

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

142. Overseas Visit by Education Minister

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the overseas trip taken by the Minister for Education on the following dates—

- (i) 22-24 September 1993 to New Zealand
- (ii) 8-13 February 1994 to Indonesia
- (iii) 8-13 March 1994 to Papua New Guinea

Will he provide, separately, the following information—

- (1) Total cost of the trip including the Minister and accompanying ministerial, departmental, government and statutory authority staff?
- (2) Ministerial expenses for—
 - (a) Travel by—
 - (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 for—
 - (a) Travel by—
 - (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 for—
 - (a) Travel by—
 - (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 (Mr Hamill):

This question refers to trips undertaken by the Honourable Pat Comben as Minister for Education in 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 four trips concerned.

The costs of these trips, as charged to his ministerial office, were:

- 22-24 September 1993—NEW ZEALAND

Minister	\$4,638.41
Staff	\$2,604.40
TOTAL	\$7,242.81
- 8-13 February 1994—INDONESIA

Minister	\$10,675.28
Staff	\$7,363.44
TOTAL	\$18,038.72
- 8-13 March 1994 — PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Minister	\$8,909.83
Staff	\$8,800.79 (inc body guard expenses)
TOTAL	\$17,710.62

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.

155. High School, Kuranda

Mrs WARWICK asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the construction of a high school for Kuranda, promised for 1997—

- (1) What is the present position regarding the acquisition of the Little's property at Myola Road, Kuranda?
- (2) Will he consider purchase of an alternate site, namely an area of 47 hectares adjacent to the Kennedy Highway and Fallon Road, near Kuranda, as this site has widespread community support?

Answer (Mr Hamill):

Ministerial Approval was granted by my predecessor for the acquisition of the Little's property in Myola Road on 22 August 1994. Notices of Intention to

Resume were sent to the property owners on 23 August 1994. Efforts are being made to settle the matter through negotiation between the parties rather than through the formal resumption process.

The Department of Lands is continuing with the negotiation process; a meeting was held on Tuesday 21 November 1995 between representatives of the Crown (Department of Lands Officers) and the property owners. Although no agreement was reached at the meeting, the general feeling was positive. It is hoped that the matter will be settled by agreement in the near future.

With respect to the second question, an alternative site situated at Fallon Road was suggested by Mareeba Shire Council. I have now rejected this site following an investigation into the comparative suitability of both sites for school purposes. Matters that were taken into account included topography, suitability for building, cost of construction, removal of existing vegetation, possible environmental impact, access to and into the sites, configuration of the allotments, and future development potential and servicing. The Myola Road site was considered superior in the great majority of these counts.

163.LOTE Program

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the LOTE Program and a substantial number of students moving between schools (suggested in the Wiltshire Report to be over 40%) who start a LOTE subject but do not complete the eight years' study of the same language—

- (1) What impact does the migration of students between schools have on learning another language?
- (2) What are the number and percentage of schools teaching the same LOTE language?
- (3) Is consideration being given to a reduction of time allocated to teaching LOTE?
- (4) Will a syllabus be drawn up which will enable a continuance for students who wish to undertake, in-depth language studies?

Answer (Mr Hamill):

(1) Continuity in second language learning is critical to the successful achievement of desired learning outcomes for students. For this reason the implementation of the LOTE program has been planned and executed paying due regard to the significant portion of the State's population which is mobile.

The following strategies reduce the potentially disruptive effects of a change of school on the LOTE process:

- the limited number of priority languages taught in state primary schools and the policy of ensuring a balance across the State between those languages (this means that students moving from region to region will normally be able to find a local school which teaches the language they have been studying previously.)

- the consistency of teaching materials and program models, (the State has prepared and provided free to schools a consistent set of teaching materials; students will therefore use the same materials and follow approximately the same program sequence from school to school).
- the cluster system which assures continuity of learning from primary to secondary schools in any particular area (the greatest dislocation occurs as a result of the move from the primary to the secondary school. The cluster system, plus the priority languages, reduces the impact of this on continuity of learning).
- an emphasis on the provision of distance education materials in LOTE (the Department has prioritised the development of distance education materials in LOTE and is pursuing a program which will see the mainstream provision well supported by distance mode courses. Students who find that they cannot conveniently continue to study the same language in a new school location are increasingly able to access distance education courses).

1.3 These policies and initiatives significantly reduce the impact of changing schools on continuous LOTE learning and seek to ensure the achievement of desired learning outcomes for the majority of the State's students. As a result significantly fewer than the 40% (of students) quoted would have their learning interrupted by a change of school.

2.

School Type	No. of Schools	% of School Type
JAPANESE		
SDE	5	62.5%
SHS	82	46.59%
CCSE	1	10%
SS	365	34.21%
GERMAN		
SDE	2	25%
SHS	71	40.34%
SS	270	25.3%
FRENCH		
SDE	3	37.5%
SHS	62	35.23%
SS	196	18.36%
ITALIAN		
SDE	1	12.5%
SHS	18	10.23%
SS	101	9.47%
INDONESIAN		
SHS	25	14.2%
SS	94	8.81%
CHINESE		
SHS	20	11.36%
SS	66	6.19%
KOREAN		
SHS	1	0.57%
SPANISH		
SHS	1	0.57%
SS	6	0.56%
VIETNAMESE		
SHS	2	1.14%
SS	1	0.09%

Please Note: Some schools offer more than one LOTE. Key to abbreviations of school types:

CCSE—Centres for Continuing Secondary Education (10 in total)

SDE—Schools of Distance Education (8 in total); all except Capricornia-Emerald Campus have both primary and secondary departments.

SHS—State High Schools (176 in total)

SS—State Schools (i.e. primary; 1067 in total)

3. No consideration is currently being given to a reduction in the time allocated to the teaching of LOTE. A major review will be undertaken in early 1996 to look at the educational outcomes of the current core LOTE provision in Years 6, 7 and 8. On the basis of the outcome of this review, and in line with the agreed national learning outcomes for LOTE teaching, we will be in a position to determine the amount of time required to achieve those outcomes for students.

4. One of the basic aims of the Queensland LOTE Initiative is to provide all young Queenslanders with access to LOTE learning according to individual need and aptitude. The Queensland School Curriculum Office will be instructed to develop syllabuses to cater to the full range of student aptitude in this curriculum area. While all students will receive a basic grounding in a LOTE, those students who have either ample opportunity to do so by syllabuses designed to meet their needs. This will clearly include the provision of indepth language studies for those students seeking such a program.

190.Repressed Memory Therapy

Mrs WILSON asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Is he aware of the issue of repressed memory syndrome, and the practice of some psychologists conducting this therapy?
- (2) Is he also aware that some psychologists have been the subject of several complaints regarding their conduct of so-called repressed (or recovered) memory therapy, and this practice is the concern of many Queensland citizens?
- (3) Is he conversant with so-called "independent investigations" commissioned by the Psychologists Board of Queensland to examine complaints about registered psychologists implicated in the implanting of "false memories"?
- (4) Will he advise of any action regarding this issue, and does this therapy practice by some psychologists have the support of the Minister as a health issue?

Answer (Mr Beattie):

(1) The terms 'repressed memory syndrome' and 'repressed memory therapy' have been used in the media in recent times in relation to cases where patients in psychotherapy have recovered memories of childhood sexual abuse, often involving family members. These memories are believed to be true by the patients and may be acted on to the extent that the patients may confront the supposed perpetrators of the abuse. The management of patients in these

situations requires considerable skill as the memories may be true and of clinical significance in treatment but they may also be false and lead to the wrongful accusations of family members and great damage to families.

(2) & (3) I am aware of complaints against two registered psychologists which allege malpractice in the context of so called 'repressed memory therapy'. The complaints in one of the two cases were referred to the Health Rights Commission and then to the Psychologists Board of Queensland. In the other case the events complained of, because of their timing, fell outside the scope of the Health Rights Commission and have been investigated directly by the Psychologists Board of Queensland. In both cases the Board has sought legal advice and the advice of an expert clinical psychologists concerned and interview the psychologists, their clients and the complainants. In one case the Board's investigations have been completed and it has resolved that there is no reason to suspect that the psychologist in question has behaved in a way discreditable to his profession. The investigation in the second case is yet to be finalised but I am advised that the Board expects to reach a decision at its November meeting.

(4) I understand that, partly in response to a request from the Board, The Australian Psychological Society has issued guidelines for psychologists working with clients who recover memories of childhood sexual abuse. These guidelines have been sent to all registered psychologists in the State. Generally the efficacy or desirability of a particular treatment or therapy is one for experts within the relevant profession to determine rather than for me as Minister to give endorsement or otherwise.

205.Contaminated Land

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

How many possible, probable or confirmed contaminated land sites throughout Queensland have been identified under the *Contaminated Land Act 1991* and how many of these are (a) current residential and (b) current commercial sites?

Answer (Mr Barton):

As at 23 October 1995 the following number of contaminated land sites have been identified throughout Queensland as per the requirements of Section 23 of the *Contaminated Land Act 1991*, within the classifications nominated:

Possible—These sites are categorised according to the nature of the contaminant—either Chemical or Unexploded Ordnance (UXO).

2,397 Chemical contaminant sites

7,502 UXO contaminant sites

Probable—12,904 Chemical contaminant sites (this classification is not used for UXO contaminant sites)

Confirmed—6 Chemical contaminant sites (this classification is not used for UXO contaminant sites)

It is not possible to identify how many of these contaminated land sites are (a) current residential and (b) current commercial sites because:

A Contaminated Sites Register is maintained by the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage as per the requirements of Section 24 (1) of the *Contaminated Land Act 1991*.

The particulars which must be recorded for a site upon entry to the Contaminated Sites Register as detailed in Section 23 of the *Contaminated Land Act 1991* and Section 5 of the *Contaminated Land Regulation 1991* are:

- (a) real property description of the property; and
- (b) classification of the property under section 23 (1) of the Act.

While the Contaminated Sites Register maintains a record of the specific "prescribed purpose" for which the site has been notified to the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage, the current land use of a site is not mandatory data required for entry to the Register.

When a site has been recorded on the Contaminated Sites Register, data such as current land use is valid at the time of entry only. Current land use for individual sites recorded on the Contaminated Sites Register may change after the date of entry. It would be a major undertaking to continually update the current land use for the 24,424 (including 1,615 Restricted, Former and Released) sites recorded on the Register as at 23 October 1995, and require legislative power to require land owners and local governments to notify of each change in land use.

211. Cairns Base Hospital

Mrs WARWICK asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the proposed redeveloped Cairns Base Hospital—

- (1) (a) How many beds will it contain, (b) how many operating theatres will it contain and (c) how many birthing suites will it contain?
- (2) Will he make a commitment to the appointment of at least one local clinical representative on the steering committee?
- (3) Will he dispel the prevalent fears that attention will not focus just on buildings and equipment but on the development of more services and the upgrading of present services?

Answer (Mr Beattie):

- (1)(a) A study of bed numbers has occurred and has recommended a range of 310 to 340 beds.
- (b) The number of operating theatres has not been finalised as this study forms part of the Project Definition Plan/Design Brief which has only just commenced. However, the Master Plan indicates an allowance of 1500m² for the Operating Theatres in the new Clinical Services Building. This is significantly more than the 809m² which exists in the operating suite at present.
- (c) Again, the number of birthing suites will be finalised as part of the Project Definition Plan process. The Master Plan provides an indicative allocation of 530m² for the Delivery Suite, a much larger space than the 340m² for the existing Delivery Suite.

(2) As a result of a recent meeting of medical staff I am advised that the doctors have established a Committee panel which supersedes their need for a representative on the Steering Committee. The Committee panel will raise clinical concerns directly with the Project Director. Both the Government and the doctors share one aim and that is to upgrade the Cairns Base Hospital to make it a high level health care and teaching facility.

(3) I have already taken action to address the concerns of the doctors. A workshop is to be held in the next few weeks which will provide a forum for medical staff to raise issues of concern and review the recommendations of Functional Plan which was submitted by the Regional Health Authority in July 1994, after an extensive consultation process. The Functional Plan provided an analysis of existing services and levels of service along with projected service requirements of the hospital. The identified services requirements of the Functional Plan were the basis on which the current Master Plan was developed.

This will provide Cairns people with a modern facility—something never planned for under the Liberal and National Parties. In fact, under the Coalition Health Policy \$27 million would have been cut from the Health Budget which would have reduced services to Cairns Base Hospital.

The rebuilding process would be greatly assisted if the Honourable Member desisted from using the rebuilding of the Cairns Base Hospital as a cheap political football. These stunts only serve to damage the reputation of the Hospital in North Queensland.

212. Medical Superintendents; Hospital Staff Specialists

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many medical superintendents were employed at 30 June 1995?
- (2) How many medical superintendent vacancies existed at that date?
- (3) How many hospital staff specialists were employed at 30 June 1995?
- (4) How many staff specialist vacancies existed at that date?

Answer (Mr Beattie):

- (1) 116
- (2) 7
- (3) 454
- (4) 123

The recruitment and retention of Queensland's medical workforce in the public sector is a number one priority for the Government. The shortage of specialist doctors in the public sector is a phenomenon common to all Australian States. The Government will continue to work with the Colleges to address these issues. Queensland is also committed to working closely with the Commonwealth Government to improve Queensland's medical workforce position.

217. Gold Coast Hospital

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to his recent meeting on the Gold Coast with representatives of the Gold Coast branch of the Australian Medical Association where it was again pointed out that the South Coast Region receives only 5 per cent of the total health budget despite having 11 per cent of the State's population—

- (1) When will further resources be provided for the intensive care unit at the Gold Coast Hospital, including a provision for "high dependency" beds?
- (2) When will action be taken to increase paediatric services to overcome a 14-month waiting list?
- (3) When will a dementia ward be provided at the Gold Coast Hospital?
- (4) When will there be an increase in the number of detoxification beds?

Answer (Mr Beattie):

(1) Queensland Health has commenced a statewide review of and long-term planning for intensive care services. Intensivists and nursing staff at the Gold Coast Hospital have been consulted as part of this process. There is a need for Queensland to attract and retain additional senior medical staff and intensive care specialists in the public hospital system and Queensland Health is engaged in a range of strategies to address this issue.

(2) The South Coast Region is unaware of a 14 month waiting list for paediatric services. There are currently 15 cases on the paediatric waiting list. An expansion of paediatric services in the South Coast will be considered when the redevelopment of the paediatric ward commences in the near future.

(3) A review of aged care and rehabilitation services has recently been completed. Funding for the development of a dementia unit at the Gold Coast Hospital will be considered along with other recommended projects.

(4) The South Coast Region is unaware of the need to increase beds in the detoxification unit at Fairhaven, as current figures reflect only a 76% occupancy rate for the unit. In addition, the Region is also providing increased drug and alcohol services within the community.

The Government has a high regard for the work carried out by Health Professionals at the Gold Coast Hospital. This is in sharp contrast to the attitude of Gold Coast based National Party colleagues of the Honourable Member who continually slur and demean the efforts of Health Professionals.

The National Party Election Policy to slash Health spending by \$27 million as part of an efficiency dividend would have resulted in decreased services to the Gold Coast Hospital.

218. Land Acquisition, Redlands Electorate

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

Will he honour promises made prior to the 15 July State Election to acquire the following properties (a) 34 blocks of land at Leo Lindo Drive, Shailer Park plus Rainforest Gully in Stage 20 of Kimberley Forest Park Estate and (b) 200 hectares of land on the eastern side of German Church Road, Mt Cotton, part of Bayview Country Estate on a \$2 for \$1 contribution by the Redlands Shire Council?

Answer (Mr Barton):

Answer not supplied.

226. Community Health Centre, Mulgrave Electorate

Mrs WILSON asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the proposed Mulgrave Community Health Centre to include aged care, family and child health services, drug and alcohol counselling, sexual health services, youth health, mental health and extended services in palliative care, rehabilitation and home medical aide—

- (1) Has the land at Lot 5, Loretta Drive, been purchased and paid for; if so, what is the proposed time line for the project and when will the project commence?
- (2) Will the centre commence operation in eighteen months, as previously proposed?
- (3) Will full and continual consultation occur with the doctors and staff who will support this project so that the services will actually meet the needs of the community?

Answer (Mr Beattie):

(1) The land at Lot 5, Loretta Drive, Woree, has been purchased for the establishment of a Community Health Centre at Woree. The planning process for the new Centre has already commenced, with specifications for Functional Planning and Master Planning currently being finalised.

241. Community Health Centre, Smithfield

Ms WARWICK asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the proposed Community Health Centre to be constructed at Smithfield—

- (1) Has land been purchased?
- (2) When will construction commence?
- (3) When will the centre be operational?

Answer (Mr Beattie):

(1) The purchase of land for the establishment of a Community Health Centre at Smithfield is not yet finalised. However, a specific site has been identified within the Smithfield Town Centre Development Control Plan, and negotiations are nearing completion with Cairns City Council.

(2) This answer depends on the outcome of the above question.

(3) This answer depends on the outcome of the above question.

257. Ipswich Motorway

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

With reference to the increase in the volume of traffic travelling along the Ipswich Motorway—

- (1) Can a safety audit of the motorway be carried out; if so, could this audit review the suitability of current speed limits and whether the provision of safety barriers along dangerous sections of the motorway increase safety?
- (2) Will the completion of the Camira by-pass link and the widening to four lanes of the Logan motorway reduce some of the heavy traffic along the Ipswich motorway?

Answer (Mr Elder):

1. Queensland Transport is presently carrying out a road safety audit of the Motorway. The audit will involve a detailed review of all safety matters on the Motorway including roadside hazards.

At this stage it is expected that the audit will be completed by the end of December 1995.

2. Traffic projections show significant increase in the traffic volumes using the Ipswich Motorway and Logan Motorway. Traffic projections with the "Camira Bypass" completed demonstrate the substantial relief which construction of the proposed new link will provide to the Ipswich Motorway.

261. Gold Coast Rail Link

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

With reference to the Brisbane to Gold Coast Railway—

- (1) On what date will services to Helensvale start?
- (2) When will the timetable for such services be available to the public?
- (3) When will the purchase of the site for the Robina Station be completed?
- (4) Is a corridor from Robina to Coolangatta being considered; if so, where will the stations along this line be located?
- (5) What is the status of discussions between his department and coach/bus operators about an integrated approach to the railway timetable?

Answer (Mr Elder):

1. It is anticipated that the first passenger train will operate on the Gold Coast line to Helensvale early next year.

2. A draft timetable is currently being finalised and it will be available for distribution in January 1995.

3. Queensland Rail (QR) and Robina Land Corporation (RLC) have concluded a draft agreement on the terms and conditions for the acquisition of all land necessary for current works.

It is expected that an agreement covering the acquisition of the site for Robina station and any other RLC land necessary for the extension of the

railway south of Robina station will be finalised by the end of 1995.

4. As part of the government's pre-election commitments it was announced that planning for the extension of the Gold Coast rail from Robina to Coolangatta would be initiated.

A major component of this proposal is the conduct of an impact assessment study which will consider feasible corridor alternatives and identify optimum rail/road/air transport relationships and linkages particularly around the critical areas of the Coolangatta airport and the NSW/Queensland border.

5. Negotiations have taken place with Surfside Bus Company and Coachtrans. An agreement has been reached with Surfside to meet every train at Helensvale.

Coachtrans will meet all trains from Ormeau and Coomera stations.

Both these agreements will be regularly reviewed.

264. Kroombit Tops

Mrs McCAULEY asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

With reference to a tender for some 12km of fencing on Kroombit Tops, which closed on 28 September, with the work to be completed by March 1996, with the aim of keeping 'brumbies and scrubbers' from a certain frog habitat—

- (1) How much money is involved in this tender?
- (2) As it involves an environmental matter, why is the funding coming from Department of Primary Industries' sources and not his department?

Answer (Mr Barton):

(1) The public tender for fencing was let by the Department of Primary Industries Resource Management Business Group in their capacity as managers of Kroombit State Forest. The Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH) was not privy to the tender process nor were Departmental representatives present at the public opening of the tender.

(2) The funding is not coming from the Department of Primary Industries (DPI), but rather from a Drought Research and Feral Pest grant under the Drought Landcare Program which is administered by the Commonwealth Department of Environment, Sport and Territories.

This grant was allocated to the DPI as managers of the Kroombit State Forest, for the exclusion and subsequent mustering of stock; particularly 'brumbies and scrubbers', from one of the two scientific areas on the State Forest. The creek system (including vulnerable frog habitat) within this scientific area is suffering from increased grazing pressure due to the ongoing drought conditions.

Irrespective of the grant, the State Forest, including the scientific areas, are managed by the DPI. Sound environmental management is an ultimate responsibility for everyone, whether the DPI, Department of Minerals and Energy, major

corporations or private individuals. If environmental matters were left solely to the DEH, achievements could only be limited. Rather, DEH seeks to assist other agencies and individuals to take better account of environmental needs. I and my Department are very pleased with the actions of the DPI on this and other matters.

265. Special Needs Students

Mr FITZGERALD asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) Prior to the integration of special needs children into the school community, what steps are taken to determine (a) whether this course of action will benefit a particular child and (b) the effect on the other children in the class?
- (2) On an individual child basis, how are the individual child's needs assessed?
- (3) Is each individual child's care needs fully met in the classroom situation; if so, how?
- (4) Is each individual case reviewed on a regular basis?

Answer (Mr Hamill):

1. An Ascertainment Process is used to determine the educational support needs arising from the disability of the individual student and the level of specialist teaching required. This process requires consultation with parents and relevant educational personnel and the school community to gather information about the educational needs of the student and the capacity of the school to provide to those needs.

Support for educational programs for most students with disabilities can be, and are provided, within the school, but for some students with disabilities, additional and higher levels of support may be necessary. This additional support may come from sources outside the school or through transfer of students to another program.

When this level of support is required an external statewide Ascertainment representative is included in the committee to determine the extent of the additional support and provide consistent statewide advice about a student's current and recommended levels of support. Consequently students in Brisbane ascertained at the highest level of educational need (i.e. level 6) will have comparable needs as a student with the same disability in Cairns or Mt Isa.

The principal is then responsible for arranging the student's entry into a program at the relevant local school, special school, special education unit or another approved location. Program support may include school-based personnel at the local school, advisory visiting teacher personnel, or specialist teachers at the local school, the special school, the special education unit, the special education developmental unit or another approved location.

The principal is responsible for instigating the review of the ascertained support level. This must occur every three years or at critical educational transitions (i.e. prior to the student entering early intervention programs, year one, mid primary or equivalent age appropriate programs, entry to secondary school or

equivalent age appropriate programs). Alternatively, if necessary, a review may be instigated at an earlier stage at the request of parents/caregivers or the school.

Parents/caregivers may accept or reject support level recommendations and may appeal to the Executive Director of the region.

2. For students with high support needs the Individual Education Plan process is used to determine each student's educational needs. Class teachers, parents, specialist teachers, therapists and other relevant support personnel are involved in all phases of the IEP process.

The process involves 5 phases:

information gathering and consultation about the educational needs of the student;

discussion at a meeting to decide on the educational priorities for the student;

development of a statement of the prioritised goals agreed to by both educational personnel and parents;

development of detailed educational programs and assessment of achieved goals;

ongoing review / evaluation of the Individual Education Plan. The last phase occurs every 6 months and initiates the next cycle of the IEP process.

3. The Individual Education Plan process and the Ascertainment process are designed to determine the student's educational needs and the support requirements necessary to meet these needs.

4. The ascertained level of each student must be reviewed every three years or earlier if required. The Individual Educational Plan of each student is reviewed every 6 months.

267. Nursing Positions

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the Goss Government's election promise of 800 new nursing positions over three years—

- (1) How many new positions will be provided in 1995-96?
- (2) What is the location of these positions?
- (3) What is the timetable of appointment of this year's positions?
- (4) What is the amount of funding allocated to each region for these positions?
- (5) What is the process of application by service units for these positions?

Answer (Mr Beattie):

This commitment to nurses is in sharp contrast to the attitude of the Nationals who made little or no mention of nurses in their one four page document. This continues the tradition when the Nationals were in Government—of keeping Queensland nurses well below the national average as the lowest paid in the country with no career path structure.

(1) A systemic approach to the provision of the 800 additional positions is being used with Regional Directors currently in the process of:

- (i) formally confirming the baseline number of nursing staff (upon which growth in nursing numbers will be measured); and
- (ii) estimating the increase in numbers of positions for 1995-96 for service provision areas.

(2) This information is due to be received in Central Office this year. Until that time, no definitive details on the location of these positions can be provided.

(3) After the final determination of position locations within the Regions, recruitment and selection into the positions will occur.

(4) Until Regional numbers are determined, funding allocations by Region are not available.

(5) No process of application by service units for these numbers exists or is proposed. The proposed numbers relate directly to activity as a direct result of growth. Currently, Regional Directors, as part of the systemic approach to the provision of the 800 additional positions, are determining within their respective Regions, the estimated increase in numbers of positions for 1995-96 for the various service provision areas.

271. Public Dental Health Program

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to problems being experienced by the public dental health program on the Sunshine Coast—

- (1) How many dentist positions remain unfilled in (a) Queensland and (b) the Sunshine Coast region?
- (2) Is Nambour being included in the scheme to provide funding for both emergency dental and emergency denture work; if not, why not?
- (3) Why do patients have to seek an authority number from regional office to get emergency work done by a private dentist?
- (4) What provision exists for dentists to be called in to provide assistance in the case of accidents involving dental damage both in Queensland generally and on the Sunshine Coast?

Answer (Mr Beattie):

(1)(a) Queensland Health is in the process of finalising a restructuring of oral health services along integrated team lines. As such the true position as to vacancies for public dentist positions in Queensland will not be known until this process is complete.

