his statement of 19 October 1995 in respect of the Building Units and Group Titles Act now that BUGTA 1994 has become null and void?

Answer (Mr McElligott):

1. There are two key issues relevant to letting and management agreements. Both of which are currently addressed in BUGTA 94.

2. The first issue is the 10 year maximum term for letting and management contracts. BUGTA 94 [Section 222 (2)] provided that all service, management and letting agreements entered into after 24 October 1994 would have a maximum term of 10 years.

BUGTA 94 ensured that this provision applied unless it could be clearly demonstrated that the agreements were contemplated prior to that date. It would not apply to those agreements which were in train prior to 24 October 1994.

3. The second issue deals with the High Court's 4 May 1994 decision (Humphries v Surfers Palms North) that a body corporate was not authorised to enter into a contract for letting services.

A provision was made in BUGTA 94 [Section 222(10)] for bodies corporate to enter into letting arrangements. This provision was to be retrospective to protect letting agreements entered into by bodies corporate from 4 May 1994.

The result of this section is that letting agreements entered into prior to 4 May 1994 would not be validated by the legislation.

4. I am currently considering the scope of these provisions and their possible impact on the industry and will continue to consult with industry groups prior to making a decision.

5. I expect to be in a position to make a comprehensive statement towards the end of November, to allay concerns within certain sectors of the industry and the broader community about the future of these aspects of the Building Units and Group Titles legislation.

### 284. Squatters

Mrs WILSON asked the Minister for Lands—

- (1) Is he aware of the public concern relating to the legality of the Goldsborough Squatters in the Electorate of Mulgrave?
- (2) Do Aborigines involved in native title claims along the Mulgrave River have the right to occupy the land whilst Native Title is being established?
- (3) Where does legal responsibility lie in terms of the current squatters and guests who may reside with them?
- (4) What is the legal status of non-Aboriginal people squatting in the same area?
- (5) Will he identify the legal role of the Local Authority with respect to Local Government Regulations regarding sewerage, water, roads and relevant charges?
- (6) What action does the Government take in relation to squatters on Crown land?

Answer (Mr McElligott):

1. Yes, I am well aware of the public concern relating to the legality of the Goldsborough Squatters. Officers from my Department have inspected the area and have met with the local authority and other agencies. I have also been provided with Crown Law advice in relation to this issue. Discussions have occurred between officers of my department, the local authority and the claimants in order to address public concerns. One meeting has been held which was very productive, another is scheduled for November 23 and I am confident of a satisfactory outcome on this matter.

2. There is currently no evidence that native title has been extinguished by the grant of a previous tenure over the area of Unallocated State Land in the Goldsborough Valley, which is currently under claim in the National Native Title Tribunal. The Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993 provides that native title holders are entitled to the same procedural rights as freeholders. In these circumstances, the Queensland Government will proceed cautiously and in accordance with the Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993 prior to taking action that may unlawfully interfere with pre-existing native title rights and interests.

3. Crown Law has advised that native title holders, and their invitees, are generally required to abide by State and local government laws and regulations in

the same way as other Queenslanders. A native title holder failing to comply with local government laws, for example, such as building or health regulations, is liable to the same penalties as any one else.

On the other hand, should the native title claimants be unable to establish native title, the Department of Lands will take responsibility to remove them, and their invitees, as squatters under the provisions of the Land Act 1994.

4. Crown Law have advised that, assuming a native title right to occupation exists over the area, it is lawful for the native title holder to invite non-Aboriginal visitors onto the land.

5. I am advised that municipal Councils have authority to apply local laws, such as provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 relating to matters of health and hygiene, throughout their local authority area, including sections of unallocated State Land—and it is within the competence of the Local Authority in this case to determine whatever course of action it may take.

6. Generally, the Department of Lands will exercise statutory powers under the Land Act 1994 to remove squatters from Crown Land. However, in the light of provisions of the Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993, as outlined above, the

Department of Lands will proceed cautiously in regard to any removal of persons from that land.