(b) There are 3 full time dentist vacancies and 1 part time vacancy in the Sunshine Coast Region at Caloundra, Nambour and Noosa.

Unfilled positions are being advertised/readvertised in the next few weeks. The Region is confident of filling any vacant positions, particularly as new graduates will come onto the job market in the next month.

(2) All private dentists in the Sunshine Coast Region, including Nambour, were invited to join an outsourcing scheme to provide Emergency Dental Services for public sector patients. Twenty-four dentists across the Region have signed an Agreement. However, no private dentists in the Nambour area have signed an Agreement, although some may still be contemplating participating in the scheme. In the interim, available funds are being used at Nambour to provide programmed overtime for public sector staff and the employment on contract of a private practitioner to work within the facility. Perhaps the Honourable Member could devote some energy to encouraging private dentists in Nambour onto the scene.

(3) It is not necessary for patients to seek an authority number from Regional Office to access outsourced Emergency Dental Care. Authorisation is obtained from the local public dental clinics for those areas where outsourcing is occurring. This is to ensure audit requirements are met in relation to accountability for funds and to prevent abuse or fraud of the system.

(4) Within the Queensland Public Hospital system after hours emergency cases have access to emergency dental care upon presentation and assessment at Accident and Emergency Departments.

With respect to the Sunshine Coast Region in particular, Base Dental Clinics are situated in hospital grounds at all major sites (Redcliffe, Caboolture, Caloundra, Nambour, Gympie). Ready accessibility to dentists is available for accident cases involving oral trauma during normal hours. Most of these clinics now also operate during evenings as well.

Accidents involving significant dental trauma outside these times are referred to Brisbane from the Southern Sector (Redcliffe and Caboolture) and a call-in service of public sector dentists operates at Caloundra and Nambour for such emergencies.

Under Labor the Oral Health program in Queensland has gone forward. Funding for public dental services has increased from \$34.5 million in 1989 / 90 to \$75 million in 1995 / 96.

Oral Health services are now managed with a client outcome focus—something the system lacked prior to 1989.

276. Greenvale-Townsville Rail Link

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

With reference to the new development currently taking place at Greenvale to operate as a viable tourist centre and two new mines to come on line in 1996 along with the cartage of many export cattle from the area—

Will he reconsider the decision to close and remove the railway line from Greenvale to Townsville?

Answer (Mr Elder):

Approximately 20kms of rail has been removed from the Greenvale end of the branch line to replace rail on the main line between Mt Isa and Townsville.

All rail on the Greenvale line is required for rerailling of sections of the Mt Isa line in order to meet the requirements of increased mineral traffic from the Cloncurry/Mt Isa region.

The rail must be removed shortly, as timber sleepers on the Greenvale line have now deteriorated to the point where the train used to collect the disused rail will soon not be able to traverse this line.

There are no known commercial rail traffics available along the Greenvale line, in the foreseeable future. Any cattle required to be moved by rail can be taken to Charters Towers for loading via the development road.

However, while the track work is being removed, the rail corridor will be preserved for future development should any viable project eventuate.

277. Transit Australia

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

With reference to the entry of Transit Australia into the passenger bus service business in many of Queensland's larger cities—

- (1) With respect to new bus services promised in Queensland Government advertisements, how many such services are now being delivered by Transit Australia?
- (2) How many bus licences has Transit Australia contracted to take over?
- (3) How many of the licence contracts in (2) above have actually been completed and paid for?
- (4) Has a senior Government officer threatened to stop goodwill payments to existing licence holders who did not co-operate with Transit Australia takeover delays; if so, why?
- (5) What is the reason for such delays?

Answer (Mr Elder):

(1) As of today's date, Transit Australia are involved in four (4) commercial service contract areas. The relevant information in relation to these service areas was supplied to you previously in Question 208 (9—18 October 1995).

(2) Transit Australia has not contracted to take over any bus licenses.

When a service contract is entered into for the provision of scheduled passenger services in a declared service contract area, those parts of any existing licenses that relate to services inside the declared contract area (including those licenses held by the contract holder) are terminated under the provisions of the *Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994*.

It is a condition of all the commercial service contracts held by Transit Australia Pty Ltd that they pay compensation to any existing operators who were unsuccessful in being awarded a contract.

In many instances, the issue of compensation has not arisen because the existing operators have chosen to continue to operate their businesses as sub-contractors to Transit Australia.

(3) There is no requirement for my Department to keep records of the private transactions that occur between private enterprise bus operators.

However, enquiries by my Department to Transit Australia have resulted in the following advice from that company.

Transit Australia has either bought the relevant licenses from, or paid out satisfactory compensation to, the following operators in the respective areas:

Townsville

- Campbells Coaches
- Hermit Park Bus Service

Cairns

- Northern Beaches Bus Service (part of Marlin Coast Consortium—the contract holder)
- West Cairns Bus Service (contract exists for full settlement during November 1995)
- Southern Cross Bus Service

Ipswich

- Pioneer Bus Service
- Sundowner City Bus (an agreed payment schedule is currently in place)

Sunshine Coast

- Tewantin Bus Service (part of Sunshine Transit—the contract holder)

Compensation is not an issue for the following operators who continue to operate their businesses as sub-contractors to Transit Australia (see answer 2):

- Nambour Bus Service
- Didillibah Bus Service
- North Coast Shuttle

The government is aware that compensation negotiations are progressing between Transit Australia and Amberley—Rosewood Bus Co Pty Ltd. At this stage neither party has exercised the right to refer the matter to arbitration.

The government is also aware that arbitration, pursuant to the *Commercial Arbitration Act (1990)*, is proceeding between Transit Australia and the following operators:

- Cairns Trans
- Sunshine Coast Coaches
- Coolum Coaches

(4) No senior Government officer has threatened to stop goodwill payments to existing license holders.

In any event, the existing operators who have been unsuccessful in being awarded a contract in all the areas serviced by Transit Australia under a commercial service contract have an entitlement to compensation under the provisions of the *Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994*. If they are unsatisfied with the amount of compensation they have the opportunity to have the matter heard independently by arbitration, pursuant to the provisions of the *Commercial Arbitration Act (1990)*.

(5) Any delays in respect of compensation arise from the negotiations between the operators themselves.

As a general rule, either party involved in a compensation dispute can refer the matter to arbitration as soon as there is a breakdown in negotiations.

281. South Coast Motorway

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

Is Queensland Transport or any other 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 Albert 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):

At the owner's request Queensland Transport reopened negotiations for the fee simple acquisition of properties that were under way prior to the suspension of negotiations in August while the Government reviewed the decision to construct the South Coast Motorway.

Queensland Transport has also given permission to a landowner to construct an overbridge over the Beenleigh-Robina Rail line and the land acquired for the South Coast Motorway. The landowner owns the properties either side of the proposed motorway and railway line and needs the bridge for interconnectivity between his developments.

287. Renal Dialysis Service

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the review currently being conducted for renal services in Bundaberg and the Wide Bay region—

- (1) Will he confirm whether or not the renal dialysis service is to be made available to public patients in Bundaberg?
- (2) What is the estimated cost of providing a renal dialysis service to Bundaberg?
- (3) Comparatively, what is the cost involved to outsource this service through the private sector to public patients?
- (4) Has consideration been given to providing this facility to Hervey Bay or Maryborough instead of Bundaberg; if so, on what basis?

Answer (Mr Beattie):

(1) I confirm that a renal dialysis service is to be opened at the Bundaberg Hospital early next year. I have already announced on Friday 10 November, 1995 that the Government will spend \$475,000 on providing the Bundaberg area with a renal unit. Planning and recruitment are already under way. The service will initially enable 8 patients to be treated locally. The expansion of such services was never contemplated for the people of Bundaberg when the Nationals were in power.

(2) Bundaberg Hospital will be paid the standard price of \$258 per treatment similar to that applying to all other hospitals providing dialysis services. Treating 8 patients per week, the annual payment is estimated to be \$321,984. In addition to \$475,000 capital works funding, the Government will provide \$425,000 recurrent funds to run the service and an initial \$22,000 to help with the recruitment and training of staff.

Of the \$475,000 capital costs to establish a renal service at Bundaberg Hospital — \$120,000 is for the purchase of 4 dialysis machines.

(3) Depending on the type of dialysis machine purchased, the private sector proposal was in the range of \$270 to \$285 per treatment. On an equivalent number of patients, the annual cost would be in the range of \$336,960 to \$355,680 per annum. These costs are higher than the public hospital costs by between \$14,976 and \$33,696 per annum. The savings gained at Bundaberg Hospital will fully offset the cost of the machines by the end of their useful life span.

(4) A five chair renal unit has been included in the new Hervey Bay Hospital, currently under construction and due for opening by March 1997. This unit will provide a service to patients from the local area, including Maryborough. The two renal units at Bundaberg and Hervey Bay Hospitals will be able to share resources and expertise to the benefit of all renal patients in the Wide Bay area.

This initiative demonstrates the Government's commitment to taking health services out to where people live.

Under the centralised system proposed by the Opposition during the Election, specialist services would revert back to pre-1989 conditions whereby people needing specialist services had to travel to Brisbane at enormous cost—both financial and emotional.

Based on their track record, I have no doubt that under a National Party Government, the people of Bundaberg will lose this service because the Nationals are the experts when it comes to pulling the money out of public health services and our Hospitals to balance recurrent expenditure.

289. South Coast Motorway

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

With reference to the fact that Queensland Transport retains large tracts of land south of the Logan River in the route of the proposed South Coast motorway and has bought 27 extra properties in the Rochedale area in the path of that motorway in the last three months and continues to quickly purchase properties in Rochedale—

Is it Queensland Transport's intention to follow the SEQ 2001 Report recommendations by proceeding with motorway extensions north of the Logan River, both east of Daisy Hill into Rochedale and west of Daisy Hill through the Woodridge electorate and Logan and Waterford electorates (which Government

Members loudly claimed on 19 October 1995 will be favoured by creation of the new Meadowbrook University to soften up Logan and Waterford voters) onto the Logan motorway?

Answer (Mr Elder):

On 13 September 1995, concerning the South Coast Motorway proposal, I announced that I was prepared to rule out completely a road through the koala habitat.

At that time some properties had been acquired by agreement with owners, and negotiations on other properties were taking place at the request of owners. Following the decision not to proceed with the Motorway these owners were able to continue with negotiations or to withdraw, as they wished. Disposal of these acquired properties will occur over time.

On 13 September 1995, I also announced the establishment of a community consultative committee to look at further planning for infrastructure needs in South-East Queensland. The committee will work in tandem with the development of the Government's Integrated Regional Transport Plan.

292. Demerit Points for Drivers of Defective Vehicles

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

- (1) When and why was the introduction of drivers licence demerit points for drivers of vehicles with minor defects introduced?
- (2) Why are the fines imposed on drivers/owners of motor vehicles with minor defects so high, thus causing financial hardship and possible prevention of the necessary repairs being undertaken?

Answer (Mr Elder):

1. Demerit points for this offence under the *Traffic Regulation 1962* were introduced on 19 January 1970 with other provisions relating to the issue of provisional driver's licences and management of young driver performance. The demerit points scheme was subsequently extended to all road users. The specific offence relates to the use of a defective vehicle on a road and is aimed at deterring the use of defective vehicles.

2. An "on the spot" fine for the use of a defective vehicle on a road was introduced as part of the overall scheme in 1965 to allow the Police Service to issue "on the spot" infringement notices for Traffic offences. The penalty in 1965 was £3/- (\$6.00).

Members may recall that the Report of the Travelsafe Committee into the safety and mechanical condition of motor vehicles (Report No. 2, November 1990) recommended an increase in the level of the monetary penalty to reflect the need to deter offenders from driving unroadworthy or defective vehicles and cover the cost of administering the system. The penalties for driving defective motor vehicles (unroadworthy—minor defect) and unroadworthy vehicles at that time were \$15.00 for

either offence with 1 demerit point for a minor defect and 3 demerit points for an unroadworthy vehicle.

As a result of the Travelsafe recommendation an increase in the penalties was approved by Executive Council on 10 December 1992. The penalties was increased to \$60.00 for driving a vehicle which is unroadworthy—minor defect and \$120.00 for driving a vehicle which is unroadworthy. The demerit points of 1 and 3 for the respective offences were not altered.

These penalties have not been altered since 1992.

Road Safety concerns about unroadworthy vehicles are an important issue for the community. The system now in place for random roadside inspections was introduced following the Travelsafe report and is designed to encourage motorists to keep their vehicles in reasonable and safe condition all year round rather than once a year as might occur where annual inspection systems are in place.

The program does not impose any financial burden on motorists who keep their vehicles in safe condition in the interests of their own families and other road users.

302. Southport-Burleigh Road

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

With reference to the Southport-Burleigh Road connection to the Pacific Highway and to the recent "Roads Implementation Program" document, page 65, item 10.4.1 (Pacific Highway Acceleration)—

Will he now provide more specific information on commencement and completion dates for construction of the missing link to the Southport-Burleigh Road between Burleigh Connection Road and the Pacific Highway?

Answer (Mr Elder):

The Queensland Government expects to award a major design and construct contract in November 1995 to duplicate the Pacific Highway between Reedy Creek and Tugun, and extend the Southport-Burleigh Road from the Burleigh Connection Road to the Pacific Highway.

Construction works on the project, including the extension of the Southport-Burleigh Road, will start in early 1996 and be completed by May 1997.

310. North Coast Rail Line, Toilets on Trains

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

- (1) Has any study been undertaken to ascertain the need for toilets on trains on the North Coast line to Nambour and beyond; if so, what were the recommendations?
- (2) If not, will he initiate a study?

Answer (Mr Elder):

1. No such study on the need for toilets on trains to Nambour has been undertaken.

2. The need for such a study is considered unnecessary.

The Intercity Express (ICE) rollingstock that is used for some of the north coast services has toilets.

However, some existing services utilise suburban EMU or SMU rollingstock which do not have toilets. In such cases, a comfort stop is scheduled at Caboolture.

With the release of additional ICE carriages from QR's Traveltrain division following the introduction of the TiltTrain in 1998, it is expected that all services to Nambour or Gympie will have toilet facilities on board. In addition, these toilet facilities will be accessible by all passengers including the disabled.

315. Tamborine-Oxenford Road

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

With reference to the upgrading of the Tamborine/Oxenford Road—

- (1) What will be the commencement date and the anticipated completion date?
- (2) What is the full extent of property resumptions and valuations on each acquisition necessary to effect this upgrade?

Answer (Mr Elder):

1. Between July and September 1995, Queensland Transport upgraded two sections of the Tamborine Road of a 8.0 metre wide bitumen seal standard. The two sections total 2.0 kilometres in length and are located between Kriedmans Road and Elevation Drive.

2. Queensland Transport did require additional land for this project

319. Mobile Phones

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

With reference to the increase in the sale of car phones and portable phones during the past two years in Queensland—

- (1) Is there a method to establish whether carphones or portable phones were in use at the time vehicles were involved in serious accidents; if so, will he detail those results?
- (2) If not, will he give consideration to establishing a process whereby these figures could be obtained?

Answer (Mr Elder):

The Queensland Government collects a comprehensive set of information about each road traffic accident that is reported to the police. A Traffic Incident Report is completed by the attending police officer and the information is entered on to the Police Traffic Incident Reporting System. This data is transferred to a Road Crash Data Base in Queensland Transport where each crash is examined, the information verified and additional data about the crash added.

At the current time, if the police feel that use of a mobile phone contributed to a road accident, the driver can be charged with 'driving without due care and attention'. While specific information on carphones is not collected on the Traffic Incident Report at the moment, the Queensland Government has been aware of the increase in the use of carphones and portable telephones by motorists. Earlier this year, the Government initiated action to ensure that information relating to communication devices will be collected in the future. A revised version of the Traffic Incident Report form, including provision for the information, has already been successfully trialled by Queensland existing form early in 1996.

It should be noted that, to date, there is no evidence that the use of telephones while driving represents a particular crash risk. While the research evidence shows that activities such as dialling a number and conducting a conversation do affect a person's driving, so also do things like tuning a radio or changing a music cassette.

The new Traffic Incident Report form will mean that information relating to the involvement of devices such as carphones in road accidents in Queensland will be available from 1996 on. Queensland Transport will monitor the data and, from 1996, will be in a position to provide information on the involvement of vehicles with telephones in road crashes.

321. Gold Coast Highway Upgrade

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

With reference to the Government's decision to upgrade the Gold Coast Highway to six lanes, and the urgent need for this project to be fast-tracked—

When will work on this upgrade commence, and when will the project South of Beenleigh to Southport be completed?

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 the communities living close to the highway. Queensland Transport will be releasing details of the upgrading plan by December 1995.

322. Fraser Island

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

With reference to the recent visit by him to Fraser Island when various matters of concern were raised in relation to the airstrip at Orchid Beach—

- (1) Will he further consider the reopening of the airstrip at Orchid Beach on Fraser Island?
- (2) Will he confirm what actions or reviews, if any, are proposed to be taken by his department in

relation to the closure of roads, etc. in the northern section of Fraser Island?

Answer (Mr Barton):

Answer not supplied.

325. Teacher Numbers, Mirani Electorate

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the continual problems of schools within the Mirani Electorate on a daily basis in obtaining relief and replacement staff (for example—one grade four class at Andergrove State School has had 22 relief teachers so far in 1995) and as this intolerable situation is not conducive to the development and education of our students—

- (1) Is he aware of the situation?
- (2) What measures are available to the Education Department to ensure continuity of teacher replacement?

Answer (Mr Hamill):

(1) With reference Mr Malone's claims and with regard to the situation at Andergrove State School, it is regrettable that the Member for Mirani has become a stranger to the truth and his wild exaggerations and departure from fact reflect poorly upon him, however it is of concern to me that a number of schools have had problems getting relief over the last 12 months. This is a result of the increased employment prospect for teachers and the Goss Government's commitment to increasing the number of teachers employed by the Department of Education.

(2) The Goss Government recognises that the provision of relief teachers for schools is an important and key element in providing a stable and consistent learning environment for students, that is why Goss Government has delivered on our election commitment to provide 90 permanent relief teachers across the State.

The Department of Education at all times makes every effort it can to ensure that relief teachers are provided to schools in such a way as to ensure continuity of teachers at classes within any one school. Maintenance of continuity of classroom learning is accomplished by:

- having classroom programs available to relief teachers
- having permanent relief teachers available where there is a limited number of trained teachers for relief duties
- having registers of relief teachers available to all schools in an area
- having processes to advise relief teachers of school procedures
- using temporary employment of one relief teacher when extended periods of absence are known
- principals attempting to use the same relief teachers where possible.

326. Fisherman Islands-Cleveland Railway Line

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

With reference to the Fisherman Islands/Cleveland Railway line through the Greenslopes Electorate—

Will he provide information describing in detail any plans and initiatives to reduce the railway noise level due to goods trains using the line at night, blowing their whistles which disturbs the sleep of residents?

Answer (Mr Elder):

The \$95m Standard Gauge Rail link to Fisherman Islands is part of the Commonwealth and State Government initiatives to maximise rail freight transport as part of the national strategy of ecologically sustainable development.

The rail link is targeted at providing direct access to the Port of Brisbane at Fisherman Island to the national standard gauge rail network and maximising use of the rail network for freight traffic.

The rail link will be a major boost to the economic development of the South East Queensland region and will help Queensland exporters compete on the world markets. The new Brisbane Multimodal Terminal at Fisherman Islands opened in November 1994 and has already been a major boost to the attraction of rail for container movements throughout Queensland.

The Standard Gauge Link proposal was a catalyst for Queensland Rail to address rail noise issues and studies were initiated to develop rail noise guidelines for rail corridors and terminals.

The corridor rail noise guidelines were utilised to address existing and future rail noise issues along the standard gauge link between Yeerongpilly and Fisherman Islands, and these were incorporated in the Impact Assessment Study and subsequent detailed noise investigation along the corridor.

The detailed noise study, by specialist consultant Richard Heggie and Associates, identified 7km of the route where rail noise is currently in excess of the guidelines. Further design of noise amelioration measures in these areas, including construction of a trial noise barrier at Dutton Park, identified that solid barriers ranging in height from 3.5 metres up to 8 metres, would be needed to reduce current rail noise in these locations to an acceptable level for residences along the route.

The initial capital cost of these barriers is estimated at \$7.5 million, with on-going maintenance costs.

The erection of noise barriers as recommended would have a major impact on local communities, particularly as regards visual amenity, loss of views, shading, loss of breezes, likelihood of graffiti attacks and the like.

The proposed barrier solution is being referred to Brisbane City Council for review of the impact from a town planning/community amenity perception before proceeding with construction of any barrier.

Alternative options to reduce the noise at the source are also being examined by Queensland Rail. These include electrification and the introduction of new generation quieter diesel locomotives, which have the potential to significantly reduce noise levels.

Other measures to reduce noise at the source are being implemented and this has included replacement of old timber bridges along the route,

elimination of rail joints and installation of special swing nose crossings.

National Rail Corporation is also in the process of acquiring new generation diesel locomotives which would operate the Standard Gauge trains to Fisherman Islands.

Queensland Rail has a community obligation to provide protection at level crossings which offers both vehicular and pedestrian traffic a safe method of passage across railway tracks. Sounding of the locomotive whistle or klaxon on the approach to level crossings is an integral part of the safety process.

However, given the known concerns of the community, instructions have been issued reminding drivers of the necessity to restrict the use of locomotive klaxons in residential areas to a minimum level consistent with safety to reduce noise intrusion.

338. Glenala State High School; School Uniform Vouchers

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the merger of the Inala and Richlands State High School campuses with the Glenala State High School campus and to ensure the smooth transition to the new campus—

Will he consider making the issue of the \$50 uniform voucher for 1996 to parents of students attending the Glenala High School a one-off payment made out to the Glenala State High School Parents and Citizens Association?

Answer (Mr Hamill):

On 22 November 1995 I wrote to parents and guardians advising that they would be paid the Queensland government's Back to School Uniform Allowance of \$50 per school child for students in Years 1 to 12 in Queensland State and non-State Schools in 1996.

The first round of cheques will be mailed to parents and guardians of students currently in Years 1 to 9 at the address shown on the school's records as at 30 November 1995. These cheques will be mailed in January, before the beginning of the school year.

Students who will be in Years 1, 11 and 12 in 1996 will receive their cheques in the second round of payments during March 1996.

The payment of this assistance in respect of students enrolled at Glenala State High will be to parents and guardians as will be the case for all other Queensland families.

343. Standard Gauge Rail Link

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

- (1) Is he aware of the proposal by a group in Northern NSW to re-open the Armidale to Wallangarra section of railway track and upgrade the line from Wallangarra to Brisbane to standard gauge to create an inland standard

gauge rail link utilising largely existing infrastructure?

- (2) Have any approaches been made to Queensland Rail to seek their support for this proposal?
- (3) Does he agree that there needs to be an inland standard gauge rail link and that this proposal has merit?

Answer (Mr Elder):

(1) I am aware of a proposal being advocated by a group in northern NSW to re-open the Armidale to Wallangarra section of railway and to upgrade the line from Wallangarra to Brisbane to create an inland standard gauge link.

(2) Queensland Rail has been approached by several organisations seeking to discuss and obtain support for an inland standard gauge railway which could ultimately provide a direct link between Melbourne and Brisbane. Several options for such a link have been proposed however Queensland Rail advises that it does not regard the route via Armidale and Wallangarra as viable, either now or in the foreseeable future.

As previously advised to the House by my colleague, the former Minister for Transport in response to Question No 110 which was placed on notice on 28 March 1995, the inland standard gauge railway proposal via Moree is now the subject of a preliminary feasibility study being undertaken by the Bureau of Transport and Communications Economics (BTCE) in Canberra. I understand that Queensland Rail has provided significant input into this study and that its completion is not too far distant.

(3) The Government's view is that the inland rail route is a good example of potential Nation Building infrastructure which may well prove to have national as well as regional and local benefits. However, a project of such magnitude could only eventuate after a fully detailed feasibility study and by way of an agreement between the Commonwealth and affected States, including Queensland. It would also require substantial funding from the Commonwealth or from other sources.

As such, the Government will await with interest release of a report covering the BTCE's current study and will assess its implications at that time.

352. Roadworks, Gympie

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

With reference to increased traffic on the Bruce Highway and the construction of the Yandina By-Pass section—

- (1) When will construction begin on the junction of Tandur Road and the Bruce Highway, south of Gympie?
- (2) When will construction begin on the Gunalda Range Section of Bruce Highway between Gympie and Maryborough?
- (3) When will passing lanes be constructed on the Bruce Highway just north of Gympie?

Answer (Mr Elder):

1. The intersection of Tandur Road with the Bruce Highway will be upgraded as part of the \$3.8M National Highway Project for the Matilda and Jackass Creek Sections. Tenders will be invited in January 1996, works are expected to be completed before December 1996. The works will also involve the widening and upgrading of approximately 4.0km of road to improve over all traffic safety. \$1.046M is allocated for expenditure in 1995/96 financial year.

2. The upgrading of the Gunalda Range has not been approved as a project for construction, by the Federal Department of Transport (FDoT). A submission to include the project on the National Highway works program will be made following the completion of a concept planning study, including community consultation and an environmental impact assessment, by the end of 1996.

3. Construction of passing lanes north of Gympie on the Bruce Highway is not on the five year National Highway Program. While Queensland Transport is aware of the need and has undertaken some preliminary planning, it has not been able to programme the construction of passing lanes within present Federal allocations.

353. Teachers' Travel Allowance

Mrs McCAULEY asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the allowance paid to teachers who relieve in rural areas, ie 52.9 cents/km for travel in their own vehicles up to 8,000km and to the fact that once they have travelled more than 8,000 km in their duties, the rate is halved, although the relieving teacher is still expected to use their own car—

- (1) Does he agree that this system is inequitable and penalises teachers who are providing a service to his department?
- (2) What action can he take to address this senseless situation?

Answer (Mr Hamill):

The system is not inequitable. Reduced allowances are paid after the first 8 000 kms travelled, to all officers of the State public service, not only to teachers. Also, reduced allowances are paid in every geographical location—not only in rural areas.

It is not considered that this system for the payment of kilometric allowance penalises teachers. However, as the rates currently used have not been reviewed since 1993, it would not be inappropriate to reconsider them when the Determinations are not reviewed.

However, teachers who believe that kilometric allowances currently paid are inadequate should set out details of their reasons in writing to the Department. All relevant costs incurred and receipts relating to these should be included.

360. Harbours

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

Is it the Government's intention to hand over responsibility for harbours like Mooloolaba to local government; if so, has the Government had discussions with the relevant shires and what has been their response to the proposal?

Answer (Mr Elder):

Queensland has fourteen (14) designated Crown boat harbours which provide safe anchorage for recreational and commercial vessels.

Currently:

- five (5) are managed by Queensland Transport in particular Mooloolaba, Snapper Creek, Urangan, Rosslyn Bay and Bowen;
- seven (7) are managed by Port Authorities in particular Manly, Cabbage Tree Creek and Scarborough by Port of Brisbane Corporation, Burnett Heads by Bundaberg Port Authority, Auckland Inlet by Gladstone Port Authority, Mackay by Mackay Port Authority, Ross Creek by Townsville Port Authority; and
- two (2) are managed by the relevant Local Governments in particular Johnstone River by Johnstone Shire and Port Douglas by Douglas Shire.

On 18 April 1995, Cabinet approved:

- in principle, the devolution of the Crown boat harbours to local management (local authorities or port authorities); and
- the commencement of negotiations regarding boat harbours currently managed by Queensland Transport.

Negotiation packages have been presented to Hervey Bay City Council regarding Urangan and Cooloola Shire Council regarding Snapper Creek. Both shires have responded with a series of issues which are currently being examined by Queensland Transport.

In addition, the Port of Brisbane Corporation has made a submission under the corporatisation charters to continue to manage Manly, Scarborough and Cabbage Tree Creek boat harbours and take over the management of Mooloolaba Boat Harbour. It is envisaged that, subject to the review of the Port of Brisbane Corporation's submission, discussions regarding Mooloolaba Boat Harbour will occur prior to Christmas 1995.

Negotiations with local authorities regarding Rosslyn Bay and Bowen boat harbours will be held in the New Year.

375. Barga Waste Water Treatment Plant

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

With reference to the Environment and Heritage Department's rejection of the Burnett Shire Council's Strategy Report on sewerage treatment and effluent disposal requirements for Barga Wastewater Treatment Plant (25 July 1994)—

- (1) Why was it rejected by his department after almost 4 years of development involving the Departments of Environment and Heritage, Primary Industries and Lands?

- (2) What are the department's treatment level requirements for water from sewerage to be injected into the Woongarra aquifer?
- (3) What are the department's treatment level requirements to allow the water to (a) be released into the irrigation channels and/or (b) into the Burnett River?
- (4) If relative treatment requirements are met would the department approve of the disposal into any of the abovementioned possible outlets?

Answer (Mr Barton):

(1) The Bargara STP presently disposes of effluent to the Woongarra Marine Park and the undesirability of continuing and increasing this discharge has catalysed investigation of alternative effluent disposal options. The long term potential for impacts on the breeding of loggerhead turtles in this area is a major concern. As yet no acceptable alternatives for effluent disposal have been established thereby restricting the potential for augmentation of the Bargara STP.

(2) Aquifer injection of treated effluent is unacceptable to Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH) as there is not enough information on the long term implications of this.

(3a) Discharging to the Department of Primary Industries Water Resources (DPI.WR) irrigation channel is an option for water reuse yet to receive full consideration by DPI: that agency does not have an existing policy on such discharge to open irrigation channels. Some concern raised in relation to the concept include potential for the irrigation channels to overflow in wet weather, and thereby discharge to the Woongarra Marine Park, and concern regarding health risks, to children and generally, of such effluent in open channels. Any such discharge from the STP would need to meet appropriate tertiary treatment standards for marine discharges as well as any standards determined under a DPI.WR policy.

(3b) The Bargara STP presently disposes of effluent to the Burnett River and thereby to the Woongarra Marine Park. Continuing and increasing this discharge at the present level of treatment is undesirable. In the short term the discharge will need to meet appropriate tertiary treatment standards. Disposal to the marine park is not viable in the long term.

(4) The 'Three R's of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle for sound environmental management apply in this case. Reuse to the greatest possible extent is necessarily the first priority for disposal of sewerage effluent, and is entirely logical in a major irrigated sugar cane production region such as around Bundaberg. Such schemes may require supplementary disposal mechanisms during periods of sustained wet weather. Whether a reuse option including addition to the DPI.WR irrigation channel is the optimum methodology has first to be considered by the DPI. Given that it is an open channel, it may require higher standards of treatment than some other means of irrigation distribution.

376. Gold Coast Rail Link

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

With reference to the commencement of rail services to Helensvale in the immediate future—

Will he provide details of (a) timetabling and fare scheduling for all rail services to operate, (b) integrated fare schedules and intermodal services offered and the operator providing same and (c) consultation with all service operators for Ormeau, Coomera, Helensvale intermodal services?

Answer (Mr Elder):

(a) In response to the Honourable members questions regarding the commencement of rail services to Helensvale in the immediate future, draft timetables have been formulated by Queensland Rail with services operating half-hourly, commencing at approximately 5.30am and running to approximately 11.30pm, seven days a week. A single adult fare from Brisbane Central to Helensvale will be \$7.00 with discounts applying to off-peak return tickets, pensioner tickets, weekly tickets, season tickets and a 50% discount for weekend travel.

(b) & (c) In relation to consultation with operators for intermodal services Queensland Rail has negotiated with Surfside Bus Company and Coachtrans.

An agreement was reached with Surfside to meet every train at Helensvale. Coachtrans will meet all trains at Ormeau and Coomera.

Both these agreements will be regularly reviewed.

Negotiations are still under way with Surfside and Coachtrans regarding fares and ticketing.

378. Dredging, Southport Broadwater

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

(1) When will the long delayed dredging of the main seaway to Hope Island Channel, Coombabah Creek and other major designated channels in the Broadwater commence?

(2) What are the expected completion dates and the dimensions of dredging?

Answer (Mr Elder):

The Government plans dredging for the main navigation channel in the Coomera River (between the junction with the Broadwater and upstream to Sanctuary Cove), the main channel at Jacobs Well near Woogoompah Island, and the secondary channel in Canaipa Passage near the Slipping Sands. At this stage there are no plans to dredge either the Broadwater, between the Gold Coast Seaway and the mouth of the Coomera River, or Coombabah Creek.

Environmental and other approvals are presently being sought for the Coomera River dredging with the commencement of dredging expected when the necessary approvals are given and tenders obtained.

Tenders have been obtained for the dredging of the Jacobs Well and Canaipa Passage sites. Dredging of Canaipa Passage is scheduled to commence in late November 1995, with the most critical section of the works being completed prior to Christmas 1995 and the balance by early February 1996. Concerns raised by environmental agencies regarding previous and proposed disposal of spoil from the Jacobs Well channel on Woogoompah Island have necessitated the revision of the originally proposed works associated with this project to include rehabilitation of the spoil disposal site. Negotiations with environmental agencies regarding the requirements for the works and the necessary approvals are currently in progress. Commencement of dredging is expected when these negotiations are completed and new tenders for the revised scope of works are obtained.

381.Subdivisions, Johnstone Shire

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

- (1) Have some landowners in the Johnstone Shire been forced to make contributions to Queensland Transport prior to council sealing subdivisional plans?
- (2) Are these charges in the vicinity of \$16,000 for each new block created and in addition to the usual charges associated with a development; if so, what action does he propose to take to prevent such windfall revenue gains and to ensure that residential land prices remain affordable?

Answer (Mr Elder):

1. Queensland Transport is keenly encouraging transport efficient development and responds to subdivision and rezoning applications made to Local Government where it is assessed there will be an impact on State-controlled Roads.

During 1994, the rate of "family subdivision", which is very "transport inefficient", increased in Johnstone Shire. Consequently, Queensland Transport undertook a study to assess the true impact of this type of subdivision on State-controlled Roads in Johnstone Shire. This study resulted in Queensland Transport seeking, through Local Government contributions per lot ranging from \$2,600 for subdivision approximately 3 km from Innisfail to \$15,900 for subdivision 30 km from Innisfail.

2. It is intended that the future head of power enabling both State agencies and Local Government to impose infrastructure charges for eligible infrastructure will be the proposed Planning, Environment and Development Assessment (PEDA) legislation.

The Government has issued an Exposure Draft of the proposed PEDA Bill which specifies the principles that will apply in the determination and imposition of future infrastructure charges for Queensland. Queensland Transport will be bound by that legislation.

The impact on housing affordability will be managed by limiting infrastructure charges to the basic

infrastructure items required to maintain amenity and achieve safety standards.

385.Contaminated Land, Toowoomba

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

With reference to approximately 20 residential blocks in the suburb of Wilsonton in Toowoomba which have been listed on the Contaminated Land Register under the *Contaminated Land Act 1992*—

- (1) Did the user of the land at the time of the pollution (the Toowoomba City Council) not keep accurate records defining the perimeter of the filled land?
- (2) Did the Council also not record in which areas possible hazardous commercial waste was dumped and which areas contained only household rubbish?

Answer (Mr Barton):

In response to the question from Mr Healy, I can advise as follows:

In January 1995 the Department of Environment and Heritage requested that the Toowoomba City Council investigate an area of land in Wilsonton which was reported to have been used for a municipal landfill. This request was made as Council had indicated that accurate historical records about the operation of the landfill were not available.

Should the member require more information, he should contact Toowoomba City Council directly.

386.Road Headworks Charges

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

- (1) What is the Government's intention in respect of levying developers for road headworks charges, which is presently causing great hardship to people wishing to subdivide their land, to the extent of an extra \$16,000 for each new block created in some cases?
- (2) Is it simply a fund-raising exercise by his department as in many cases the infrastructure required to be subsidised is not consequent to the development concerned?
- (3) Will he outline the basis under which such charges are being levied?
- (4) If the Government does not intend the charges to simply be a windfall revenue gain, what steps will the Government take to ensure that residential land prices are unencumbered by this extra charge so that they remain affordable to the average Queenslanders?

Answer (Mr Elder):

(1) As part of its management of development impacts on State-controlled transport infrastructure the Government intends to continue imposing infrastructure charges where necessary.

With respect to the catchment scheme which resulted in charges up to \$16,000 per lot, the scheme

was introduced to offset the adverse impacts of Johnstone Shire Council's previous policy with respect to the creation of "family transfer" (residential use) lots in rural areas. Council has since amended its policy and Queensland Transport is currently reviewing the scheme to determine revised impacts.

(2) The infrastructure charges imposed by Queensland Transport are not general fund-raising taxes on developers.

They are charges on liable development specifically for provision of new, or rehabilitation of existing, State-controlled infrastructure which is necessary to meet accepted safety and amenity standards.

All revenue raised by imposition of infrastructure charges is spent to meet the local infrastructure requirements that are the basis of the charge. If conditions change, and the particular infrastructure is not required, then Queensland Transport will either refund the charges or, for catchment schemes, provide other beneficial transport infrastructure within the catchment.

(3) The infrastructure charges are currently being levied under the Transport Infrastructure Act 1994 and the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994.

The charges reflect a reasonable apportionment to the development of the cost of infrastructure considered relevant for the basic functioning of the transport networks serving the development.

Queensland Transport always undertakes technical studies, in consultation with Local Governments, to determine the level of infrastructure charges for both catchment-based and individual development assessments.

(4) It is intended that the future head of power enabling both State agencies and Local Government to impose infrastructure charges for eligible infrastructure will be the proposed Planning, Environment and Development Assessment (PEDA) legislation.

The Government has issued an Exposure Draft of the proposed PEDA Bill which specifies the principles that will apply in the determination and imposition of future infrastructure charges for Queensland. Queensland Transport will be bound by that legislation.

The impact on housing affordability will be managed by limiting infrastructure charges to the basic infrastructure items required to maintain amenity and achieve safety standards.

388. Salaries of Ministerial Policy and Media Advisers

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Treasurer—

With reference to the appointment of senior ministerial policy and media advisers—

What is the exact salary provided to the ministerial policy and media advisers of (a) the Deputy Premier and Minister for Tourism, Sport and Youth, (b) the Treasurer, (c) the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning, Minister for Rural Communities and Minister for Provision of

Infrastructure for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities, (d) the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing, (e) the Minister for Health, (f) the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Consumer Affairs, (g) the Minister for Lands, (h) the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development, (i) the Minister for Education, (j) the Minister for Family and Community Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Status of Women, (k) the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters, (l) the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for the Arts, (m) the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services, (n) the Minister for Administrative Services, (o) the Minister for Environment and Heritage, (p) the Minister for Minerals and Energy and (q) the Minister for Business, Industry and Regional Development?

Answer (Mr De Lacy):

Answer not supplied.

391. School Principal Vacancies

Mr FITZGERALD asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to complaints from parents of students dissatisfied with having acting principals at schools where vacancies exist for long periods of time—

What steps has he taken to ensure that "principal" positions in primary and secondary schools are filled more quickly?

Answer (Mr Hamill):

Once the position of Principal in a school is confirmed a vacancy, procedures regarding the process of filling the position are implemented immediately. Either a Principal (who is eligible for relocation) is appointed to the position or the position is advertised in order to ensure that the best person for the position is appointed as a permanent principal to the particular school.

Principals are appointed at the commencement of semesters to ensure minimum disruption within the school. Every effort is made to ensure that schools are afforded continuity and stability in staffing.

393. Roadworks, Keppel Electorate

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

Will he provide a three-year forward plan for work to be carried out on the Emu Park-Rockhampton road, Emu Park-Yeppoon coastal road and the Yeppoon-Rockhampton road?

Answer (Mr Elder):

The Roads Implementation Program for 1995/96-1996/97 and indicative 1997/1998-1999/2000 has now been released publicly, following tabling in Parliament on 23 October 1995.

The current program provides for the following works:

Road 1995/96 1996/97 1997/98-1999/00

Rockhampton-Emu Park

- Blacks Ck-Thompson's Pt T/O—\$80,000
- Thompson's Pt T/O-Coolcorra—\$2,750,000

Rockhampton-Yeppoon Road

- Mulara Flats—\$1,900,000

The Blacks Ck-Thompson's Pt T/O project will cost a total of \$3,530,000 and was substantially completed in 1994/95.

No projects are programmed for the Yeppoon-Emu Park Road, in the current Roads Implementation Program.

398. North Coast Rail Line

Ms WILSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

- (1) What has been the cost of replacing the wooden bridges and culverts on the North Coast railway line link with new reinforced concrete bridges and culverts?
- (2) What efforts have been made to increase freight and passenger traffic on this line to pay for the above cost?
- (3) What is the value of the increased traffic?

Answer (Mr Elder):

(1) It is difficult to answer the Honourable Member's first question specific to the amount spent on bridges and culverts, as many contracts involved a variety of civil engineering works, including bridges and culverts. However, the total amount invested in upgrading the North Coast line is \$420 million. This involves 118 kms of realigning the track (flatter grades and curves), the replacement of 674 bridges, the strengthening of 155 bridges and 1,000 kms of track strengthened (steel sleepers and welding of rail joints). These works will permit an increase in wagon axle loads from 15.75 tonnes to 20 tonnes and an increase in permissible freight train speeds from 80 km/h to 100 km/h.

Other upgrades include the construction of new freight terminals at Cairns, Bundaberg and Mackay and the upgrade of freight terminals at Townsville and Mt Isa.

There has also been capital invested in obtaining new rollingstock such as 40 new locomotives 250 new container wagons, with 100 more on order to suit increased traffic, and the upgrade of existing rollingstock to allow them to travel at higher speeds.

Other initiatives include the introduction of Superfreighter container trains, single destination freight trains and the vigorous marketing of freight and passenger services.

In relation to long distance passenger services that have been upgraded, the Sunlander and the Queenslander have undergone major refurbishment.

Additionally, the TiltTrain will be commissioned in 1997 which will provide a significant enhancement in passenger travel between Brisbane and Rockhampton.

(2) Significant marketing efforts have been undertaken by Queensland Rail's small freight wing, Q-Link in gaining major statewide distribution account based business, which uses the Brisbane to Cairns rail line for its essential distribution.

The capture of this business is dependent on improved rail transit times, hence delivery times throughout country Queensland. In the last two years, the Q-Link business has increased its revenue by almost 35%.

This increased level of business has been obtained because of Queensland Rail's improved competitiveness. The present significant investment in infrastructure will further improve transit times and rail reliability.

Q-Link has increased the number of its country sales representatives and now has adopted a product focus with its business managers. As well, Q-Link attends approximately 36 events and shows throughout country Queensland on a yearly basis. Door-knocking campaigns are undertaken by Q-Link at each of the major towns in country Queensland on a six monthly basis.

As well as Q-Link business gains, reductions in transit times have allowed substantial increases in Queensland Rail's livestock business which, over the last five years, has increased in volume by almost 50%. Improved transit times have definitely assisted the movement of livestock to Brisbane for slaughtering.

Significant marketing effort has also been put into capturing additional molasses, sunflower and grain movements from Central and Northern to Southern Queensland. Over the last three years Queensland Rail's domestic molasses business has more than doubled. As well, Queensland Rail was able to compete for, and capture, woodchip traffic at the rate of over 300,000 tonnes per annum from Owanilla to Gladstone.

The North Coast line upgrade is also facilitating Queensland Rail's ability to meet the expansion in Queensland's raw sugar production with rail tonnage expected to increase from one million t.p.a. to 1.5 million t.p.a. in the Burdekin, and in the Mackay area from 750,000 t.p.a. to one million t.p.a. over the next three years. Existing business levels have already grown from approximately 800,000 t.p.a. in the Burdekin and 500,000 t.p.a. in the Mackay area.

(3) In addition, Queensland Rail's small freight business revenue has grown from approximately \$18 million in 1989/90 to an estimated \$34 million in 1995/96.

Queensland Rail's Primary Industries business has also grown its revenue base over the same period, notwithstanding the effects of poor seasonal conditions which have offset these gains by approximately \$20 million. In particular, its livestock business revenue has grown from \$11.6 million in 1989/90 to \$19.0 million in 1993/94, the last year of normal livestock industry activity in Queensland.

The driving force behind the North Coast line upgrade was not only an increase in freight revenue, which is forecast to increase at approximately 4% per annum, but a 'stay in business' strategy to

counter competitive road transport as it achieves ongoing productivity and efficiency improvement.

Should the project not have been undertaken, it is estimated that there would have been a cumulative annual revenue loss to Queensland Rail's Freight Group of some \$5 million, so in 10 years' time, the revenue would have been \$50 million less than that of today, or some \$275 million accumulated over the 10 year period. These figures exclude the undoubted social and community benefits of transferring heavy truck traffic to rail.

The project therefore has not only arrested the decline of rail's market share, but its benefits to date have results in rail being able to successfully compete with road transport for new business, examples being the attainment of a \$5 million per annum contract to carry Cement and Flyash, and a recent \$2 million per annum contract to carry Aluminium Ingots from Gladstone.

401. Carole Park Industrial Estate

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

With reference to complaints from residents in the Wacol/Richlands area concerning noxious odours believed to emanate from businesses located in the Carole Park Industrial Estate—

- (1) Is the Department of Environment and Heritage monitoring this area for this problem?
- (2) If so, will a report be made available to local residents detailing the results of such monitoring?

Answer (Mr Barton):

The Department is aware of community concerns about odour problems in the Wacol/ Richlands area and has been actively seeking to redress these concerns. The Department of Environment and Heritage has been conducting an odour survey in the locality since late August 1995 and residents in the Wacol area are participating in this survey.

The Scientific Services unit within the Queensland Department of Health has undertaken extensive odour sampling in the Wacol area in order to identify various odour types and likely associated industries. Some odours identified are those associated with the types of industrial businesses in the area. However, it is difficult to attribute specific odours to a single or obvious source.

Odour and other air emissions from industries in the Wacol/Richlands industrial estate will be controlled through the issuing of licences under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*. The results of the current work being done by the Department and the Scientific Services unit will assist the Department in setting appropriate control conditions.

As far as practicable local residents will continue to be informed as progress is made in controlling these odours.

402. Port Road, Fisherman Islands

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

What is the program for development of the Port Road from Fisherman Islands to the Griffith Arterial Road and Gateway Arterial Road, and will he provide copies of plans?

Answer (Mr Elder):

An impact Assessment Study on the proposed Port Road between the Gateway Motorway and the Port of Brisbane is being carried out.

The draft report of the study has been released for written comment by the community. Written comment is to be provided to the Consultants undertaking the Study by 1 March 1996.

The draft report is available for viewing at the electorate offices of the Member for Lytton, Hon T Burns MLA, and the Member for Bulimba, Mr P Purcell MLA, as well as at Wynnum Library, Hemmant Post Office and Queensland Transport Libraries. The draft report is also available for purchase at the Queensland Transport Metropolitan South District Office.

The draft report includes plans showing the proposed route. Following consideration of comments on the draft report, it will be finalised for consideration by the Government.

No decision will be made on implementation of the proposal until the report has been considered by Government.

406. Primary School, Sippy Downs

Mr WOOLMER asked the Minister for Education—

What are the proposed construction and opening dates of the proposed new primary school at Sippy Downs in the Sunshine Coast region?

Answer (Mr Hamill):

Planning is in progress for construction of a new primary school at Sippy Downs for opening for the start of 1997.

Construction is planned to commence on 29 April 1996 with a construction period of 39 weeks which includes an allowance for delays caused by wet weather.

408. Music Classes, State Schools

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Education—

As a number of primary schools in Gladstone are currently holding music classes in state school staff rooms (Clinton State School) or other appropriate locations, what provisions have been made to remedy the situation, given the high level of acceptance of music as an addition to the school curriculum?

Answer (Mr Hamill):

Capital works funds allocations are not sufficient to permit provision of music classrooms in every primary school.

The Department of Education's regional office is currently assessing the needs for new or additional facilities including music facilities as part of the annual capital works needs assessment process. All

projects will be prioritised by the region based on priorities set by each school and available funds.

Departmental records indicate that Clinton State School has 28 existing classrooms and 27 classes. One surplus classroom is therefore available for music. The school also has available several withdrawal rooms which can be used for music teaching.

412. School Uniform Allowance

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the recently announced school uniform allowance—

Will it be available to all students, ie State primary and secondary, private, correspondence and School of the Air students?

Answer (Mr Hamill):

School aged students in Years 1 to 12 during Semester 1, 1996 at any Queensland State or non-Government school are eligible for the allowance. Only one allowance per student can be claimed in any one year.

The following students are ineligible:

- * preschool students;
- * students aged 19 or over who have returned to school after a break of 12 months or more;
- * full fee paying overseas students; and
- * those who have confirmed that they will NOT be attending a Queensland school in 1996.

413. Southport Broadwater Plan

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

- (1) As the summer season is upon us, when will the Broadwater plan that was brought forward prior to the State Election be put back on the agenda for Gold Coast residents to discuss?
- (2) Will commercial users of the Broadwater (eg tourist boats, paraflyers, seaplane operators, bungy jumpers, windsurfer hirers, jet ski operators, amateur fishing clubs, professional fishermen (trawlers) and Air Sea Rescue) be represented on the discussion panel?

Answer (Mr Elder):

1. A second revised draft of the Southport Broadwater Management Plan is now ready for final consultation.

The first draft management plan was released for public display and comment between the end of March and the middle of June 1995 and has been further reviewed as a result of that consultation process.

At a meeting on the Gold Coast on 14 June 1995, invited persons who had made written submissions regarding the first draft plan were advised that a revised version of the draft plan would be available for public feedback before the document was finalised.

Copies of this revised draft will be forwarded out to all interested parties and in particular persons who forwarded written submissions for comment by the end of November 1995.

2. The Interdepartmental Working Group actively consulted with all commercial and recreational users of the Southport Broadwater when formulating the first draft plan.

Further consultation took place with these users in developing the revised draft through written submissions and a public meeting on the Gold Coast on 14 June 1995.

A total of 26 written submissions were received from commercial operators and organisations who have an interest in the Broadwater plus a further 41 submissions from other interested parties.

I can assure you that consultation with the relevant commercial users has taken place and will continue until a final plan is completed.

414. School Resources

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to Parents and Citizens' Associations in State Schools which contribute a significant amount of funding to assist in the provision of school infrastructure and equipment for the betterment of students and the acceptance by the Government of the facilities on a no-cost basis—

- (1) Why doesn't the Government guarantee replacement of the facilities, if damaged or destroyed, in like manner to other Government funded capital works?
- (2) Why doesn't the Government at least pay the cost of insurance premiums to provide replacement from an independent insurer?

Answer (Mr Hamill):

(1) In line with the long standing policy of this Government and previous Governments, the Department of Education makes a budget allocation to provide for the replacement of equipment and facilities, provided in conjunction with the school P&C.

(2) As indicated in the previous answer the Department of Education makes provision within its budget for the replacement of such facilities and equipment that have been the subject of vandalism or arson attacks. This process of self insurance is in line with the guidelines set down by Cabinet and within the arrangements provided for in Public Finance Standards 330 and 331. These standards were established to maximise the effective use of public funds in the delivery of services to the community.

416. Kangaroo Quotas

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

With reference to widespread concern within the kangaroo meat processing and skinning industry that this year's quota will be shot out before the end of the year—

- (1) Who is responsible for setting the quotas?
- (2) What has caused this situation to occur?
- (3) What steps has his department taken to counteract this problem?
- (4) What avenues are open to him to prevent the reoccurrence of this?

Answer (Mr Barton):

(1) Direct kangaroo population estimates are derived in Queensland by use of helicopter-based aerial surveys conducted by Department of Environment and Heritage staff. On the basis of maximum permissible harvest levels of 20% of the estimated population for the red kangaroo and 15% for the eastern grey kangaroo set by the Australian Nature Conservation Agency (ANCA) in Canberra, the Department of Environment and Heritage each year forwards a quota application to ANCA with respect to the forthcoming harvesting year. Quota proposals from each harvesting state are then considered and approved (or otherwise) by the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment, Sport and Territories under the provisions of the Wildlife Protection (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act 1982.

In January 1995, the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment, Sport and Territories approved the Macropod Commercial Quotas which would apply in Queensland in 1995. Those quotas are:

Red kangaroo	600000
Eastern grey kangaroo	950000
Wallaroo	180000
Whiptail wallaby	25000

(2) The quotas with respect to the eastern grey kangaroo and the wallaroo are less than those in 1994 (quotas of 1250000 and 200000 respectively) in recognition of reduced populations due to prevailing drought conditions. Further, prices for macropod skins this year have been relatively high, prompting a number of dealers to purchase what would normally be regarded to be unattractively small skins, and to thereby use the quota more rapidly.

Harvest periods are closed to ensure that approved Macropod Commercial Quotas are not exceeded. The quota is set by the Commonwealth as a basis for its approval of export licences for kangaroo products. Any action by Queensland to not enforce the quota restrictions would jeopardise an important export industry.

(3) Following urgent representations from macropod pet meat dealers regarding the possibility of early harvest period closures on both the red and eastern grey kangaroos this year, arrangements were made for a teleconference to be conducted in July with the principal macropod skin and carcass dealers and with macropod shooter representatives to discuss options available to attempt to slow the unusually high harvest rates in 1995. The aim was to identify a rapid response mechanism which would "ration" the remaining quota to avoid a total industry shut-down. A further aim of the teleconference was to seek industry co-operation with voluntary harvesting restraint.

The meeting agreed that the high harvest rates might best be slowed by setting a minimum skin size and

carcass weight on the taking of the remaining available quota for red and grey kangaroos. That action had the support of industry participants, including the Fauna Dealers' Association and the Association of Professional Shooters.

The strategy was implemented on 4 August 1995 with the promulgation of the Nature Conservation (Macropod Harvest Period) Amendment Notice (No. 3) 1995. However, as subsequent events indicate, the industry strategy had no discernible effect on the harvest rate.

(4) Subsequent discussions with industry stakeholders indicate that further adjustment of the minimum carcass weight parameters may be necessary. As a consequence, it is proposed that the 1996 Harvest Period Notice will require compliance with the adjusted parameters. Further, the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel has been requested to draft amendments to the Nature Conservation (Macropod Harvesting) Conservation Plan 1994 to ensure that the Department of Environment and Heritage, in consultation with key stakeholders, has a range of management options available in 1996 to address any recurrence of the situation which has prevailed in 1995. However, prime responsibility for addressing the consequences of irresponsible industry behaviour must be borne by macropod industry participants themselves.

418. Yandina Bypass

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

As construction of the Yandina Bypass is well under way and in light of continuing concerns about its impact on the flood plain and upstream residents of the north and south Maroochy River—

- (1) Why has the Government refused to release the flood report thus far?
- (2) When will the unedited existing flood report be released?

Answer (Mr Elder):

(1) A complete and accurate report that addressed the relevant issues was not received from the Specialist Consultants and accepted by Queensland Transport until 21 November. The report was delayed pending the implementation of work covering additional issues.

(2) The flood report for the Yandina Bypass was released on 22 November 1995.

419. Education Resources, Coomera

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the planned growth for the Coomera region and the fact that the SEDU is housed temporarily in pre-school premises—

- (1) Will he provide as a matter of urgency (a) purpose-built accommodation for these students and teachers at the Coomera location and (b) additional special communications

devices necessary to monitor some of the more profoundly affected students?

- (2) As there is already full enrolment and a considerable waiting list, will he provide the additional staffing required and make permanent the position of Teacher in Charge?

Answer (Mr Hamill):

1(a) The facilities currently occupied by the Special Education Development Unit—one unit of a two-unit preschool building—are suitable for the delivery of the program provided for the number of students enrolled.

Current enrolment patterns do not warrant the establishment of a stand-alone Special Education Development Unit, although the school has nominated this as a priority for its capital works.

1(b) I have been advised that there has been no request for "special communication" devices from the school. The Honourable Member may wish to correspond on this matter to clarify this proposal, which I will then investigate further.

2. The current staffing allocations—1.6 Full Time Equivalent teacher numbers—is consistent with the enrolment-based allocations in similar facilities statewide. Full enrolment capacity has not yet been attained and any changes to staffing will be made when 1996 enrolment patterns are known.

420.Landsborough-Maroochydore Spur Line

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

With reference to his answer to my Question, No. 89 of 14 September 1995, in particular the advice of the Government's "commitment to allocate \$1m towards planning in 1995-96"—

- (1) What expense has been incurred so far?
- (2) What feasibility studies have been done and what were the results?
- (3) Has a notional route been selected and what discussions have been held with landholders, local councils, etc.?

Answer (Mr Elder):

(1) The \$1m committed to planning for the line has been allocated for expenditure in 1995/96. Only minimal expenses have been incurred to date, in the preparation of a Terms of Reference for the rail options study. It is expected that the feasibility study will commence early in 1996. It will consider a broad range of options.

(2) & (3) As previously advised, investigations for the spur line to date have only been at a concept level. No feasibility study has been undertaken as yet, and as a result no notional route has been selected, and no discussions have been held with councils or landholders on this issue.

421.Coorparoo State School

Mr RADKE asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the Coorparoo State School Junior Campus Years 1-2—

- (1) Is there a stop work order limiting the completion of general maintenance and improvements?
- (2) Is there an additional classroom/administration building proposed for construction at the Coorparoo State School Senior Campus?
- (3) Has the Coorparoo State School Infants Section been sold; if not, is it in the process of being sold or identified for sale in the not too distant future?

Answer (Mr Hamill):

In answering this question it is important to note the hard work of Mr Gary Fenlon, the former member for Greenslopes, in representing the best interests of this school.

(1) I have never instructed my department not to carry out maintenance or needed improvements at the Coorparoo Junior Campus, nor is any such order in effect.

(2) A range of options for capital works improvements have been considered at the school in the context of the Government's Building Better School Program—Primary Upgrade element. This, I presume is what Mr Radke is mistaking for consideration of a new classroom block.

(3) Education Department assets are only sold after they have been declared surplus to requirements. No school with students could ever be considered surplus.

Given that there are still students at the school, I do not see how Mr Radke can think that it has been sold. Maybe he hasn't actually visited the school to know that it is still being used.

422.Timber Industry

Mr FITZGERALD asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

What consultative processes were and are being undertaken with key timber industry stakeholders, including the Queensland Timber Board, the Australian Workers' Union and other groups likely to be affected, eg graziers, beekeepers, miners and recreational users, prior to any Cabinet submission which would recommend any policy resulting in any adverse impact on all these stakeholders?

Answer (Mr Gibbs):

I will ensure that a full consultation process occurs with all stakeholders before I take any recommendations to Cabinet concerning implementation of forest policy.

I have already given such assurances to the Chairman of the Queensland Timber Board.

423.Overseas Visits by Departmental Officers

Mr HARPER asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

With reference to the appendix in the departmental reports which details overseas travel—

Will she supply/detail (a) a copy of the report provided by each officer after her/his overseas mission, as required by official policy, (b) the date of their return and the date on which their report was provided, (c) a list of those officers to whom such official reports were provided, (d) the total cost of each overseas trip, including travel accommodation, allowances, meals, etc. and (e) what fee-for-service or commercial activity did each trip accomplish in relation to each of the following officers' trips (i) Harry Hauenschild to New Zealand, (ii) Ian Andrew to the Netherlands, Germany and Sweden, (iii) Ray Best to New Zealand, (iv) Chris D'Arcy to the United States, (v) Gary Kieseker and Robyn Paulson to Hong Kong, China, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia, (vi) Camden McDonnell to Hong Kong, (vii) Ruth Reilly to the United States and Canada and (viii) D Whitlock to Indonesia?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

(a) to (d) I table the information requested.

(e) TAFE Queensland is a key exporter of vocational education and training services. Total revenue generated by TAFE Queensland since 1989 has exceeded \$33 million, which establishes the organisation as one of Australia's top 500 exporters.

In addition to its activities in the international student areas, TAFE Queensland has been active in the delivery of vocational education and training services in countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea and Western Samoa. These International Projects have earned over \$9.5 million since 1989.

(i) Not applicable.

(ii) As a result of this visit, Volvo Sweden have granted copyright access, free of charge, to video based materials produced by Volvo for incorporation into a series of interactive video materials.

(iii) Not applicable.

(iv) The trip identified:

- Functional 'fit' of the College Administrative Program System (CAP) to the requirements of schools, Junior Colleges and Universities in the United States.
- Additional functionality required by CAP to meet US requirements
- Market potential for CAP in the US
- Potential business partners for the marketing and support of CAP in the US
- Educational organisations providing opportunities for the marketing of CAP

(v) This trip resulted in the awarding of a multi-million dollar contract to TAFE Queensland in a strategic alliance with TAFE Victoria. The revenue generated to date from this contract for the TAFE partners is \$750,000. The anticipated revenue under this contract over a five year period for the TAFE partners is \$20 million.

(vi) The trip formed part of TAFE Queensland's 1994/95 International Student Program which recruited 932 students enrolled for formal courses and 737 registrations for English language intensive courses for overseas students and generated \$7.1

million in revenue. Revenue Generation from Hong Kong for 1994/95 was \$980,430.10.

(vii) Not applicable

(viii) The trip formed part of TAFE Queensland's 1994/95 International Student Program which recruited 932 students enrolled for formal courses and 737 registrations for English language intensive courses for overseas students and generated \$7.1 million. Revenue Generation from Indonesia for 1994/95 was \$483,644.00.

424.Apprentices

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

Will she provide the statistics on an annual basis for each year since the Goss Government was elected for the number of (a) female apprentices, (b) females undertaking trade-based prevocational programs and (c) females undertaking other programs designed to encourage them to enter non-traditional trade areas?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

(a) The numbers of females who have commenced apprenticeships since 1990 are: 1990—1277, 1991—1169, 1992—1440, 1993—1575, 1994—1764.

(b) The number of female enrolments in trade based prevocational programs is as follows: 1990—493, 1991—462, 1992—931, 1993—1225, 1994—1984.

(c) Training and Employment Queensland deliver a national program known as *Tradeswomen on the Move*. The program is aimed at female school students in Grades 6 to 8 as they develop career aspirations and occupation perceptions at this age. The number of schools visited and estimated number of students who have attended information sessions since 1990 are -

YEAR—SCHOOLS VISITED

1990—35
1991—44
1992—95
1993—54
1994—100
1995—152

YEAR—ESTIMATED NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO HAVE ATTENDED INFORMATION SESSIONS

1990—2000
1991—3300
1992—7000
1993—3700
1994—5500
1995—7500

425.Designation of DEVETIR Staff

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

With reference to her response to Question 192 and in view of (a) the attached correspondence provided with her answer, (b) TAFE Executive Forum

discussion of the problem (c) the attached official internal memorandum to the Executive Director about the issue and (d) the SPSFQ newbreak of April 24—

- (1) Why did neither the Executive Director nor the Director-General appear to know of this matter when I raised it at the Estimates Committee hearings in June?
- (2) Why have I been supplied with copies of letters which are unsigned and undated?
- (3) As these may, in fact, be preliminary and draft copies, which vary from the original letters that were actually sent, will she provide me with copies of the originals?
- (4) Will she table the minutes of the meeting of 22 May referred to by Mr McGaw?
- (5) What efforts has the department made to advise former departmental staff that they may be owed back pay if they were incorrectly designated?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

(1) During the Estimates Committee hearing of 1 June 1995, Mr Santoro created confusion in his question by his reference to cases "currently before the Industrial Relations Commission". This issue has never been before the Industrial Relations Commission.

Once the issue was clarified during the process of the hearing, the Director-General indicated that he was aware of claims concerning the inappropriate classification of some employees, and that proceedings had been instigated to remedy the anomalies where they had been identified.

(2&3) I hereby table copies of the original correspondence that are signed and dated.

(4) I am advised that neither the representatives of the PSMC or my Department undertook the process of minute taking during the course of this meeting.

(5) My Department is unable to identify which of its ex-employees may or may not fall into this category. However, as stated by the previous Minister, the Department will deal quickly with any cases that might be drawn to its attention, as it has done in the past.

426. Birth Centre, Cairns Base Hospital

Ms WARWICK asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the proposal for a Birth Centre at Cairns Base Hospital submitted by the Association for Improvement in Maternity Services (AIMS) Cairns group—

- (1) Will he make a commitment to the establishment of a family birth centre facility within the maternity section?
- (2) When will consumer consultation occur regarding maternity options and services within the redeveloped hospital?
- (3) What individuals and/or community groups will be involved in the consultation process?

Answer (Mr Beattie):

(1) The Project Definition Plan phase examines the policy and operational issues associated with the provision of Maternity Services at the redeveloped Cairns Hospital. This phase is about to commence and the concept proposed by the AIMS group will be examined and considered during this planning phase.

(2) To date, the AIMS Cairns group has met with the Chief Executive Officer and other relevant senior hospital staff concerning their birthing centre proposal. In addition, the Association has raised this matter with the Peninsula and Torres Strait Regional Health Authority. As part of the planning process, the Project Definition Plan relies heavily on input from key stakeholders and user groups. The AIMS group has been invited to participate in the user groups. 2.

(3) Key stakeholders, hospital staff and client user groups will be involved in the consultation process during the Project Definition Planning phase. It is expected that further input will occur from AIMS as one of the many user groups involved in the process.

427. Vehicle Registration Charges

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

With reference to the administration fee charged on top of registration charges when a vehicle is registered (for example, the registration fee for a rigid two axle bus is stated as being \$300 but with the administration fee, the actual cost is \$335)—

- (1) Why is this fee now being charged?
- (2) Is it just a way of increasing registration costs under another name?

Answer (Mr Elder):

The Queensland Government implemented the uniform national heavy vehicle charges for vehicle registration commencing from 1 July 1995. The fees apply to all vehicles over 4.5 tonnes gross mass.

The national charges were determined by the National Road Transport Commission and established in the Road Transport Charges (Australian Capital Territory) Act 1993 which provides for the fees to apply in the Australian Capital Territory. All other states and territories are to adopt the charges through their own legislation.

The charges represent the appropriate contribution by heavy vehicle operators to the maintenance and provision of transport infrastructure. Costs associated with administration and the delivery of services are not included in the national charges and each jurisdiction may add an appropriate fee based on actual costs.

The National Road Transport Commission will monitor the administration fees levied by states to ensure that they are justifiable in terms of cost recovery and not just an additional tax.

The introduction of the new charges results in a reduction of registration revenue of approximately \$8M for Queensland vehicles. The new charging

method is based on actual road damage and distances applicable to the category of vehicle. Some vehicles such as heavy haulage vehicles and heavy trailers now attract higher registration charges while most other vehicles have significantly reduced fees.

The example of a 2 axle bus up to 12 tonnes, referred to in the question, previously attracted fees ranging from \$356.50 up to \$803.80 depending on the gross mass of the bus. A Traffic Improvement fee of \$30.50 was also charged.

These fees have been replaced by the national charge of \$300.00 and an administrative fee of \$35.00. Operators of such 2 axle buses have received a reduction in fees of up to \$499.30.

428. Electricity Charges

Mr GILMORE asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

With reference to statements made by various members of the government about the benefits of Queensland's entry into the national grid, and taking part in a deregulated, competitive electricity market and to corporatisation which has also been said to provide many opportunities for gains in efficiency and cost saving—ultimately providing cheaper power for Queenslanders—

As the Queensland electricity industry has been operating at or near world's best practice for a number of years, and providing power at world competitive prices (compared to both State owned and investor owned utilities), (a) where are these new efficiencies to be made, (b) which costs can be cut and (c) how much can be cut from the price of power to Queensland consumers as a result of these gains?

Answer (Mr McGrady):

(a) The Queensland electricity supply industry is at the forefront of Australian electricity supply systems, and its total factor productivity (ie a combined measure of the productivity of capital, labour and fuel) is higher than for any other State. However, other States are currently making concerted efforts to improve their electricity systems to enhance the competitiveness of their industries and provide low cost electricity to households. The Queensland electricity supply industry can therefore ill afford to be satisfied with currently operating at or near world's best practice and must pursue further productivity and technology gains if it is to keep pace with world's best practice.

The Queensland Government has moved to ensure that the industry is well placed to identify and secure these gains. The Government corporatised the Queensland electricity supply industry from 1 January 1995 with the objective of placing the Government-owned participants in the electricity industry on a similar footing to private sector companies, with clear commercial objectives, and to improve efficiency through a focus on commercial outcomes.

(b) The corporatisation process ensures there is continuing pressure on the electricity supply industry

to minimise costs and maintain competitively low prices and high service levels for all its customers. Establishment of the National Electricity Market is intended to provide opportunities for further cost reductions in the industry, including through the economic sourcing of electricity supply and competition through the national grid.

(c) The recent gains achieved by the Queensland electricity supply industry through productivity improvements and corporatisation are delivering lower electricity prices to Queensland consumers. A price reduction ranging up to 13 per cent for commercial and industrial users was implemented on 1 April 1995, which will result in cost savings to business of \$100 million per year. In addition, prices to domestic customers have been frozen until at least February 1996. The Government is currently negotiating with other jurisdictions to ensure the arrangements for the National Electricity Market in Queensland best meet the needs of Queensland consumers.

429. Papaya Fruit Fly

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

What action is currently being taken by the Department of Primary Industries to expedite the deletion of fruit and vegetables that were initially placed on the list of produce that has to be treated, but is not infected by the papaya fruit fly?

Answer (Mr Gibbs):

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) recognises that some fruits and vegetables currently listed as hosts of papaya fruit fly may not be hosts at certain maturity stages (for example, possibly hard green banana) or may only be infested if fruit is damaged (for example, possibly lychee).

Until evidence of non-host or low-risk status is provided, other States have demanded chemical treatment as a condition of entry.

DPI recognises that the requirement for chemical treatment is causing cost imposts and/or workplace health and safety issues for farmers and workers handling these chemicals for the first time.

The banana industry has presented a consultant's report arguing the case for removal of restrictions to DPI. This report has been forwarded to an interstate quarantine committee together with other comments and seeking urgent re-consideration of the host status of banana (hard green stage only), lychee, and possible grapes, pumpkins and watermelon.

Other States may require further local data to be developed before granting exemptions. DPI has a fruit sampling program in progress but there is a delay of two to three weeks before fruit flies hatch out from fruit and are identified.

431. Ambulance Centre, Tully

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Consumer Affairs—

With reference to the Tully local ambulance committee's complaints that they have not been

consulted in the design of the new ambulance centre and his advice to the committee that the project services plan must be implemented because planning is too far advanced—

- (1) How can he defend such disregard for the wishes of this local ambulance committee when the Goss Government has reasserted its position to listen and consult more with Queenslanders?
- (2) Will he now adopt plans acceptable to the Tully local ambulance committee?

Answer (Mr Davies):

(1) The short answer is that it is nonsense to suggest that the Local Ambulance Committee have not been consulted.

This year's budget provided \$220,000 for development of an Ambulance Station co-located with the Fire Station at Mission Beach near Tully.

A draft plan was prepared and presented to the Local Ambulance Committee at its meeting on 22 August. Suggestions from the Local Ambulance Committee were incorporated into the plan, but the estimated cost of \$300,000 exceeded the available budget. A further suggestion was then made to construct a building similar to the new Ambulance Station at Russell Island and further designs were submitted to the Local Ambulance Committee on 31 October 1995. The Local Ambulance Committee has drawn up its own plan which also required adjustment to conform with relevant building codes.

Clearly, there has been extensive consultation with the Local Ambulance Committee, even though there has not been agreement about the final plan.

The Commissioner of the Queensland Ambulance Service and I would clearly prefer that the new Station is built to a design acceptable to the Local Ambulance Committee and within the available budget.

(2) The Goss Government is proud of its record of management of the Queensland Ambulance Service and will not allow the good reputation of the Queensland Ambulance Service to be misrepresented by the Member for Western Downs.

As has always been the intention and the proven practice of this government, the new Ambulance Station will be built to a design acceptable to the Tully Local Ambulance Committee and within the available budget.

432. Trowbridge Consultants

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

With reference to her response to Question on Notice 179, part 1—

- (1) Does her method of financial planning and accountability, illustrated by part of the answer, include (a) waiting for the account to come in so she will know how much she has spent and (b) hoping that it will not exceed \$25,000 to meet the requirements of the Public Finance Standards and the Auditor-General?

- (2) Will she table any correspondence between herself, her department and the consultancy firm (and vice versa) in relation to this expenditure?
- (3) Why did she consider that her department would not provide her with the necessary information in a manner that was both (a) timely and (b) independent?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

(1) It is a requirement when engaging outside consultants to request a quote for fee for service. This was obtained prior to Trowbridge Consulting being engaged.

(2) Yes.

(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 independent actuarial advice was required. In addition, some of the information required was not available from the Board's database, such as solicitor own client costs. It was necessary that an assessment of such costs be made by the consultant making direct contact with a representative group of legal practitioners. Further, Board members considered it appropriate that an independent actuary conduct this analysis.

433. Woodford State School

Mr TURNER asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) Is he aware of the inadequate and cramped conditions in a number of classrooms at the Woodford State School and the need for a massive upgrade to overcome these problems?
- (2) Is he aware of the unsafe and dangerous conditions which apply in the manual arts section?
- (3) Will action be taken to immediately provide a second telephone line into the Woodford State School?

Answer (Mr Hamill):

1. Woodford State School is a P10 school. Sixteen classroom spaces currently accommodate 432 primary students (as at July 1995). The principal anticipates that the school's opening enrolment for 1996 will remain around this figure. Sixteen teachers will be appointed to the school for the beginning of 1996.

Primary accommodation includes 10 permanent classrooms (four to current standard, six non-standard) and six classrooms in modular form. An uncounted, non-standard space is utilised by the school for music classes.

The government's Building Better Schools initiatives announced recently, include provision of \$84.6 million across the next five years to upgrade existing classrooms in our older primary schools. Using criteria developed by the Department of Education, Woodford State School has been identified as a high priority to benefit from this initiative. The nature and extent of work to be carried out, anticipated to occur within the first two years of the program, will be

determined in consultation with the school community.

Woodford State School has been identified by the region as having a likely minimum requirement for additional classrooms in 1997. The region has requested that additional spaces be provided in permanent accommodation and to the latest standard.

Secondary facilities at the school, to accommodate around 150 students, include five general learning areas, science laboratory, typing room, combined wood and metal workshop, drawing room, multi-purpose home economics area, and art room.

Following recent visits to the school by senior officers from the Sunshine Coast Regional Education Office, an agreed strategy aimed at addressing some of the school's needs in this area has been arrived at.

Other facilities at the school include an administration block, single unit preschool, special education unit and resource centre. Extension of the resource centre from 3-5 bays has been included on the draft 1995/96 Capital Works Program.

2. During a recent visit to Woodford State School by the region's Occupational Health and Safety Officer, the principal identified two issues of concern in the Manual Arts area: the slipperiness of the floor and the nature and positioning of the saw in the preparation area.

The floor is a wooden one, no different from many other laid in manual Arts facilities in the 1960s. It is acknowledged that the floor does become slippery when covered in woodshavings. In an effort to address this problem, the region previously arranged to have the floor sanded so as to remove the surfacing which was perceived as aggravating the problem. The principal has requested that a second sanding, using a coarser grain, be organised. It is anticipated that this will lessen the risk to students and staff.

The saw in the Manual Arts preparation area is approximately 30 years old. Officers are aware of the safety concerns associated with saws of this age and are to develop a prioritised replacement program for the region.

3. Woodford State School has four incoming phone lines—one to its general office area, one to its preschool, one to its special education unit, and a fax line. The school's existing telephone system is unable to accommodate a second line to the general office area, which is what the school is seeking.

In support of the school's stated wish to upgrade its phone system as quickly as possible, the Acting Manager, Facilities and Assets gave a commitment to contribute \$2,000 from the current Minor Works budget towards this project should the school elect to progress the project. The school consequently investigated various options and indicated its intention to install a Hybrex system. As agreed, a contribution of \$2,000 was forwarded to the school on 9 November. The principal has advised that school funds are available to supplement the installation of the new system which will cost approximately \$3,500.

434. Bundaberg Bypass

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

With reference to the proposed ring road, announced by the former Minister for Transport (Mr Hayward) for the southern bypass of Bundaberg—

- (1) Will he acknowledge that many residents along the declared route are experiencing problems in relation to the sale of their properties and/or the devaluation of same?
- (2) Will he acknowledge that these problems are being experienced because of the timing of the actual construction of the ring road, as well as the delay in any compensation to residents?
- (3) Will he take action to ensure that adequate compensation is available now to residents wishing to move-sell out from the area in question; if so, (a) what measures can be taken by residents to access such compensation and (b) on what basis will compensation be assessed?
- (4) Is compensation proposed to be available to properties that are adjacent to the proposed ring road route?
- (5) Will he assure residents of Bundaberg that the timing of a proposed ring road of Bundaberg will be reconsidered, in view of the money to be expended by Queensland Transport on the upgrading of Walker Street?

Answer (Mr Elder):

(1) I am aware of some concerns and staff in my office are currently following up on this issue.

(2) Planning must be carried out well before construction so that a route may be reserved. Such planning also informs developers and home buyers where future roads will be constructed.

More problems would be experienced if planning was not carried out well in advance of construction.

(3) Concept planning by an independent consultant has commenced and it is anticipated that this will be completed by May 1996. This planning will determine the actual areas of land required for the Ring Road. There will be community consultation during this concept planning.

Residents can obtain information regarding compensation by contacting staff of Queensland Transport in Bundaberg, 23 Quay Street, or telephone on (071) 522 355.

Compensation will be limited to land acquisition for hardship in accordance with Queensland Transport's Policy for Land Acquisition—Hardship Purchase and other Considerations. The amount of compensation will be assessed according to the market value of the land.

(4) Compensation will be limited to those residents from whom land is required for the Ring Road construction.

(5) The timing for the construction of the Ring Road will be periodically reviewed. Currently the time for construction is approximately fifteen years hence. Programmed works on Walker Street will be required in any case.

435. Borumba Dam

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

With reference to the low water level of the Borumba Dam and the increased use of water from this source for agriculture and domestic use—

- (1) Will he give urgent consideration for funding to enable extra water to be stored in Borumba Dam by utilising the sock process?
- (2) Will the Government give higher priority to the decision to raise the height of the wall of this dam to enable construction to begin immediately?

Answer (Mr Gibbs):

The issue of providing additional water from Borumba Dam is primarily linked to the high level of reliability for current and future urban needs.

Growth in use for irrigation has not been dramatic though there has been steady increase over time. At present, with Borumba Dam storage at lower than normal levels, no further additional allocation is being made available. However, once storage returns to normal levels additional allocations can be made available for both agricultural and urban use.

The Government decided in December 1994 that raising of the dam would be the next source of additional water for the Mary Valley.

Staff from the Department of Primary Industries are currently negotiating with landholders to acquire the necessary lands for raising the dam and funds have been allowed in the 1994-1995 budget for this purpose.

Departmental officers are also having discussions with major water user groups regarding their future water needs and their willingness to contribute towards the cost of the works.

Technical issues associated with raising the dam are under investigation by DPI including impacts.

The Government is committed to raising the dam once the technical and financial issues are resolved and the demand has been clearly demonstrated.

436. Gold Coast Highway, Palm Beach

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

With reference to traffic signals on the Gold Coast Highway, Palm Beach and to the recent Roads Implementation Program which indicates that traffic signals and lighting for Gold Coast Highway (various locations) has been included (a) 1995-96 approved locations \$1.1m, (b) 1996-97 approved locations \$0.8m and (c) 1997-98 to 1999-2000 \$2.6m, a total over 5 years of \$4.5m—

What sites on the Gold Coast Highway, Palm Beach have been allocated and at what stage of the five year program will they be installed?

Answer (Mr Elder):

Queensland Transport has allocated \$1.1m in the 1995/96 financial year for traffic improvement works

in the Gold Coast City area. This funding is allocated to the most deserving projects based on the cost and associated community benefit. Currently Queensland Transport is working on the following projects as part of this program.

- * Intersection of Gold Coast Springbrook Road at Farrant Drive to improve access to Mudgeeraba School (Estimate: \$500,000)
- * Modifications to traffic facilities (including provision of pedestrian signals at Lavelle Street and traffic signals at Ferry Street/Nerang Street) at Nerang (Estimate: \$600,000)

These works will be completed in the next few months and improve safety in these areas. These projects will take most of the allocation for traffic improvement works though there is a possibility of bringing forward other traffic improvement works later in the financial year. Projects such as the provision of traffic signals at Tallebudgera Creek Road/Tsipura Drive, Olsen Avenue/Smith Street northern ramp and extra pedestrian signals on Gold Coast Highway (including Palm Beach) are all candidate projects and will be considered with available funding.

437. Cooroy-Noosa Link Road

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

- (1) Have the consultants engaged by Queensland Transport to undertake a study for a Cooroy-Noosa link road completed their assignment?
- (2) When can the Cooroy community expect to be advised of a decision on this issue?

Answer (Mr Elder):

(1) In the last few months, a number of outside events such as the State election have slowed progress of the Cooroy Planning Study. Consultant Planners, Gutteridge Haskins and Davey, have used this time to further evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of the various network and route options, particularly the options put forward at the first information night held with the community. Gutteridge Haskins and Davey intends to distribute another information newsletter in December 1995, and hold another information night with the community following the Christmas holiday period.

Depending on the outcome of this further public consultation, it is anticipated that the study will be completed in March 1996.

(2) Queensland Transport will be a position to make a decision once the study has been completed and the consultant's report is properly considered. A decision is expected to be made in mid 1996.

438. Mercury Health Hazards in Hospitals

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Will he detail what procedures are in place to avoid mercury health hazards at all Queensland hospitals and what funding is being provided to put those procedures in place?

- (2) In particular, what amount of funding has been provided to the Royal Brisbane Hospital for this purpose?

Answer (Mr Beattie):

(1) In Queensland Health hospitals, mercury usage is limited and confined mostly to thermometers, blood pressure machines (sphygmomanometers), and dental amalgam.

There is little risk of a health hazard with mercury and the incidence of spills in Queensland public hospitals is believed to be very low.

Public hospitals have addressed the hazard of mercury through a number of strategies including: elimination of mercury usage; substitution of mercury with less hazardous substances; containment of mercury to minimise the likelihood of exposure; and the development and implementation of policies and practices which protect staff when handling mercury. Specifics of these strategies are detailed in the Attachment.

No funding is specifically provided for the management of mercury health hazards in public hospitals, as it is considered part of their routine operational management, which is covered by their normal budgets. The cost of equipment to deal with mercury spillage is not high and does not impose a significant financial burden on individual hospitals.

(2) The Royal Brisbane Hospital has not been specifically funded for mercury hazard management. As part of its overall hazard management, the Royal Brisbane Hospital has set aside an amount of \$35,000 for the purchase of digital and tympanic thermometers to replace mercury thermometers.

The procedures used by Queensland public hospitals to avoid mercury health hazards include:

Substitution of mercury-based products with alternative products

Pathology laboratories no longer use mercury in testing procedures.

Mercurochrome is no longer used in hospitals.

Mercury containing thermometers (cost—\$0.65 each) are gradually being replaced with digital or tympanic thermometers (cost—\$6.50 to \$17.50 each).

Mercury containing sphygmomanometers are gradually being replaced with aneroid or digital equipment.

Containment of mercury

- In dentistry:

Mercury content of dental amalgam is strictly controlled in manufacture—there is no need to express excess mercury.

Amalgam is provided in sealed capsules, overcoming the need for dental personnel to handle the raw material.

Capsules are used only once.

The amalgam is directly dispensed into an instrument carrier, avoiding human contact.

Used capsules are immediately stored in an airtight container.

Amalgam dispensing capsules are collected and returned to the manufacturer for recycling, which means that no amalgam residue is disposed into normal waste.

Amalgam fillings are removed using high speed evacuation, minimising exposure to metallic dust and all vapours produced by heat in the cutting process.

Waste amalgam is covered with fixer and stored in closed containers.

Clinics are well ventilated.

- Sphygmomanometers are wall mounted or fixed, where possible, to lessen the risk of breakage with mercury spill.

- General

Workplace Health and Safety Committees in hospitals are responsible for management of mercury health hazards.

Staff education and awareness training programs are in place in a number of hospitals.

Placards and labelling of hazardous substances are required in relevant work areas. Safe Storage and Handling Information Cards for mercury have been produced in one Region.

Equipment is checked to ensure it is functional and intact prior to use, in addition to the regular auditing of equipment.

Vacuum cleaners are cleaned regularly with precipitated sulphur.

- When spillage occurs, there are protocols and policies in place in hospitals for the safe handling of the spill

Many hospitals have incorporated guidelines in the Workplace Health and Safety Policy Manual for the management of a hazardous spill, and some have specific policies in place for management of mercury spills (the area is isolated, precipitated sulphur is sprinkled on the contaminated area, and the Government Laboratory will conduct readings if required).

Mercury spill kits are available in a number of hospitals (contain protective gloves, eyewear, apron and mask, absorbent powder, syringe to collect mercury particles, etc).

Incident forms are required to be completed for all mercury spills.

Incidents are investigated and remedial action taken if necessary.

440. Equine Morbillivirus

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to a letter I sent him on 9 November relating to an outbreak of equine morbillivirus—

- (1) Will he ascertain the reasons for the death of Letitia Johnston?
- (2) What action was taken at the Royal Children's Hospital, at the time of this tragic death, to determine whether or not Letitia Johnston had been infected with the deadly virus *equine morbillivirus*?

- (3) Will he ascertain why, if a strict quarantine had been ordered at the Vic Rail Hendra stables, Letitia Johnston had been allowed to pat a possibly infected horse there, only days prior to her sudden death?
- (4) Will he assure the House that medical authorities believe that this quarantine was absolutely strict, given, for example, the fact that the Racing Minister and his entourage visited the site on 24 September 1994?
- (5) Did health authorities at any time suspect the cause of the outbreak was *hanta virus*, which is unknown in Australia but which has been known to cause a 70 per cent mortality and has no known cure?

Answer (Mr Beattie):

(1) Letitia Johnston was notified to the Communicable Diseases Branch of Queensland Health on 25 October 1994 as suffering from meningococcal septicaemia caused by Serogroup C *Neisseria meningitidis*. Blood samples had been taken from the child on 11 and 12 October 1994.

I am advised that Meningococcal disease was the cause of the child's death.

Meningococci are organisms that are carried in the human nasopharynx and occasionally invade the blood stream or the brain causing a septicaemia or a meningitis which can be fatal.

There is no connection between *Neisseria meningitidis* and equine morbillivirus.

(2) Royal Children's Hospital would have had no cause to determine whether Letitia Johnston was infected by EMV. I understand that Letitia Johnston's illness was typical of meningococcal disease and confirmed as having been caused by *Neisseria meningitidis* serogroup C.

(3) It is unknown how or why Letitia Johnston had been allowed to pat a horse at the Vic Rail Hendra stable some days before her death. The events are however not causally related. The horse with which Letitia had contact four days before her death was tested and found negative for antibodies to the equine morbillivirus.

(4) I am advised that a human quarantine was not imposed on the premises. However the premises were cordoned off by police and state emergency services providing a defacto quarantine.

(5) I understand that during the first several days prior to EMV being isolated a range of other causal agents that might account for the horse deaths were considered. One of those considered was a novel hanta virus. Hanta viruses that can simultaneously cause disease in man and in horses have not yet been described. The consideration of a novel hanta virus resulted in stringent rodent control measures being instituted.

441. Voluntary Early Retirements, Queensland Rail

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

With reference to Voluntary Early Retirements (VERs) within the Minerals Division of Q-Rail, the Minister would be aware that VERs are given only to employees who are surplus to requirements and have demonstrated that they have a strong desire to retire from the Q-Rail workforce for whatever reason—

- (1) Has the department, in recent time, re-employed VER acceptants?
- (2) If so, how many people, in which region and under what terms of employment, ie contract, casual, etc?
- (3) Does he agree the re-employment of VER recipients has the potential to lessen the promotional opportunities of existing loyal employees?

Answer (Mr Elder):

(1&2) Queensland Rail's Redeployment and Voluntary Early Retirement Policy (Clause 5.4.2) states that "Employees who have accepted Voluntary Early Retirement may be re-employed or contracted as consultants by Queensland Rail not earlier than two years after receiving early retirement payment. Within the Coal & Minerals Group, there are presently five employees who have been granted Voluntary Early Retirement and are currently employed.

(3) Under Queensland Rail's Recruitment & Selection Policy, employees engaged as fixed term are defined as *external applicants*. When positions at any level are advertised internally, the merit of *permanent* Queensland Rail applicants must be assessed prior to any consideration of external applicants. In essence, this means that Queensland Rail must consider first and foremost its permanent employees before employees who have been granted Voluntary Early Retirement and are now re-employed as fixed term or temporary.

442. QE II Hospital

Mr WOOLMER asked the Minister for Health—

What is the budget and development program for the refurbishment and re-opening of QE II Hospital pursuant to plans announced by him recently?

Answer (Mr Beattie):

Architectural consultants have commenced the preparation of a Project Definition Plan, Schematic Design and Economic Evaluation. This will include the compilation of estimates of costs for the project. It is envisaged that the project will be completed by 30 June 1996. This will make the Hospital a fully utilised community hospital, something which was never achieved under the National and Liberal Party rule in Queensland.

The Honourable member would do well to cast his mind back to the pre-1989 status of that hospital when his now political colleagues were satisfied to neglect their duty in maximising health services for the South side residents.

The sad fact is that a National/Liberal led Government failed the community in the provision of sound health policy and if they'd bothered to establish a sound basis for the building of this

hospital rather than cheap short term political gain, the hospital would not have been neglected.

443. Timber Industry

Mr PERRETT asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

What impact would the Federal Government's policy of preserving a minimum of 15 per cent of pre-European forest and woodland cover across all species have on Queensland's timber industry both in socio-economic job losses and in reduction of existing resources?

Answer (Mr Gibbs):

A preliminary analysis of the possible socio-economic impacts of adopting the Commonwealth's reserve criteria, in particular the 15% of pre-1750 criterion has been completed. Indications are that there could be considerable ramifications for the timber industry in particular, but other forest based industries may also be affected. Before any decision is taken on this matter, I have given assurances that full consultation will be undertaken with stakeholders.

445. Workers' Compensation

Mr STONEMAN asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

With reference to the proposed changes to the charges relating to workers compensation and the stated government policy of assessing the impact of any changed or new legislation on rural communities—

- (1) What assessments have been made in respect of the impact of increased charges on rural communities as opposed to larger centres that have a broader based economy?
- (2) What consultations took place with traders and employers generally in respect of the impact of the higher costs of employment in rural and isolated communities?
- (3) On what basis of research and substance was her claim that primary producers 'could pass on the costs' (of increased workers' compensation charges) made?
- (4) What is the assessed impact of the new schedules on the motor and machinery trade outlets in rural communities?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

(1) The claims performance of each of the Board's 300 Industry/Business classifications determined the percentage increase applicable to each premium rate, including those premium rates applicable to the rural sector.

In the interests of rating equity, claims performance is the sole determinant of the percentage increase applicable to a premium rate.

(2) Consultation was undertaken in relation to the reform package with employer groups, unions and the legal and medical professions. Employer groups

representative of the rural community with whom consultation took place included the Queensland Farmers' Federation Ltd, the United Graziers Association and the Queensland Graingrowers' Association. I met with employer representatives on numerous occasions.

(3) I am advised, that for a range of producers, there is an ability to pass on increased costs by way of adjustment to the prices of produce put to market and therefore to influence market prices, at least at the margin. Clearly, there may be less capacity to pass on such costs in situations where competitive international market conditions exist. However, even in these situations there can be a tendency for increased costs to flow through to prices over time as a result of normal market adjustments.

(4) The average net premium rate will increase by 14.7% from \$1.70 to \$1.95 of wages. In addition to the premium rate increase, a surcharge of 10% of net premium (equivalent to 6.4% of gross premium) will apply from 1 January 1996. The overall effect will be an average net premium rate of 2.145% of wages.

The premium rates that will apply to motor and machinery trade outlets in rural communities are set out below. The increases are based on the performance of this particular industry. It is possible for employers within this industry to reduce their premium rates through merit bonus and this means through safer work practices.

Industry/Business Description

109006—AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY & IMPLEMENTS MANUFACTURERS Current Rate—\$4.70; New Rate*—\$6.02; % Increase—28%

348103—AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY & IMPLEMENTS SALESPERSONS & DEALERS Current Rate—\$0.77; New Rate*—\$0.95; % Increase—24%

347004—MOTOR WORKSHOPS & AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY AND IMPLEMENTS REPAIRERS Current Rate—\$2.34; New Rate*—\$2.90; % Increase—24%

446. Road Funding

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

- (1) What was the Government's expenditure on the State-funded roads on a local authority basis for the 1990-91, 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 in the Southern Region?
- (2) On what individual projects within the local authorities was this money allocated to?
- (3) What work description is applied to each of these projects?

Answer (Mr Elder):

The new Southern Region was formed on 1 July 1994 and contains all of the original South-West Region and the South Burnett/Wide Bay area of the original South-East Region.

The original South-West Region contained the following Local Governments:

Cambooya, Chinchilla, Crows Nest, Dalby Town, Esk, Gatton, Jondaryan, Bendemere, Booringa, Bulloo, Bungil, Murilla, Murweh, Paroo, Quilpie, Roma Town, Taroom, Laidley, Millmerran, Pittsworth, Rosalie, Toowoomba City, Wambo, Warroo, Balonne, Clifton, Goondiwindi, Inglewood, Stanthorpe, Tara, Waggamba, Warwick.

The new Southern Region contains the above list as well as the following:

Wondai, Kingaroy, Nanango, Murgon, Cherbourg, Mundubbera, Hervey Bay, Biggenden, Eidsvold, Burnett, Isis, Kolan, Monto, Perry, Gayndah, Woocoo, Bundaberg, Maryborough, Kilkivan, Tiaro.

The information you seek for the financial years 1990/91, 1991/92, 1992/93 and 1993/94 can be obtained from the publication headed "Queensland Declared Road Statistics" which is an attachment to the Department's Annual Report.

The statistics document for 1994/95 has not been published to date but the data can be made available.

If more detailed information than this is required it can be made available through the Southern Regional office in Toowoomba.

447. Land Acquisitions, Mansfield Electorate

Mr CARROLL asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

With reference to resumptions and acquisitions of land in the south-eastern corner of Mansfield Electorate by Brisbane City Council, allegedly for nature reserves—

What funding, legislative protection, staff or other support is either being provided, or is planned to be provided, by his department to preserve and enhance such reserves?

Answer (Mr Barton):

In reference to the proposed resumption and acquisition of land by the Brisbane City Council for nature conservation purposes, this is a matter for the Council.

While the Department supports, in principle, such an action, it is not directly involved in either the funding or staffing of this proposal.

Departmental Officers have, however, been in contact with Brisbane City Council Officers regarding the possibility of establishing such areas as Nature Refuges under the Nature Conservation Act 1992. This would provide Council with some legislative powers under the Act to control undesirable activities.

450. Inala Community Health Centre

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to his recent visit to the Inala Community Health Centre, where he undertook a comprehensive inspection of the centre and held discussions with staff members—

- (1) Will he consider providing funds for general maintenance and the repainting of the centre?

- (2) Will he provide information whether waiting times for residents seeking dental treatment at the centre have been reduced?

- (3) With optical services for residents of the Inala electorate being available at the Princess Alexandra Hospital, will he give consideration for the use of the Inala Community Health Centre as a centre for the provision of these services?

- (4) Will he give consideration to using this centre as a model for visiting Indonesian health delegations with a view to establishing similar centres in Indonesia?

Answer (Mr Beattie):

(1) General maintenance at the Community Health Centre, Inala, is undertaken on a day-to-day basis by Q-Build as required. However, the following major maintenance was carried out at the Centre during the 1993/94 financial year:

- painting of the exterior of the facility and ground floor interior;
- replacement of carpet on the ground floor;
- repair to drainage as well as landscaping of the internal garden; and
- repairs to the complex air conditioning system.²

During my recent visit to the Community Health Centre I noted it was well maintained and I know that the Honourable Member will keep me fully informed about developments at the Centre.

(2) Times for residents seeking dental treatment at the Dental Clinic located in the Inala Community Health Centre have reduced. This has been achieved by improved work practices, utilisation of locum relief and the addition of an extra surgery.

The waiting time for general dental treatment has reduced from 70 weeks, in June 1994, to 11 weeks currently. A reduction in prosthetic waiting times of seven weeks has been achieved since June this year. Priority prosthetic care continues to be provided on medical or dental grounds. Patients requiring emergency treatment are accepted on a same day or the next day basis.

Strategies are in place to continue improving access to these services and to reduce waiting times even further.

(3) As a result of the hard work by the Honourable Member, progress is being made to provide access to clients of the Queensland Optometrical Services Scheme through the Inala Community Health Centre. It is anticipated that this service will be operational by 1 February 1996.

(4) Under the direction of the Goss Government, greater use has been made of the building and facilities at Inala Community Health Centre. I believe it is a unique health care facility providing a range of services, including primary health care, the University of Queensland General Practice, community support services, and preventive medicine. I agree with the Honourable Member's suggestion to take visiting Indonesian health delegations to this Centre. The Inala Community is well serviced by the diligence of the Honourable member.

451. Timber Industry

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

With reference to the National Forest Policy—

- (1) What scientific data has been used by his department to assess the amount of pre-European forest in Queensland?
- (2) How was the figure of 100 million hectares arrived at?
- (3) What consideration has been given to historical data (the notes of early European explorers) in the assessment of this area?
- (4) What are his department's latest evaluations of the area of each forest type typical throughout Queensland which would need to be preserved under the National Forest Policy?

Answer (Mr Gibbs):

1. The pre-European distribution of forests in Queensland is assessed through the application of complex environmental modelling. This technique uses well established relationships between species occurrence and key environmental variables of light, moisture, temperature and soil nutrients. By observing these variables at many thousands of sites together with the species present, the likely extent of pre-European distribution of species can be established. The modelled distributions are also subject to field verification. The modelling approach is currently known to predict species distribution at 75 to 80% accuracy, while improvements being made to the underlying data will improve accuracy further.

2. The latest estimate of the present area of forest and woodland in Queensland is 54 million hectares. This information was published in the Plantation, Forests and Future Directions Statement, released by the Premier on 16 May 1995.

I can only surmise that the figure of 100 million hectares, which as been mentioned in various quarters, is based on some estimate that the present extent of forest and woodland represents about half of its original extent. I note that the Commonwealth's position paper on Reserve Criteria states that today's forests represent only 60 percent of their pre 1750 extent.

3. Where it exists, the modelled information about pre-European extent of forest has been compared and refined using Department of Environment and Heritage/Queensland herbarium pre-European mapping. This is based on field observation and reference to historical records.

4. The preliminary analysis of forest types and their present representation in the protected area estate has only been undertaken in South East Queensland. Based on this analysis it has been estimated in the South East Region the protected area could at least double.

452. Mr J. Hartland

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

With reference to the case of a constituent Mr Jaime Hartland who claims to be owed \$16,000 by a former employer and the failure of her departmental officers to investigate the matter or even take details and as my constituent's first approach to her officers was on 5 June 1995—

- (1) When will my constituent's case be dealt with?
- (2) How does she justify the constant delays?
- (3) What does she 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 (Mrs Edmond):

(1) Enquiries on behalf of Mr Hartland have resulted in a claim for wages against his former employer. This claim was subsequently refused and a statement of facts was taken from Mr Hartland on 7 December 1995. Action is now under way to have the matter resolved in the Industrial Magistrates Court.

(2) I am informed that the time taken to finalise this investigation is in excess of the time frame established by the Awards Management Branch of my Department for complaint investigation. As a result, additional staff as set out in (4) below have been allocated to the office.

(3) Depending on circumstances and complexity of the issue being investigated, I consider three months to be an appropriate time period in which to finalise complaint investigations. The Awards Management Branch has put in place a policy to this effect and makes every effort to meet set timelines.

(4) In relation to staffing of the Southport Industrial Inspector's office, the Government has ensured funds were made available in the 1995/96 budget for the employment of two additional Industrial Inspectors and appointments have recently been made. Furthermore, an officer was appointed to a vacant industrial inspector's position on 8 December 1995. The additional staff will assist the Southport office to meet the three month policy.

453. Papaya Fruit Fly

Mrs WILSON asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

With reference to integrated pest management programs currently in place in horticultural production areas which may be disrupted where the Papaya Fruit Fly exists and needs to be controlled by chemical application—

Will the Government provide appropriate staff with technical knowledge and also adequate finance for procedures that may be necessary if this should happen?

Answer (Mr Gibbs):

1. The campaign to eradicate papaya fruit fly should have little if any disruptive effect on integrated pest management programs in Far North Queensland.

2. The methods to be used to eradicate papaya fruit fly are very selective and involve using attractant chemicals which mimic natural insect systems mixed

with very low amounts of an insecticide. The chances of this impacting on natural or introduced parasites and predators used in integrated pest management are minimal.

3. The eradication procedure for papaya fruit fly is in fact a very good example of integrated pest management strategies using insecticides only in a low volume, highly targeted manner.

4. Media reports suggesting the outbreak area will be drenched with toxic chemicals are highly misleading and mischievous.

5. Treatment of fruit for access to markets outside the quarantine zone will however involve chemical spraying or fumigation of harvested fruit. The Department of Primary Industries is well aware of the workplace health and safety issues involved in the urgent incorporation of these treatments into packing shed routines and has been working with industry and other agencies to minimise adverse effects.

6. The Government is committed to providing appropriate resources to deal with the fruit fly problem.

454. Voluntary Early Retirements, Queensland Rail

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

With reference to workers who have previously taken the Voluntary Early Retirement (VER) package from Queensland Rail and now wish to re-apply for employment with this department—

What is Queensland Rail's practice with regard to this matter?

Answer (Mr Elder):

Section 5.4.2 of Queensland Rail's Redeployment and Voluntary Early Retirement Policy states:

"Employees who have accepted voluntary early retirement may be re-employed or contracted as consultants by Queensland Rail not earlier than two years after receiving early retirement payments."

455. Roadworks, Daintree Region

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

(1) What progress is being made on upgrading the single lane section of road between the Daintree River turnoff and Daintree township?

(2) What is the anticipated completion date?

Answer (Mr Elder):

(1) The contract for provision of 2.9km of two lane construction to Daintree was awarded to Seymour Whyte Pty Ltd on the 25 August. This project completes the program of upgrading to two lanes from Mossman to Daintree.

(2) The project is planned to be completed by the end of February 1996.

457. Oil Dumping, Yorkeys Knob

Mrs WARWICK asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

With reference to the dumping of bilge/bunker oil on to land at Yorkeys Knob and to the claim just prior to the 15 July election by Dr Lesley Clark that she had identified four separate sites which required attention—

(1) Will he provide the results of the tests carried out in June/July 1995 by Dr Kathleen Burns from the Australian Institute of Marine Science?

(2) Has the area in question been fully remediated?

(3) What is the current status of this land?

Answer (Mr Barton):

(1) Dr Kathryn Burns conducted testing at the Yorkeys Knob site in May and July 1995.

With respect to the July 1995 testing, the report compiled by Dr Burns on the results of the validation sampling was received in the Far Northern Office of the Department of Environment and Heritage on Friday, 17 November 1995. This report is currently being assessed by the DEH Hazardous Waste and Contaminated Sites Section in Brisbane.

I will arrange for a copy of the report to be forwarded directly to the Member for Barron River.

(2) The area in question has been substantially remediated with Dr Burns preliminary report following sampling in May 1995 indicating that "... this small oil spill no longer poses any threat to the contiguous estuary or any offshore areas..."

Dr Burns' latest report indicates:

- there is no obvious fluid oil left in the sediments,
- there was no visible oil on the water in the creeks,
- there was an abundance of crabs in the mangrove areas indicating a return of even the very sensitive biota,
- whatever oil remains in the sand and wet land muds from this spill will continue to degrade and dissipate at a fast rate,
- the Melaleuca Forest had refoliated.

Any further cleanup activities on this site would require heavy machinery which would damage the vegetation, compromising the integrity of the ecosystem which Dr Burns report suggests is promoting the rapid degradation of any remaining oil.

Dr Burns' final validation report is currently being assessed by DEH Hazardous Waste and Contaminated Sites Section in Brisbane to ascertain whether the site has been fully remediated.

(3) The site is currently listed on the Contaminated Sites register as a 'Probable' site.

458. Kholo Creek Resource Area

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

With reference to the extractive industries unit in his department and to the Kholo Creek Resource Area—

- (1) What consultations or discussions have taken place with respect to the development of the resource area by the unit?
- (2) What consultations or discussions have taken place with other relevant State Government departments and agencies?
- (3) If no consultations or discussions have occurred, what process will be adopted for further evaluation of the Kholo Creek Resource Area?

Answer (Mr McGrady):

Currently the statutory planning and development approval for extractive resources on private land is the responsibility of Local Authorities, in this case the Ipswich City Council. The involvement of the Department of Minerals and Energy (DME) has been confined to providing geological resource advice to planning and approval bodies such as the Ipswich City Council and its precursor, the Moreton Shire Council. The Extractive Industry Unit of the Department of Minerals and Energy has been kept informed by Boral of their recent work to identify an acceptable haul route to allow exploitation of the Kholo Creek hard rock resource. DME believes that these deposits represent regionally significant resources, and the Department is committed to ensuring that the deposits are protected for the long term use of the community.

The Department of the Premier, Economic and Trade Development (DPETD) has enquired on whether the Unit has any desire to take carriage of the Kholo issue. DPETD have been informed that the Extractive Industry Unit is keen to facilitate decision making for extractive applications as soon as possible. However, since the Planning, Environment Development Assessment (PEDA) Bill will not be passed for some time, the Extractive Industry Unit does not presently have any legislation under which decisions can be made. DPETD have been informed that it would be inappropriate for DME to assume responsibility for the project, but that the Department intends that the Kholo resource gains planning protection as a Key Resource Area in the long term.

The new Extractive Industry Unit's mission is "To ensure long term access to strategically located extractive resources for the benefit of the Queensland community". The Unit is currently establishing procedures for assessing extractive resources for planning protection. The Unit is committed to 'best practice' in developing consultation processes for input by the community, Local Government, and other State agencies on any proposals for protection.

459. Eastlink

Mr FITZGERALD asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy

With reference to the Government's decision to proceed with the Eastlink Project to link Queensland and New South Wales electricity grids—

- (1) How many easements have been acquired over properties in Queensland?
- (2) Have any properties been purchased outright?

- (3) Have any properties been resumed?
- (4) What is the program time-frame to acquire the easements necessary for the powerline?

Answer (Mr McGrady):

- (1) No easements have yet been acquired over properties in Queensland.
- (2) No properties have been purchased outright.
- (3) No properties have been resumed.
- (4) It is anticipated that the notices of intention to resume easements will be issued around November 1996 and that all easements will be acquired and the site available for construction by April 1997.

460. Timber Industry

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

With reference to the reported suggestion that the Federal Government is considering a lock up of 15 per cent of pre-1750 native forests—

- (1) Is the 15 per cent a realistic figure to aim for, should this policy be adopted?
- (2) Bearing in mind our timber imports have increased to \$3 billion a year, what action could be considered to offer alternative sources of supply if this lock out figure is implemented?
- (3) How many mills in Queensland would be affected and jobs lost if this decision is implemented?

Answer (Mr Gibbs):

1. The Queensland Government is committed to establishing a Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative Forest conservation reserve system. The difficult question of how much forest should be included is the subject of wide debate in the community.

2. The Commonwealth Government has developed reserve criteria which require 15% of pre 1750 forest distribution to be included in the system. This criterion has the potential to significantly impact on social and economic considerations in rural Queensland.

3. I am not prepared to agree to any reservation criteria until there has been wide consultation with stakeholders. To this end the Government has approved the establishment of a Forest Working Group (FWG) comprised of Government, industry and conservation movement representatives. The principal task of the FWG is to develop, as soon as possible, an agreed approach to establishing a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system in South-East Queensland based on factual data.

4. I will not speculate on the impacts of the 15% criterion. I believe the action set in train is the most appropriate course to follow. At the same time high level negotiations with the Commonwealth will continue on this and other issues of forest policy

5. The Queensland Government has committed more than \$24 million over the next five years to expand Queensland's plantation estate of native timber

species. This includes funding for a research and development program and for a joint venture plantation scheme with private landholders. These initiatives are aimed at developing a future source of timber for Queensland industry and will reduce our need to import timber.

462. Retreaded Tyres

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

With reference to passenger transport vehicles, particularly buses—

- (1) Is a certificate of roadworthiness issued for such a vehicle, if that vehicle is fitted with retreaded front tyres; if so, under what circumstances would this be the case?
- (2) What guidelines are laid down for the use or fitting of retreaded tyres to passenger transport vehicles?

Answer (Mr Elder):

Passenger transport vehicles, including buses undergo inspections conducted by Queensland Transport every six months. A Certificate of Inspection (as opposed to a Certificate of Roadworthiness) is issued at these inspections to permit continued registration.

Retreaded front tyres are not classified as a defect and if in good condition would not result in failure to issue a Certificate of Inspection.

Passenger transport vehicles are not required to follow any special guidelines for the fitting of retreaded tyres—only those that apply to other similar vehicles.

To determine the cause of failure of tyres, and whether retreaded tyres are a problem, the tyre industry commissioned a survey by the Queensland University of Technology. The results showed that there was no appreciable difference in the failure rate of retreaded tyres compared to new tyres when taking into account the distance travelled.

The survey found that the major cause of tyre failure is under inflation, inadequate tyre maintenance and vehicle overloading.

In addition to six month safety inspections, Queensland Transport operates a number of random roadside vehicle inspections as part of its on road enforcement activities. The objective of these checks is to ensure that vehicles, including their tyres, are not defective or overloaded.

There is no evidence that suggests that retreaded tyres, that meet the appropriate standard, are more prone to failure than new tyres. The major cause of tyre failure are operator related including under inflation, inadequate tyre maintenance and vehicle overloading.

463. Dental Position Vacancies

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Health—

What was the number of vacant dental positions and their locations at 1 July 1995 and 30 October 1995?

Answer (Mr Beattie):

The number of vacant dental positions at 1 July 1995 was 36 and these were located across all Regions except Brisbane North, South Coast and West Moreton.

At 30 October 1995 the vacant dental positions numbered 36 with vacancies in all Regions except Brisbane North, Brisbane South and West Moreton.

Oral Health Services in the Regions are finalising recruitment and selection processes to implement Integrated Team Dentistry. Regional Coordinators have indicated they anticipate appointments against some of the current vacant dental positions in the near future.

464. Palm Beach Community Health Centre

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the proposed Palm Beach Community Health Centre and also to the article which appeared in the Queensland Health publication "State of Health" (November 1995)—

- (1) When will work commence on refurbishment of the building?
- (2) When will this work be completed and the building opened?
- (3) When will dental services be available to the general public?
- (4) Will a methadone program be included in the facilities?
- (5) Will a needle exchange program be included?

Answer (Mr Beattie):

(1) & (2) Some unexpected delays regarding the purchase of land have been encountered. Negotiations are continuing and once the purchase is finalised work will commence. If negotiations are my Department will be asked to look for alternative sites.

(3) Dental services are already available and in , emergency cases are being contracted with private dentists.

(4) There is no plan to include a methadone program at this time.

(5) In spite of a (word deleted by order of Mr Speaker) campaign conducted by the Honourable member and the Liberal and National Parties at the State Election, a needle exchange program is not planned for this facility.

466. Papaya Fruit Fly

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

- (1) Is he aware of the enormous pressure on staff who are making every effort to provide the necessary documentation and training for temporary inspectors to administer the requirements of other States as a result of the papaya fruit fly outbreak in North Queensland?
- (2) Now that the quarantine area is being extended, will additional full time staff be provided?

Answer (Mr Gibbs):

1. Since the initial detection of the papaya fruit fly in North Queensland, every available resource has been used to meet the problem head on. Staff in my Department have demonstrated their capacity to deal effectively with the increase in workload in the North Region, particularly in relation to supervision of disinfestation treatments and issuing documentation to allow fruit to leave the area for southern markets.

The Government will ensure that resources are available to deal with quarantine requirements associated with the Papaya fruit fly.

2. Sufficient permanent and temporary staff are being employed and trained to ensure that the requirements of the extended quarantine are complied with.

467. Beche-de-mer Fishery

Mr PERRETT asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

With reference to the concern of Torres Strait leaders that there may be over-fishing of Beche-De-Mer in the Torres Straits and as Papua New Guinea waters have been over-fished to the extent that the industry had to be closed, and in view of the fact that the Torres Strait Beche-De-Mer fishery is controlled by the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority—

- (1) What action is the Government taking to ascertain whether over-fishing is occurring?
- (2) What scientific research is being done to ascertain if there is over-fishing?
- (3) Does he intend to limit the catch in any way?

Answer (Mr Gibbs):

1. Following the Proclamation of *Queensland Fisheries Act 1994* responsibility for management of Beche-de-mer in Queensland became the responsibility of the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority (QFMA). A review of catch data revealed that much of the catch has been unrecorded.

The Authority has assembled catch only data from other sources (Australian Quarantine Inspection Service and Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol). This information has revealed that catch for the calendar year 1995 would exceed 750 tonnes, whereas catches for the previous years were in the vicinity of fifty tonnes. Such extremely high harvest levels of the past calendar year are not considered to be sustainable and if continued would result in severe overfishing.

2. The QFMA is preparing to have a survey undertaken of Beche-de-mer stocks in the Torres Strait. A survey design is being put together by the Torres Strait Scientific Advisory Committee. In addition preliminary enquiries as to necessary research have been undertaken with the Australian Institute of Marine Science, James Cook University and CSIRO. It is estimated a comprehensive survey required to provide the stock information will cost in the vicinity of \$130,000 and take fifteen months to complete.

3. Under the *Queensland Fisheries Act 1994* the QFMA is responsible for management of Queensland's collection fisheries include Beche-de-mer. I am advised that under its legislation and in keeping with its responsibilities the QFMA has instituted an emergency closed waters declaration which has made it illegal to take Beche-de-mer for a two month period. The declaration came into force on 1 December 1995. During the closure the QFMA will be undertaking consultation with Islanders to develop a set of permit conditions which can be applied to ensure the sustainability of the fishery.

468. Charters Towers-Townsville Bus Service

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

With reference to the daily bus service commuting between Charters Towers and Townsville and as a large percentage of patronage of this service are pensioners seeking services (mainly medical) in the city of Townsville—

Is any subsidy available through his department to assist in keeping this essential bus service operational?

Answer (Mr Elder):

A long distance bus service is currently provided by Douglas Coaches between Charter Towers and Townsville, a distance of approximately 150 kilometres.

Under the *Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994* a bus service with an average journey length of over 40 kilometres is regarded as a deregulated long distance passenger service.

Consequently there are no fare concessions or subsidies available on this service between Charters Towers and Townsville.

I acknowledge that the extension of current pensioner concessions and operator subsidies would be welcomed by pensioners and other groups. However, as you would appreciate there are a significant number of long distance services in Queensland. It would not be equitable to provide special financial assistance to one service which would be unavailable to operators generally.

470. TAFE Colleges, Enrolments and Resources

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

With reference to the Annual Reports for 1994-95 of the Department of Employment, Vocational Education, Training and Industrial Relations (pages 37, 41), the Vocational Education, Training and Employment Commission (pages 15, 32) and TAFE Queensland (pages 16, 27, 87)—

- (1) Why are there major statistical discrepancies between these reports when they are supposedly reporting the same enrolment and participation data for the same period?
- (2) Why were there no male enrolments at Mt Isa TAFE in 1994?

- (3) Why is there a deplorable under-participation by females in the programs conducted in (a) Bundaberg, (b) Rockhampton, (c) Townsville and (d) Brisbane?
- (4) With the total TAFE staff given as 7,388 (of whom 3,751 are educational staff) why is the participation of only eight staff in the release to industry scheme, to improve their skills, listed as an 'achievement'?
- (5) (a) Why are names not provided for the 'various representatives—TAFE Queensland' who participated in the 1995 international student recruitment activities in Korea, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Taiwan, Fiji, Japan and Papua New Guinea, (b) who were these officers and (c) how many students did they recruit from each of the countries listed?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

(1) I provide the following explanation of statistical discrepancies in enrolment and participation data provided in Annual Reports of my Department.

- (a) The Vocational Education, Training and Employment Commission's Annual Report based its enrolment figures upon those students who nominated their sex on the enrolment form as either male or female. Six enrolments which did not nominate sex were not included. The TAFE Queensland Annual Report included all enrolments whether or not sex was nominated on the enrolment form. The difference is 6 enrolments.
- (b) The participation data on page 37 of the DEVETIR Annual Report identified High School student enrolments in TAFE Queensland modules. The statement on page 16 of the TAFE Queensland Annual Report uses a similar format to that contained in the DEVETIR Annual Report but is based upon data provided by the Board of Senior Secondary School Studies. This data identifies the number of Grade 12 students who have successfully completed a TAFE Queensland module.
- (c) A clerical error occurred in compilation of the 1994-95 DEVETIR Annual Report detailing the number of first preference applicants to TAFE Queensland through the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre. As reported in the TAFE Queensland Annual Report, there were a total of 10,280 first preference applicants for TAFE Queensland courses in 1995.

(2) The graph on page 19 of the TAFE Queensland Annual Report depicts the participation rate of DEVETIR employees by gender and region. As a result of a technical error during printing, this graph did not fully re-produce the figures relating to the Mt Isa region. The graph should have indicated a participation rate of 51.9% male employees.

(3) As stated previously the graph on page 19 of the TAFE Queensland Annual Report depicts the participation rate of DEVETIR employees by gender and region. In 1994 female enrolments in TAFE Queensland represented 48.9% of total enrolments. Gender participation rates in TAFE Queensland courses reflect local community demographics.

(4) The Release to Industry Scheme referred to is a specific scheme sponsored by the National Staff Development Committee (NSDC), a committee of the Australian National Training Authority (ANTA). This Scheme provides national funding for approved proposals from TAFE systems, other vocational education and training providers, and State and Territory Training Authorities. In 1994-95, Queensland's share was \$72,982.

This funding is intended to be a catalyst in the development of innovative activity in high priority areas of staff training and development. This scheme does not replace the routine Return to Industry activity that already takes place in Institutes.

- (5)(a) The names of the various TAFE Queensland representatives were not included due to the routine nature of their participation and the number of officers involved.
- (b) The names of these officers are: Cam McConnell, Riborg Andersen, Alex Gamblin, Coral McKillop, Craig Sherrin, Robyn Paulson, Dianne Smith, Muriel Alorizo's, Sally Garozzo, Peter Clyburn
- (c) The number of international students recruited from each of the countries in 1994-95 were:

	Male	Female	Total
China	2	4	6
South Korea	120	131	251
Hong Kong	89	121	210
India	25	1	26
Indonesia	61	46	107
Taiwan	120	236	356
Fiji	10	3	13
Japan	123	198	321
Papua New Guinea	58	28	86

471. Cooroy Bypass

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

With reference to the vehicle noise level monitoring carried out by Queensland Transport on the Cooroy Bypass during the week ending 11 November 1995—

- (1) What days of the week are designated by Queensland Transport for monitoring?
- (2) Which hours of the day are specified for monitoring vehicle noise levels?
- (3) Is the final decibel level reading advice the maximum recorded or an average over the day's monitoring?
- (4) Do designated days and times apply to all roads for vehicle noise level monitoring in Queensland?

Answer (Mr Elder):

- (1) Any working day (the 5 days of the week).
- (2) Measurements are taken between the hours of 0600 and 2400 pursuant to Australian Standards, AS2702, 1984 and CORTN (Calculation of Road Traffic Noise 1988) to achieve road traffic noise level of L₁₀(18 hour).

(3) All noise levels are expressed in terms of the L_{10} hourly or $L_{10}(18 \text{ hour})$ dB(A). The value of the L_{10} hourly dB(A) is the noise level exceeded for 10 per cent of the time over a period of one hour. The $L_{10}(18 \text{ hour})$ dB(A) is the arithmetic mean of the values of L_{10} hourly dB(A) for each of the eighteen one-hour periods between 0600 and 2400 hours. Therefore, the measurement is the arithmetic of mean ten minute readings in each hour over an eighteen period.

Within certain circumstances, the shortened measurement procedure may be used. Measurements over ten minute periods (L_{10}) are made over any three consecutive hours between 1000 and 1700 hours. This shortened three hour measurement is used to confirm the predicted 18 hourly levels.

The criteria for prioritising works are:

- A new road—63dB(A), $L_{10}(18 \text{ hour})$ or an increase of ≥ 10 dB(A), $L_{10}(18 \text{ hour})$ above previous background resulting in a level of greater than 60dB(A).
- An existing road to be upgraded—68dB(A) and has increased by ≥ 3 dB(A).
- The Bruce Highway at Cooroy (the bypass) is being evaluated at the 63dB(A) or increased ≥ 10 dB(A) above previous background levels.

(4) The above criteria is applied across the State to achieve a standard methodology for the prioritisation of ameliorative works, pursuant to Australian Standards.

472. Penalties and Sentences

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for the Arts—

With reference to concerns raised by the Chambers Flat and Logan Reserve Neighbourhood (Rural) Watch Group to him that adequate penalties are not being awarded to criminal offenders and that the question of minimum sentences and action to deal with criminals reoffending whilst on bail or parole has not been addressed by him—

Will he provide advice on how the aforementioned concerns may be adequately addressed?

Answer (Mr Foley):

The question raises two issues, first, adequacy of penalties, and, second, dealing with persons who offend while on bail or parole.

ADEQUACY OF PENALTIES

With regard to the adequacy of penalties, it should be noted that the Government completely reviewed the Criminal Code for the first time in nearly a century and a new Criminal Code was passed by the Parliament in June 1995. The new Criminal Code increases the maximum penalties for a number of offences. It should also be noted that over the past two years, the prison population in Queensland has increased by 42%, an indication that heavier penalties are being imposed by the courts.

OFFENCES COMMITTED ON BAIL OR PAROLE

The *Bail Act 1980* and the *Corrective Services Act 1988* adequately provide for the consequences of the commission of an offence while on bail or parole respectively.

For example, where it is alleged that a defendant commits an indictable offence while on bail, waiting to be tried for another indictable offence, the court or police officer considering a further request for bail must refuse bail unless the defendant shows cause why their detention is not justified: see s.16(3) of the *Bail Act 1980*. The possibility that a defendant if granted bail would commit an offence is a factor that the court or police officer considers in deciding not to grant bail under s.16(1)(a)(ii)(A) of the *Bail Act 1980*.

Where an offender, who has been released on parole, is sentenced to imprisonment for another offence committed during the parole period, their parole is cancelled under s.187 of the *Corrective Services Act 1988*.

473. Assaults on Students

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to an alleged attack on the now former Inala State High School student, David Lloyd on 9 November 1995 in the school grounds, reportedly involving a samurai sword—

- (1) What is the outcome of the investigation undertaken by the school principal and what further action will be taken against the perpetrator or perpetrators of this incident?
- (2) How many incidents involving assaults on students have occurred in or adjacent to the grounds of Inala State High School in 1995?
- (3) What has been the outcome of past investigations of such incidents?
- (4) Has financial compensation been paid by the State Government to any victims of such assaults in 1995; if so, how much?
- (5) How many incidents involving assaults on students necessitating police action have occurred in or near state high schools in 1995?

Answer (Mr Hamill):

Following the incident, the school principal contacted the regional Executive Director and interviewed a number of the students involved. The student against whom the allegation was made was then suspended with a view to exclusion and an investigation is being conducted by a Senior Review Officer of the Department.

There have been no incidents which could be described as assaults on students reported to staff at Inala State High School during 1995. However, here have been some two dozen episodes which have involved some measure of physical contact between students. The principal has a detailed record of these incidents and the penalties imposed.

If the allegation in this type of incident (i.e. one involving an implement or weapon) is found to be substantiated, the usual outcome is exclusion from

the school. There have been no incidents of this nature at Inala State High School reported to Regional Office for investigation during 1995.

To the best of the Department of Education's knowledge, there has been no financial compensation paid to victims of assaults in state schools during 1995.

For Semester One 1995 there were 29 state high school students in Queensland excluded from school because of assaults on other students.

474. Overtime Payments, Ambulance Service

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Consumer Affairs—

With reference to a recent personal deal he made with the union leaders representing Queensland Ambulance Services (QAS) officers to fund overtime to overcome staffing shortages and prevent industrial action by them—

- (1) Will he give an assurance that the capital expenditure budget of the QAS will not be cut to fund the overtime?
- (2) Where in the budget papers are the cost reserves that fund this overtime?

Answer (Mr Davies):

1. I can gladly give the Member for Western Downs a categorical assurance that none of the projects listed on page 20 of the Portfolio Program Statements will be curtailed due to staff overtime payments.
2. Overtime is not paid from "cost reserves" as such a budget item does not exist. Overtime is paid from the Salaries and Wages component in the budget.

475. Windaroo Valley State High School

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the lack of facilities provided by the Education Department at Windaroo Valley State High School at present, and the expected enrolments of 1,100 for 1996—

Will he (a) bring forward the construction stages for future buildings and facilities to reflect the increased student population, (b) increase teaching staff numbers as classes are already overcrowded and (c) provide facilities to enable the school to offer Shop A, Home Economics and computer courses to students?

Answer (Mr Hamill):

The planning of additional facilities as subsequent stages to new secondary schools involves an analysis of projected demand for various teaching spaces based on enrolments and current teaching data.

This process has been undertaken and the following additional facilities are being provided for the 1996 school year:

- 3rd laboratory by conversion
- 3rd art classroom by conversion
- 2nd shop A (Wood Working) by conversion
- 2nd kitchen by conversion
- General Studies block (8 classrooms)

- Staff/Amenities block
- Performing Arts block.

All projects are currently under construction and it is anticipated work will be completed for the commencement of the new school year.

Appropriate addition to teacher numbers will occur, matched to the enrolment growth and curriculum offerings at the school.

479. Power Station Emissions

Mr GILMORE asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

With reference to three occasions during 1995 when blackouts/brownouts occurred as a result of loadshedding, and two other occasions at least when loadshedding was narrowly averted—

As a result of serious threats to the integrity of supply, were environmental standards for emissions from power stations ever exceeded; if so, (a) by how much, (b) for how long and (c) from which power stations?

Answer (Mr McGrady):

Particulate emissions from all AUSTA Electric coal-fired power stations are regulated under the Environmental Protection Act 1994 by licences which translated from the repealed Clean Air Act. The operating policy for these power stations requires that emission limits be maintained within regulatory requirements and that load be reduced to achieve this when necessary. In any event where a particulate emission exceedance has occurred, the cause is investigated, remedial action taken, and the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage advised accordingly. Particulate emission standards were not exceeded during the periods in question.

480. Queensland Transmission and Supply Corporation

Mr HARPER asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

With reference to the Queensland Transmission and Supply Corporation—

- (1) What was the opening share capital and debt at 1 January 1995?
- (2) How was this figure distributed in turn in the balance sheet categories, particularly (a) current assets (i) assets, (ii) receivables, (ii) 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):

(1) The opening share capital and debt of the Corporation on 1 January 1995, representing the net assets of the Corporation, ie total assets minus total liabilities, was \$4,229,373,000. This comprised share capital of \$2 with the balance being debt owed to the shareholding Ministers.

(2) This figure was distributed in the balance sheet categories as follows:

- (a) Current Assets
- (i) Cash assets—\$162,698,000
 - (ii) Receivables—\$254,531,000
 - (iii) Inventory—\$53,659,000
 - (iv) Other—\$7,694,000
 - (v) Total current assets—\$478,582,000
- (b) Non-current assets
- (i) Receivables—\$1,612,000
 - (ii) Property plant and equipment—\$4,836,372,000
 - (iii) Other—\$66,913,000
 - (iv) Total non-current assets—\$4,904,897,000

Total assets as described above were \$5,383,479,000; total liabilities were \$1,154,106,000, providing net assets of \$4,229,373,000. Included in the total liabilities of \$1,154,106,000 of the Corporation at that date was debt owed to the Queensland Treasury Corporation totalling \$688,955,000.

481. Solar Hot Water System Rebates

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

With reference to the Queensland Energy Saver Plan, under which home owners who install solar hot water systems receive a rebate of between \$300 and \$500, depending on whether the system has a single or twin solar collector—

How is it that people who install solar panels to existing electric systems are being denied a rebate, when such a modified system would seem to meet the Government's overall intention of energy saving by utilising solar energy?

Answer (Mr McGrady):

The Solar Hot Water Scheme, to which Mr Malone refers, is a successful program to promote the benefits of solar water heating. As at 16 November 1995 there had been 1812 rebates paid out under the scheme, at a total value of \$761 100. Guidelines for the program were developed in association with all the major solar water heater manufacturers from around Australia. These guidelines contain requirements for solar water heaters to meet Australian Standards for design and construction, WaterMark or Quality Assurance to ensure that proven performance in solar hot water systems is promoted by the Government. Fitting panels to an existing electric hot water system does not ensure that a family will receive an adequate supply of solar hot water. However, such systems, in concept, are not excluded from the program, rather no manufacturer has yet developed a system and proven it capable of meeting a householder's needs and the basic guidelines of the program. While no Government could be expected to fund all conceivable energy options in the general community, this Government keeps elements of its Energy Efficiency and Alternative Energy Policy under review and is willing to take into consideration technological and market changes as appropriate.

482. School principal vacancies

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the many occasions where acting principals have filled principal positions for long periods in schools, promoting a destabilising influence in many of these school communities because of the uncertainty of just how long these people will stay in these acting roles and whether they will be fortunate to win these positions—

Will he give an assurance that these positions of acting principals will be filled by permanent appointments for the commencement of the 1996 school year?

Answer (Mr Hamill):

In circumstances where a position becomes vacant due to promotion, retirement or resignation of the incumbent every effort is made by the Department to fill the vacancy as soon as possible with a permanent officer. However, in order to allow such positions to be filled by the best person for the position, many vacancies are advertised and filled through the process of merit selection. On occasions it is necessary to appoint an acting Principal while the merit selection process is being managed. The appointment of an acting Principal to vacancy enables a position to be filled in a temporary capacity while giving officers the opportunity to develop skills in leadership and school administration.

All registered teachers are eligible to apply for any advertised vacant promotional position. Those acting Principals who apply for an advertised position will be appointed to the position if they are the most meritorious applicant.

In some circumstances officers perform duties in Principals' positions because the incumbent of the position is on paid leave. As the position is not a permanent vacancy such officers will not have the opportunity to be appointed permanently, but will be in a position to develop skills which will enable them to apply for advertised vacancies.

The duration of most acting and performing duties' service varies with the particular circumstances relating to each vacancy. For periods of greater than 3 months, acting officers are appointed through the expressions of interest process as governed by the PSMC Standard on Recruitment and Selection.

483. Cape York Wilderness Zone

Mrs WILSON asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

With reference to the fact that recreational fishing is carried out now in the proposed Cape York Wilderness Zone—

- (1) Will recreational fishing still be allowed to continue by anyone (a) in the whole region and (b) within Princess Charlotte Bay?
- (2) What is the current situation on fishing off the North Queensland coast for live export?

Answer (Mr Gibbs):

1. The proposed Cape York Wilderness Conservation Zone, as it is now termed, is being

implemented by the Department of Environment and Heritage.

I am advised that, in accord with the Premier's Statement on the proposal, public access to the Zone for recreational purposes, including for recreational fishing, will be maintained and, where possible, be enhanced, subject to satisfying Ecological Sustainable Development Principles. Fishing within Princess Charlotte Bay will be subject to the same considerations.

2. In reply to Mrs Wilson's question regarding the current situation on fishing off the North Queensland coast for live reef fish exports -

- Only commercial fishing vessels licensed to operate in the line fishery may take reef fish.
- The level of catch for exports of live fish primarily Coral Trout for 1995 up to September 1995 was approximately seventy-five tonnes.
- This compares to fifty-four tonnes which was exported during 1994.
- The level of fishing for this live reef fish market represents less than two per cent of total reef fish catches by commercial fishers.
- The Queensland Fisheries Management Authority is maintaining monthly logbook returns from commercial fishing operators and also obtaining statistical information from live fish exporters.

484. Emergency Services, Redland Shire

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Consumer Affairs—

With reference to areas in the southern portion of the Redland Shire which are beyond the accepted response times for both fire and ambulance services—

Does the Government's announced \$17m budget for emergency services provide for the provision of both a fire station and an ambulance station to be built and staffed in the southern Redland Shire; if so, when can it be expected to be completed?

Answer (Mr Davies):

Response times for both Ambulance and Fire attendance to the southern portion of the Redland Shire are within acceptable time frames so I would suggest that from now on, the Honourable Member do his research before asking questions—it will save him further embarrassment.

With the expanding population in the area, both the Ambulance and Fire Services will consider providing staffed facilities at the appropriate time. In anticipation of this time occurring, both services are currently engaged in preparatory planning for the eventual selection of appropriate sites.

485. Nambour Hospital

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) How long must Sunshine Coast residents wait for check-ups with staff at Nambour Hospital for

the following services (a) dental (non-emergency), (b) physiotherapy, (c) ear, nose and throat and (d) paediatric development unit?

- (2) How does this compare with Royal Brisbane Hospital?

Answer (Mr Beattie):

- (1) Nambour Hospital—Between 6 to 10 months

- (a) Dental (non-emergency)—To meet increasing demand for public dental services on the Sunshine Coast, the Government is working to establish private contract arrangements to alleviate waiting times.
- (b) Physiotherapy—Less than 2 weeks for urgent patients referred by Nambour Hospital
- (c) Ear, nose and throat—There is no specialist ENT clinic at Nambour Hospital
- (d) Paediatric development unit—For new assessments the average waiting time is 10 months².

- (2) Royal Brisbane Hospital

- (a) Dental (non-emergency)—There is no dental clinic at the RBH.
- (b) Physiotherapy
 - 2 days for acute patients
 - 2 weeks for sub-acute patients
 - 6 weeks for chronic patients
- (c) Ear, nose and throat (Non-emergency)—36 weeks
- (d) Paediatric development unit
 - Specialist appointment 12 months
 - Therapist appointment 6-8 months

Reducing waiting times is a key priority for the Queensland Government. To reduce waiting times in priority areas of non-urgent medical treatments, the Government has:-

- invested \$64 million over 3 years to reduce backlogs in elective surgery;
- committed \$42.1 million over 3 years to attract and retain more specialists;
- accelerated the rebuilding of the fabric of our public hospital system with an extra \$40 million over 2 years; and
- introduced a specialist equipment program to ensure our specialist areas maintain world class standards.

486. Promotional Material, Queensland Health

Mr CARROLL asked the Minister for Health—

What are the full particulars of expenditure on (reports and newsletter style) pamphlets and promotional material provided by or for Queensland Health during the quarter ended 30 June 1995 and the quarter ended 30 September 1995?

Answer (Mr Beattie):

Expenditure in Central Office and the Regions on reports and newsletter style promotional material during the quarters ending 30 June and 30

September 1995 respectively was \$179,907 and \$126,170.

The Newsletters include Regional newsletters enclosing Enterprise Bargaining, Breast Cancer Screening and Cervical Cancer public awareness information, Mental Health Plan and Papers.

Queensland Health provides a very important service to the community in the provision of public health education, information and health promotion material. The dissemination of this information both within and outside the public health service has proven benefits in the delivery of health services.

487.Papaya Fruit Fly

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

With reference to measures taken by the Queensland Primary Industries Department to control the papaya fruit fly in Far North Queensland—

- (1) What detection measures are being undertaken by his department in national parks for papaya fruit fly?
- (2) How long has his department had the program in place; if there is no program in place, is it his intention to monitor national parks; if so, what will the program involve?
- (3) What methods of disposal of dimethoate fruit fly dip are being undertaken?
- (4) Has there been a full investigation of possible environmental consequence of the disposal methods; if so, by whom and when did this take place?
- (5) Have these methods got the full support of himself and his department?
- (6) Is it his intention to ensure monitoring of ground water in the disposal area; if so, when and what form will the program take.

Answer (Mr Barton):

Answer not supplied

488.Workers' Compensation

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

What were the State Government's total workers' compensation premium receipts for Toowoomba and the Darling Downs for each year from 1990-91 to 1994-95?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

The total workers' compensation premium receipts collected in the Toowoomba and Darling Downs district including the Roma area are as follows.

PREMIUM YEAR	PREMIUM COLLECTED
1990/91	\$18,414,852
1991/92	\$18,434,359
1992/93	\$23,784,792
1993/94	\$26,319,687
1994/95	\$28,210,089

(assessments not yet fully completed)

490. Emergency Helicopter Service, Gold Coast

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Consumer Affairs—

With reference to the community emergency helicopter rescue service Flight Care based on the Gold Coast—

- (1) How can he justify retaining the annual grant to Flight Care at \$300,000 over a number of years which is a decrease in funding in real terms?
- (2) Does he support a suggestion that Flight Care should revert to a single engine helicopter when only twin engine aircraft are permitted to fly rescue work at night?

Answer (Mr Davies):

(1) The Member for Western Downs should check his facts before asking Questions for he continually shows his lack of basic publicly available knowledge when he attempts to undermine the good record of this Government.

The community based helicopter rescue service on the Gold Coast is called "Care Flight" not "Flight Care" as it is named by Mr Littleproud.

This Government's commitment to improving the emergency and rescue response available to all Queenslanders is unparalleled in this State and is the envy of all other Governments.

Since 1989 this Government has increased funding for such activities to record levels with expenditure this year alone anticipated to exceed \$4.2M.

The Queensland Emergency Service Bell 412 can, and regularly in fact services the Gold Coast and the hinterland area.

(2) Care Flight voluntarily introduced a larger more expensive Bell helicopter into service knowing that certain repayments were required to be met and that there would be difficulties fulfilling their financial obligations. The Company also knew that this type of helicopter was more expensive to operate and that maintenance costs were also more expensive.

Prior to the purchase, Care Flight were well aware that all the other operating or proposed community based helicopter services were single engined units and that they were moving against the established trend.

It is entirely up to Care Flight to decide whether or not to revert to a single engined unit and their business plan and operational charter will reflect their decision.

491.Golden Staph

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Health—

Will he provide statistical detail of all Golden Staph infections in Queensland for the periods 1/7/94 to 30/6/95 and 1/7/95 to 31/10/95 on a per hospital basis?

Answer (Mr Beattie):

Statistical information concerning the incidence of Golden Staph infections varies from region to region. Some regions retain data regarding both incidents of isolates and new cases, some retain combined

figures whilst others cite only new cases. Hospitals serviced by one pathology department like the Royal Brisbane, Royal Children's and Royal Women's Hospitals retain data on all incidents recorded.

Thus the data is unreliable because the same patients who experience repeated isolation occurrences are counted a number of times and as are patients presenting from other health care facilities (such as nursing homes), already infected with Golden Staph (Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus).

The Staphylococcus bacteria which is commonly carried by normal healthy people is a fact of life in both clinical and non-clinical settings.

493. Queensland Transport Tendering Process

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

With reference to Queensland Transport tendering for contracts in competition with private contractors—

- (1) What weightage is given to the use of taxpayer funded facilities such as drafting facilities, computerised financial analysis, vehicle sales tax exemption and the like in the tendering process, or is no consideration given to this advantage?
- (2) How is confidentiality maintained in the opening of documents when the department is a tenderer for a contract and in turn awards the contract to itself in numerous instances?
- (3) How many contracts have been let to the Transport Department in competition with private companies in the past two years?
- (4) Is departmental tendering carried out on a region by region basis or from the central office of the department?
- (5) What component of profit is determined by the department when tendering for these contracts?

Answer (Mr Elder):

(1) Under the transition arrangements that apply in opening the Queensland Transport market to competition until the first of January 1996, Queensland Transport Commercial Business Units include all direct cost together with on and off site overheads, in their bid prices. However after first of January 1996, Commercial Business Units will, in addition to direct costs and overheads, include costs of imputed taxes and charges that will ensure that there is no competitive advantage or disadvantage to Queensland Transport Business Units relative to the private sector.

(2) When Queensland Transport Commercial Business Units bid for Queensland Transport work, the tender assessment panel must include a representative from outside of Queensland Transport to verify that the process of assessment was carried out without favour to any party. In this way, the selection process can assure an outcome based on best value and not be affected by the origin of the Tenderer.

(3) Considering works contracts of value greater than \$200,000 over the financial years 93/94, 94/95, Queensland Transport has won 34 contracts. During the same period 37 contracts were awarded to the private sector.

(4) Departmental bidding has been carried out on a District basis in South East Queensland and on a Regional basis in the remainder of the State.

(5) During the transition period in opening up of the Queensland Transport market to competition, Commercial Business Units have sought to break even.

494. Papaya Fruit Fly

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

- (1) What level of surveillance is being carried out on trains and ships that travel across quarantine boundaries, in an endeavour to curtail the progress of the papaya fruit fly?
- (2) To assist with the eradication program, will internal surveillance be carried out to minimise the spread of the fly from the heavily infested areas?

Answer (Mr Gibbs):

1(a) Railway stationmasters at Cairns have been approached with a request that all passengers be advised that fruit should not be removed from the quarantine zone unless given appropriate treatments. Signs and bins have also been provided at the Cairns railway station. Announcements request passengers to deposit fruit in bins which have been provided.

Random inspections have been conducted on the Sunlander travelling south. An inspector meets the train at Ingham, walks through the train conducting inspections, and leaves the train at Rollingstone.

Signs and bins have also been located in bus terminals. Signs, bins and brochures have been placed in domestic and international airline terminals and announcements also made.

(b) Contacts have been made with yacht owners and members of the prawn fleet operating out of Cairns in relation to movements of fruit.

Incoming boats and ships are met by Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service inspectors, inspections conducted and personnel advised of quarantine restrictions.

All boat and ship owners are advised to obtain provisions from wholesalers approved for this purpose. Produce supplied from outside the quarantine zone is being transported into the area in sealed containers and used for this purpose.

2. Surveillance measures particularly trapping and monitoring of travel out of the area, including roadblocks and air, road and sea transport are being maintained. Public support has also been requested and media information has advised that fruit should not be moved out of infested areas.

Extensive trapping throughout the area will continue throughout the eradication program. This will detect

fly movements and the eradication program itself will minimise the spread of the fly by reducing fly populations.

499. TAFE College Equipment

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

With reference to equipment which is no longer required by TAFE centres in Queensland—

- (1) Is it usual practice for equipment such as working lathes and shapers not required at TAFE centres to be rendered useless and sold as scrap material?
- (2) Will she consider offering for sale to private citizens such equipment deemed to be redundant, rather than used for waste?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

1. No. Before a TAFE Queensland Institute of TAFE disposes of any equipment items, an investigation is generally conducted into whether the item can be economically refurbished, traded-in on new equipment, transferred to another Institute, or transferred to the Education Department or similar Government Agency.

2. Equipment such as lathes and shapers are offered for sale by public auction when all other avenues for use in Government have been exhausted. The only exception to the final disposal by public auction would be if a machine was considered unsafe.

500. Timber Industry

Mr PERRETT asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

With reference to confirmation by a spokesman for the Department of Primary Industries that implementation of the Federal Government's preferred National Forest Policy which would lock away 15 per cent of all pre-1750 forest types and species would lead to the forced closure of some 40 timber mills and the loss of at least 2,000 jobs in Queensland—

Will he give an assurance that timber mills owned by Aboriginal communities at Cherbourg, Yarrabah and Bamaga, mills which provide vitally needed jobs and local community income, will not suffer in any way from a loss of access to their current available resource?

Answer (Mr Gibbs):

The Queensland Government is committed to establishing a comprehensive, adequate and representative Forest conservation reserve system. The difficult question of how much forest should be included is the subject of wide debate in the community.

The Commonwealth Government has developed reserve criteria which require 15% of pre 1750 forest distribution to be included in the system. This criterion has the potential to significantly impact on social and economic considerations in rural Queensland.

I am not prepared to agree to any reservation criteria until there has been wide consultation with stakeholders. To this end the Government has approved the establishment of a Forest Working Group (FWG) comprised of Government, industry and conservation movement representatives. The principal task of the FWG is to develop, as soon as possible, an agreed approach to establishing a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system in South-East Queensland based on factual data.

I will not speculate on the impacts the establishment of the reserve system will have on individual sawmills. I believe the full process should be allowed to run its course so that socio-economic values are considered as well as conservation and heritage values.

If the establishment of the reserve system impacts on jobs or communities then a structural adjustment package will be put in place to ensure that assistance is provided to counter these impacts.

501. Child Care

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Family and Community Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Status of Women—

With reference to the recent Federal Government plan to restrict families to 12 hours (1 day) per week of child care in situations where both parents are not working and as in most cases child care facilities are utilised between 2-4 days per week to ensure continuity—

- (1) Is it correct that the occupancy rate of the majority of child care centres in Queensland is approximately 65 per cent of capacity?
- (2) Is it expected that the decision by the Federal Government will further reduce occupancy rates?
- (3) Will he investigate this situation and the implications of the Federal Government's plan and provide advice of any initiatives the State Government may implement to ensure sufficient child care places are available and occupied within Queensland?

Answer (Mrs Woodgate):

(1) As child care is substantially market driven, data on occupancy rates are not required to be provided to the Queensland Government nor, I understand, to the Commonwealth. However, I understand that the Quality Independent Child Care Centres Association has conducted a survey of 18 centres that revealed occupancy rates varying from 98% to 64%, with an average occupancy of 84%.

(2) The supply of centre based child care is substantially market driven. I understand that the intent of the Commonwealth's proposed legislation would be to influence investment decisions of people deciding to open new centres in a manner which would ensure that new centres are only opened in areas where there is a demonstrated need for work related child care. Another effect anticipated by the Commonwealth is that centres would have increased incentives to respond to the

currently substantial unmet need for child care for 0-2 year olds, and to better cater to the needs of parents who are shift-workers or casual employees.

(3) I monitor the provision of child care in Queensland with advice provided by my Ministerial Advisory Committee on Child Care, which is representative of all sectors of child care in Queensland. I will ensure that the significant record of the Queensland Government in relation to child care is maintained. For example, new commitments of the Queensland Government to strengthen preschool and child care in Queensland are currently being implemented.

502. Crime, Toowoomba

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

By what percentage have break and enter offences, stealing offences and motor vehicle thefts increased in the Toowoomba Police District since 1992-93?

Answer (Mr Braddy):

The total number of reported incidents of Motor Vehicle Theft in the Toowoomba Police District in 1992/93 was 383. In 1994/95 it was 429. This represents a 12% increase.

The total number of reported incidents of Break and Enter offences in the Toowoomba Police District in 1992/93 was 1764. In 1994/95 it was 2153. This represents an increase of 22%.

The total number of reported incidents of Stealing offences in the Toowoomba Police District in 1992/93 was 2961. In 1994/95 it was 2898. This represents a decrease of 2.1%.

Members of the Opposition have been falsely claiming this Government has done nothing in the fight against crime in the Toowoomba police district. The facts speak for themselves. Since 1989 there has been a 16.9% increase in police numbers. Sworn police numbers have increased from 136 at that time to a current model strength of 159. The actual strength of the Toowoomba police district as at the 30 November 1995 was 173. The budget for the Toowoomba Police District has increased from \$5.91 million in 1989 to \$8.57 in 1995/96. Additionally, a government commitment of \$8.25 million within the next five years has been made with regard to a replacement district police headquarters for the Toowoomba district.

The Government has also supported the establishment of a number of community based Crime Prevention Programs since 1989.

	1989	1995
Adopt A Cop	27	33
Neighbourhood Watch	0	18
Crime Stoppers	0	1
City Safe Cameras	0	1
Safety Audit	0	1
Community Police Beats	0	2

503. Radiata Pine Seedlings

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

- (1) Will he confirm that his department has increased the price of radiata pine seedlings available from Darling Downs distribution points from 14.8 cents to \$2 per tree; if so, does he agree that this is inconsistent with modern community expectations that Government should be encouraging reforestation for environmental considerations as well as meeting our future timber requirements?
- (2) Has his department withdrawn Passchendaele as a place for the production and sale of radiata pine seedlings; if so, why?

Answer (Mr Gibbs):

1. Radiata pine seedlings for sale to the public are raised in conjunction with planting stock requirements for the Department's own plantation programs. They are provided for sale to the public at the prevailing DPI-Forestry nursery price for the type of stock.

I am unable to ascertain when, if ever, radiata pine seedlings were sold for 14.8 cents/tree. However, prior to 1990, open root radiata seedlings (that is seedlings sold not in pots but with exposed roots) were sold at 27 cents each. The nature of open root stock is such that it has a limited planting season and cannot readily be held past its optimum age at the nursery and thus, occasional sales of surplus open root material have been cleared for as little as 10 cents/tree. The subsequent change in 1990 to significantly higher quality radiata pine seedlings grown in small pots resulted in the price increasing to \$2/tree with discounts for bulk purchases. The price in 1995/96 is \$2.20/tree with a discounted price of \$1.32 for purchases in excess of 10,000 trees. Under its draft commercialisation charter, DPI Forestry must seek to maximise its market value and operate on a commercial basis. As such, the pricing of seedlings for sale to the public reflects all production costs together with an appropriate commercial return.

The Department remains committed to promoting reforestation for both environmental and future timber needs through the DPI Resource Management's Tree Assistance Scheme, which provides technical advice and low cost planting stock to approved applicants. Under this scheme the public may purchase potted radiata pine seedlings for \$1/tree.

2. The Department's Passchendaele nursery was closed in 1990 due to high production costs related to its small scale, fungus related hygiene problems together with general quality difficulties and associated low survival for the open root stock produced from this nursery. Since this time, all radiata stock has been produced at the Beerburrum nursery as container seedlings. This stock is of a much higher quality than open root material. The transfer of radiata production to the Beerburrum nursery has not resulted in any reduction in stock availability for sale to the public as Passchendaele staff can and do take orders for planting stock. Alternatively, members of the public may place orders with the DPI Forestry Nursery at Dalby. In either case the order is referred to Beerburrum where the stock is raised and then forwarded to the appropriate centre.

505.Oxley Creek

Mr HARPER asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

- (1) What plans are in place to restore Oxley Creek (South West Brisbane) to a condition for recreation, especially so that the Brisbane City Council canoe trail can be re-opened?
- (2) What time frame is envisaged for this project?

Answer (Mr Barton):

(1) In 1994, Brisbane City Council developed a canoe trail along the lower reaches of Oxley Creek extending approximately 11 km upstream. Prior to this, the Department of Environment and Heritage had conducted water quality sampling of Oxley Creek from September 1988 to June 1990, in December 1994, and recommenced a monthly sampling program from November 1995. All sampling programs include assessment of faecal coliform levels. Levels of faecal coliforms did not exceed National Health and Medical Research Council (NMHMRC) guidelines for recreational use (secondary contact) of waters when the trail was opened in 1994.

With funding from the National Landcare Program, the Brisbane River Management Group will establish an Oxley Creek Catchment Co-ordinating Committee in 1996. The position description for the Catchment Co-ordinator (Oxley Creek) has been approved and it is anticipated that a temporary officer will be appointed in the first week of December 1995. It is expected this position will establish, facilitate and service the Co-ordinating Committee.

The Committee will bring together Brisbane City Council, Logan City Council and Beaudesert Shire Council with industry and community representatives in the catchment to address the issues of: water quality; protection of riparian vegetation; recreation; and the impacts of sand and gravel extraction. Brisbane City Council will separately fund the development of a management plan for the catchment. It is expected that the whole-of-catchment Management Plan and the proposed Environmental Protection Policy for the Brisbane River will significantly contribute to managing the long term health of the Brisbane River and its major tributaries including Oxley Creek.

Evidence from water quality analysis indicates that following significant rainfall events bacteria levels are elevated for a few days compared to dry weather levels and the NMHMRC guideline values may not be met for short periods. Australian studies suggest that animal faeces and in some cases, leakages or overflows from sewage systems may be possible causes. To reduce overflow problems from the Oxley Creek Sewage Treatment Plant an hydraulic upgrade is currently being undertaken at the plant.

(2) A time frame for the restoration of Oxley Creek has not been determined. However, action to restore the creek will be the purpose and main priority of the Oxley Creek Catchment Co-ordinating Committee.

510.SEQEB Electricity disconnection fees

Mr GILMORE asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

With reference to my previous question in March 1995 and his answer in respect of SEQEB illegally charging the battlers of this State for the threat to cut off power supplies—

- (1) Has the office of the Regulator reported?
- (2) What were his findings?
- (3) How much money has been repaid to date?
- (4) How many individuals have been reimbursed?
- (5) Is SEQEC now actively seeking customers from whom this fee was taken?
- (6) Does he agree that SEQEC may avoid repayment on the grounds that it may be too expensive to seek out those from whom the money was taken?
- (7) Does he agree that it is a denial of justice to the battlers of Queensland, the people who can least afford to pay, that SEQEC, the perpetrator of the crime, can be allowed to determine who will be repaid, the level of reimbursement, and who will be ignored?

Answer (Mr McGrady):

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Regulator reported on progress in the repayment by SEQEB of incorrectly charged visit fees.
- (3) \$658 863.80 to 28 October 1995.
- (4) 31 333 fees to 28 October 1995.
- (5) SEQEB is currently finalising its search of computer records to identify as many customers as possible from whom visit fees were collected.
- (6) The absence of computer records for visit fees collected before 1993 precludes the automatic identification of customers affected but SEQEB has advertised its willingness to refund the fees to all affected customers who apply.

512.Facilities for Disabled Citizens

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the lack of provision of learning facilities for physically and mentally impaired young people 18 years of age and older in this State—

Will he move immediately to (a) construct and fit out facilities to cope with the demand for those physically and intellectually impaired young people who cannot be placed in sheltered workshops etc and (b) help fund respite groups who volunteer not only premises but carers to staff these premises and provide relief for parents and/or guardians of these young people?

Answer (Mr Hamill):

The Department of Education provides a broad range of services to support the needs of students with disabilities.

Recently, I announced a \$72 million dollars plan to improve the physical resources available to special needs students, as well as to employ a range of additional specialist teachers and staff, including therapists, in order to boost the quality and quantity of resources and facilities available to people with special needs.

The Education General Provisions Act contains sections which refer specifically to the provision of Education for disabled students, and clearly sets out the Education Department's responsibilities, in this enacted by the former National Party Government in 1989.

This legislation has produced the basis for the bipartisan approach to this very important issue in the development of post school options. The Goss Government has recognised the need for enhanced services for those aged 18 years and over and to that end through the collaboration of a number of departments has developed a range of post school options for disabled people.

513.State Government Grants to Unions

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

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 Goss):

I refer the Member to the answer provided by the Treasurer to Question on Notice No. 514 by Mr Grice.

520.Breast Screening Program, Mackay

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the high profile free breast screening clinic program currently being advertised through Mackay District television stations, many constituents have called claiming that breast screening is only available to women in the Mackay District through private practice at a cost of up to \$100 and which is not subject to a rebate from Medicare—

- (1) Does he agree that it is totally inappropriate and misleading to advertise programs which are unavailable?
- (2) When is it likely that a breast screening program will come on line which will be accessible for women in the Mackay District?

Answer (Mr Beattie):

(1) The National Program for the Early Detection of Breast Cancer was established in 1991 in order to implement free breast cancer screening and assessment services across Australia over a five year period. BreastScreen Queensland is part of the National Program.

In order for the Program to be successful in reducing the morbidity and mortality from breast cancer, a high percentage of eligible women need to be screened. The current media campaign is a National initiative and is being extremely successful in raising awareness of, and participation in the Program. The national number, 132 050, connects callers to their closest service. Callers from Mackay are connected to the State Coordination Unit and are provided with information about the opening date for the service in Mackay and the next closest BreastScreen Queensland service.

Unfortunately, because services are being implemented progressively, expectations have been raised for women who do not currently have ready access to a service. The scope and complexity of this major population screening Program and the need for high quality services have meant that the Program could not be implemented in a shorter timeframe, but has been a great success and already servicing a large number of Queensland women.

(2) BreastScreen Queensland has, since 1991, established nine fixed and four mobile services around the state, with a further two new services to be established in Mackay and Ipswich in early 1996.

The BreastScreen Queensland service in Mackay is currently under construction and is due to open in March 1996. It is located in Wellington Street. Advertisements for staff will be placed in the near future.

523.School Dental Service, Bundaberg/Burnett Region

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the situation which currently exists in my electorate whereby significant delays are being experienced with visits by the School Dental Clinic to state schools in the Burnett/Bundaberg area—

- (1) Will he confirm the current number of dental therapists employed in the School Dental Service for Bundaberg and the Burnett area?
- (2) How many new dental therapists have been employed in Bundaberg for the School Dental Service since the suspension of the old training course provided by Queensland Health at School Dental Therapists Training Centres in 1993?
- (3) What were the number of dental therapists employed in Bundaberg in the School Dental Service area prior to this time?
- (4) Of the \$231,000 per annum that has been allocated to the Wide Bay Region to extend oral health services to school students, how much will be received by Bundaberg?
- (5) How does he envisage that these funds will directly improve the current time delays being experienced?

Answer (Mr Beattie):

(1) The number of Dental Therapists currently employed by the Bundaberg Health Service is five full-time and three part-time. This equates to 6.4 full-time dental therapists.

(2) Number of dental therapists employed since suspension of the training course is two - one full-time and one part-time dental therapist. Bundaberg Oral Health also employed two dental therapists from the last graduating class of 1993.

(3) The maximum number of dental therapists to work in the Bundaberg City and Rural School Dental Service was six full-time dental therapists in 1990 in conjunction with two dentists.

(4) The \$231,000 quoted is the budget for 1995/96 only, not for previous years. The budget for this and

previous years and the allocation to Bundaberg Health Service were:

	Region	Bundaberg Health Service
1992/93	125,000	62,500
1993/94	125,000	62,500
1994/95	146,000	62,500
1995/96	231,000	126,000

(5) These funds will be utilised to employ additional staff i.e. dentists/dental therapists/ dental assistants to increase productivity. It is anticipated that even maintaining current staffing levels average recall periods will reduce from 18 months to about 14 months within the next six months.

524. Police Resignations; Criminal Justice Commission

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

With reference to evidence given to the Senate inquiry into unresolved whistleblower cases by the Director of the Official Misconduct Division of the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC), Mr Mark Le Grand, who said that Queensland police suspected of corruption and/or misconduct resign, in his words, "all the time" to avoid investigation, a situation Mr Le Grand described as "very galling"—

- (1) Does he agree with Mr Le Grand's opinion ; if so, will he give an indication of how many resignations by police officers from the service, since the establishment of the CJC, have been prompted by a desire to avoid such investigations?
- (2) Has the CJC recommended to him any changes to current procedures governing the submittal and acceptance of police officer resignations to ensure this allegedly frequent practice is stopped?

Answer (Mr Braddy):

(1) No statistics are maintained as to the number of resignations by police officers following the institution of disciplinary proceedings against them. It is pointed out that where corruption and misconduct matters have implications of criminal conduct, the resignation of a police officer does not impede the continuation of a criminal investigation and the laying of criminal charges should sufficient evidence be adduced.

(2) On 22 March 1993 the CJC reviewed its position on the retirement of serving police members by reason of age or medical grounds, or resignation of police members who are the subject of a complaint to the CJC alleging misconduct. The CJC's view was that these matters were for the determination of the Police Service; however, the CJC desired the opportunity to make representations to the Commissioner if it was considered warranted in any particular case. To that end, prompt advice of members intentions to retire or resign is provided to the CJC, in order that the CJC may be in a position to decide whether or not representations are to be made to the Commissioner. These representations may include the recommendation that the resignation or retirement not be approved by the Commissioner

until the maximum period of three months from the date of the application has expired. This period is provided for by Regulation 5.1 of the Police Service (Administration) Regulations.

525. Apprentices

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

- (1) How many apprentices were employed in Queensland as at the end of June 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994 and 1995?
- (2) How many apprentices were employed by the private sector as at end of June 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994 and 1995?
- (3) How many apprentices were employed by Queensland Government departments and instrumentalities as at the end of June 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994 and 1995?
- (4) How many female apprentices were employed within categories (1), (2) and (3) as at the end of June 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994 and 1995?
- (5) How many apprentices were employed in Queensland within the major industry and occupational classifications as at the end of June 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994 and 1995?
- (6) How many trainees were within categories (1), (2), (3), (4) and (5)?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

(1) As at the end of June: 1990—23470, 1991—21233, 1992—20706, 1993—20052, 1994—23351, 1995-23787.

(2)As at the end of June: 1990—18748, 1991—17783, 1992—16775, 1993—16375, 1994—17376, 1995—18892

(3)As at the end of June: 1990—1069, 1991—1229, 1992—1268, 1993—1220, 1994—1130, 1995—1176

(4) In category 1, as at the end of June: 1990—3118, 1991—2796, 1992—2903, 1993—2777, 1994—3070, 1995—2893

In category 2 as at the end of June: 1990—2758, 1991—2651, 1992—2534, 1993—2564, 1994—2639, 1995—2628

In category 3 as at the end of June: 1990—26, 1991—24, 1992—27, 1993—28, 1994—20, 1995—19.

(5) I table the answer in a tabular form.

(6) In category 1, as at the end of June: 1990—1843, 1991—1323, 1992—1585, 1993 -2456, 1994—2438, 1995—3151

In category 2, as at the end of June: 1990—1084, 1991—787, 1992—997, 1993—1307, 1994—1671, 1995—2096

In category 3, as at the end of June: 1990—284, 1991—173, 1992—246, 1993—453, 1994—366, 1995—446

In category 4(1), as at the end of June: 1990—1166, 1991—763, 1992—985, 1993—1644, 1994—1685, 1995—1817

In category 4 (2), as at the end of June: 1990—628, 1991—449, 1992—628, 1993—884, 1994—1146, 1995—1155

In category 4 (3), as at the end of June: 1990—235, 1991—90, 1992—154, 1993—327, 1994—260, 1995—298

In category 6 (5) I table the answer in tabular form.

I wish to advise the Honourable Member that there may be some variations between these figures and those supplied to him in December 1993 by my predecessor. The reasons for this are: the introduction of a new computer system, during which manual records were brought into order and the more timely nature of data entry ensures that the records of those persons who cease an apprenticeship or traineeship being removed from the data base.

Answer to (5) The number of apprentices employed in Qld within the major industry and occupational categories is as follows:

Category	30/6/90	30/6/91	30/6/92	30/6/93	30/6/94	30/6/95
Metal Fitting/ Machining	2800	2577	2491	2285	2108	2086
Other Metal	2091	1784	1590	1449	1683	1745
Electrical	3543	3212	3123	2929	2941	3240
Building		4442	4178	4195	4630	5843
6195						
Printing	364	317	313	258	353	253
Vehicle	3699	3290	2975	2669	3051	3342
Food	2042	1884	2057	2099	3261	2774
Horticulture	127	127	149	162	168	174
Hairdressing	2635	2320	2323	2176	2276	2161
Miscellaneous	1727	1544	1490	1395	1667	1817

Answer to 6 (5) The number of trainees employed in Queensland within the major industry and occupational classifications.

Category	30/6/90	30/6/91	30/6/92	30/6/93	30/6/94	30/6/95
Agricultural	121	93	127	105	123	148
Construction/ Mining	56	47	43	46	45	50
Engineering/ Tech	24	28	25	45	49	136
Machine Operators	100	64	77	69	93	97
Clerical	957	615	776	1497	1339	1934
Sales	475	355	404	493	561	551
Personal Service	0	0	0	69	114	91
Road & Rail Drivers	0	0	0	0	2	50
Labourers & Related Workers	66	63	69	100	76	73
Miscellaneous	44	58	64	32	36	21

527. Glenala State High School

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the commencement of operations of the newly merged Glenala High School in the calendar year 1996—

With the expected increase in enrolment at the high school, will he give consideration to the provision of a police officer and medical nurse at the commencement of the 1996 school year to ensure a smooth transition for the school community?

Answer (Mr Hamill):

I shall refer this issue to my colleagues the Honourable Paul Braddy, Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services and the Honourable

Peter Beattie, Minister for Health for their consideration

528. Land Subdivision, Wishart

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

In view of conflict, between the front page story in the *Southern Star* of 15 November reporting my constituent, Mr Slobodian's, inability to proceed with land subdivision at Wishart because Queensland Transport continues to claim an interest in that land for an extra road link between the South East Freeway and the Gateway Arterial Road and the Minister's assurance given on 2 November that the South Coast Motorway will not proceed in any shape or form north of the Logan River—

Will he confirm that Queensland Transport will not construct any associated extra road link between the South East Freeway and the Gateway Arterial Road across Mr Slobodian's land?

Answer (Mr Elder):

There is a requirement from Mr Slobodian's land for a possible future ramp connecting the South East Freeway with the Gateway Motorway. This requirement remains even though the South Coast Motorway north of the Logan River will not proceed.

Mr Slobodian's solicitors have been advised by Queensland Transport that the extent of the requirement will be determined following finalisation of the concept planning for the proposed busway along the South East Freeway corridor.

530. Queensland Transport Tendering Process

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

With reference to the change in the tendering process for Queensland Transport projects—

- (1) How many tenders have been let since the changed process was implemented?
- (2) How many of these tenders have been won by Queensland Transport?

Answer (Mr Elder):

(1) Over the financial year 94/95 and to the 20 November 95 in the year 95/96, 76 major tenders for works have been called.

(2) Of these tenders, 34 have been won by Queensland Transport.

531. Papaya Fruit Fly

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

With reference to the fact that the horticulture industry and the Department of Primary Industries were ill prepared for the intrusion of the papaya fruit fly—

- (1) What measures are being adopted to circumvent the difficulties that occurred with

the Papaya fruit fly introduction into Queensland?

- (2) Does the department intend to upgrade the early warning procedures to avert this problem for other primary industries in the advent of a similar situation?

Answer (Mr Gibbs):

- 1.(a) The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) maintains a high degree of preparedness and technical capability to deal with possible incursions of quarantine pests.

DPI was well aware of the difficulties which would be caused to the horticultural industry by an incursion of the Papaya fruit fly (PFF).

- (b) Since 1991 when PFF was identified in Papua New Guinea and Irian Jaya, DPI has constantly monitored the situation and been aware of its presence and movement and capacity to spread.
- (c) First hand experience was also gained in South East Asia and Papua New Guinea where this pest is endemic and also in the Torres Strait where the pest was first detected in March 1993 as a result of extensive monitoring. An eradication program was successfully conducted on two of the five islands where the fly was detected and a suppression program is under way on the other three islands.
- (d) During this period, DPI has kept up to date with quarantine strategies and conducted work on eradication and chemical disinfestation treatments. In this latter area, Queensland is a world leader based on work with Queensland fruit fly. Close contact has also been kept with the horticultural industry.
- (e) Based on this experience, measures are being adopted to eradicate the pest from North Queensland using the technical capability developed to deal with such situations, and contacts with scientists interstate and overseas experienced with eradication.
- (f) The Department also has procedures in place to enable incursions of quarantine pests to be managed and these were implemented immediately the fly was detected. Thus, decisive action was taken immediately the fly was identified.

2. Discussions are being held with the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) to ensure that early warning procedures for quarantine pests are adequate. A Senate Inquiry will also be addressing the provision of quarantine services by AQIS. Implementation of quarantine procedures needs to occur in full recognition of the difficulty of provision of a quarantine barrier in the extensive remote areas of northern Australia.

532.High School, Kuranda

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education—
Will he advise what progress is being made on the construction of a new high school at Kuranda.

Answer (Mr Hamill):

The former Minister for Education, Pat Comben, approved a departmental recommendation for the acquisition of a property in Myola Road on 22 August. Acquisition action was initiated on 23 August 1994. Discussions are continuing between the representatives of the Crown (Department of Lands) and representatives of the registered property owners, in an attempt to settle the matter through negotiation rather than through the formal resumption process. Recent meetings between the two parties have been positive although no final agreement has yet been reached.

In the last few months, consideration has been given to an alternate site in Fallon Road that was suggested by Mareeba Shire Council. Following these investigations, it was concluded that the Myola Road Site was superior for school purposes. I have reaffirmed approval for the acquisition of the Myola Road Site.

Construction of the school has not commenced yet, although work has begun on the concept design for the school buildings. The design, detailing and construction phases have been hindered to a degree due to the time taken to consider the alternative site suggested by Mareeba Shire Council and the ongoing nature of negotiations between Crown representatives and the registered owners of the Myola Road property.

534.South-East Queensland Transit Authority

Ms SPENCE asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

Will the Government's South-East Queensland Transit Authority require any extra Government resources?

Answer (Mr Elder):

I refer Honourable Members to comments I made to the House concerning this very issue and which appear at page 1210 of Hansard dated 16 November 1995. For the record I again reiterate the following:

- SEQTA's staff establishment will come from existing staff establishment levels of Queensland Transport.
- SEQTA's funding will come from the existing transport budget.
- There will be no duplication of responsibilities between SEQTA and Queensland Transport in south-east Queensland.
- SEQTA is not a new department or a new bureaucracy in the making. It has a purely strategic focus aimed at establishing and operating an integrated transport system for the region. Others such as Queensland Transport will deliver on SEQTA's objectives.
- To ensure SEQTA remains focused on its strategic role, Queensland Transport will provide corporate resources to SEQTA just like it currently does for functional line areas within its own organisation.

In all the documentation presented to Opposition members and in the briefing given by SEQTA officers, it has been made abundantly clear that SEQTA would have a staff level of no more than 40 officers and that its budget and staff establishment levels would be transferred from Queensland Transport.

No additional staff resources or budget allocations beyond this commitment will be made.

535.State Emergency Service

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Consumer Affairs—

With reference to last week's severe storms in South-East Queensland which caused widespread damage to homes and property—

What type of response did the State Emergency Services provide?

Answer (Mr Davies):

1. The State Emergency Service, initially, through the Brisbane Unit responded by conducting:

- Reconnaissance of the areas affected by the storm;
- Teams were assembled and co-ordinated from Western Group headquarters;
- Tarpaulins and other resources assigned with resident's tasks attended;
- It became apparent that additional manpower was required to sustain the ongoing support;
- Units from Gold Coast, Ipswich, Esk, Caboolture, Pine Shire, Beaudesert, Redland, and Redcliffe came into support the Brisbane Unit during the week of November 6, 1995 and
- SUMMARY OF BRISBANE UNITS STATISTICS
 - Number of member hours—4,442
 - Number of member shifts—463
 - Number of houses visited—550
 - Number of tarpaulins used (small)—1,000
 - Number of tarpaulins used (large)—300
 - Number of telephone calls for assistance received—1,750

2. Other areas involved with storm response in the South East were Ipswich, Redland and Caboolture.

In addition to the abovementioned points, the State Emergency Service was involved in supporting the requirements for Personal Hardship payments, to the residents of Dunwich.

3. The final actions have been to provide further support with the recent rains, and newly appearing requests for assistance.

4. A programme for the collection of tarpaulins has begun with the Local Controllers using the Electronic Media to encourage residents to return the tarpaulins in a timely manner.

537.Dental Prosthetists

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Health—

What progress has been made to establish a formal training course for dental prosthetists by the Dental Technicians and Dental Prosthetists Board of Queensland at either a TAFE college or a university in Queensland?

Answer (Mr Beattie):

Queensland Health convened a meeting of key stakeholders in August to consider options for the delivery of an accredited dental prosthetist course.

Subsequent to this a smaller group consisting of representatives of the Dental Prosthetists Association, the Dental Technicians Association, TAFE and Griffith University met. This meeting unanimously agreed to prepare a 'proposal of cooperation' to establish a consortium with the responsibility to develop the educational and infrastructure requirements of a training program for dental prosthetists and dental technicians.

An initial feasibility assessment of this project is currently being examined by the consortium.

539.Workers Compensation Board

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

With reference to her response to Question 282 relating to the results of the Workers' Compensation Board's "Client satisfaction survey"—

Will she table the plan and intervention strategies which she and her officers have developed to address the major areas where client satisfaction is at unacceptably low levels?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

The Board has implemented advertising campaigns, including the use of television, distributed a Newsletter, is writing to all policyholders this month and has produced a number of brochures this year. As well, I and Departmental officers consulted widely with employers throughout Queensland concerning the Government's Reform Package.

The Board will monitor responses to these initiatives.

540.Weipa Industrial Dispute

Mrs SHELDON asked the Treasurer—

- (1) What has been the total cost to date to the State Government, its departments, agencies and statutory authorities, in terms of forgone revenues and increased expenditures, of the continuing Weipa industrial dispute?
- (2) What is the State Government's estimate of the anticipated future ongoing costs to the State Government, its departments, agencies and statutory authorities, in terms of forgone revenues and increased expenditures, of the continuing Weipa industrial dispute?
- (3) What is the State Government's estimate of the total cost to date to the Queensland economy of the continuing Weipa industrial dispute?
- (4) What is the State Government's estimate of the anticipated future ongoing costs to the

Queensland economy of the continuing Weipa industrial dispute?

Answer (Mr De Lacy):

Answer not supplied.

541. Patient Transit Scheme

Ms WARWICK asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the Patient Transit Scheme—

- (1) Has the review of the scheme been completed?
- (2) What public information is available on this scheme?
- (3) Will his office supply me with the relevant updated information?
- (4) Who decides if a patient is a private or public patient?
- (5) What are the grounds for such a decision?

Answer (Mr Beattie):

(1) A review of the Patient Transit Scheme occurred in 1993/94 with revised draft guidelines issued in March 1994 to all Regional Health Authorities and health services. This new scheme incorporates previously separate arrangements for public patient transfers and for patients attending private practitioners into one policy and changed the name to Patient Transfer Assistance Scheme (PTAS).

The PTAS is currently under revision with a number of options for its future operation being developed.

(2) There is no public information available, besides the current draft guidelines. Brochures for the public and medical practitioners will be produced as an explanation of the revised Scheme as soon as it is finalised.

(3) Yes

(4) Patients themselves determine their status. There may be cases whereby the referring medical practitioner may consider that a public patient may benefit by attending a specific private specialist and in this case the patient would be given the option to change his/her status for this purpose.

(5) It is the patient's decision as to whether he/she will be treated by public or private means and this decision often depends on whether medical insurance is held or not.

543. Fraser Island

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

With reference to the damning comments by the Commonwealth Inquiry into World Heritage Areas Chairman, John Langmore, in respect to the gross inadequacy of the funds committed by both the State and Commonwealth Governments for the management of World Heritage listed Fraser Island and to a statement of one of the witnesses who said "Fraser was being referred to as 'The Third World Heritage area'" and to his announcement that visitor fees to the island will double—

- (1) Is he concerned by the comments made by the Chairman of the inquiry and the statements made by the witnesses?

(2) Will the increased fees mean a substantial increase in the Government's funding allocation for the island?

(3) What steps is he taking to remedy inadequacies in his Government's resourcing for the management and provision of facilities for the island?

(4) What steps is he taking to ensure that a community consultation process is in place and operating?

Answer (Mr Barton):

The Chair of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on the Environment, Sport and the Arts is not responsible for allocating resources across the Protected Area estate within Queensland. It remains to be seen whether or not the Commonwealth Government responds to the Committees findings and the Queensland Governments requests for funding for the management of World Heritage properties.

The Queensland Government is committed to implementation of the Great Sandy Region Management Plan.

Some of the comments made by witnesses to the Committee were either ill informed or deliberately misleading. For example the same witness who referred to Fraser Island as a "Third World Heritage Area" also stated that the only recreation facilities on the Island had been constructed by the Queensland Forest Service prior to that organisation handing over responsibility to the

Department of Environment and Heritage. This witness owns a property within sight of the Waddy Point camping area, probably the most popular site for camping on Fraser Island, which was constructed by the Department of Environment and Heritage. The Committee was advised that wildfire's burnt 57,000 ha in 1994. The correct figure is 25,000 ha.

I am not concerned by the comments of witnesses who used the hearing to air their opinions based on self interest.

The fee increases will result in more available resources for management of Fraser Island.

The Queensland Government has allocated \$4.7m for management of the Great Sandy Region, of which Fraser Island is the major component, in the 1995/96 financial year.

The current arrangements for public consultation are working. I am reviewing the proposed management arrangements for the Fraser Island World Heritage property. Any new management arrangements will ensure that community views are obtained and taken into consideration.

544. Advertising of Vacancies, DEVETIR

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

With reference to her answer to Question No. 259—

- (1) Precisely which sections of DEVETIR report to Minister Foley?

- (2) Does this unusual arrangement breach one of the most basic principles of management (i.e. that it is inadvisable to have individuals or work units reporting to more than one supervisor)?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

(1) The following units of the Division of Labour Market Reform address Minister Foley's Principal Ministerial Responsibilities as Minister for Industrial Relations—

- Workplace Reform Unit
- Policy Research and Development Branch
- Public Sector Consultancy (in relation to matters dealing with Federal/State Award regulation).

The Director-General reports to Minister Foley and Minister Edmond.

(2) No. The arrangement keeps together the Division of Labour Market Reform with substantial benefits. There have been no problems with this arrangement and none are expected.

545. Bunya Mountains

Mr PERRETT asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

With reference to evidence given by one of his officers, Mr Jon Womersley to a House of Representative Standing Committee that the Bunyas would be nominated for World Heritage listing in line with Labor election policy, and given that his predecessor and other senior Labor figures expended considerable effort before the election on giving the impression there would be no listing—

- (1) What changed circumstances since the election have precipitated the listing proposal?
- (2) What consultation has been undertaken among Bunyas' landholders?
- (3) Which landholders have supported the proposal for listing?
- (4) What compensation arrangements have been made for the confiscation of private land and restrictions to be placed on the use of private land in line with world heritage management principles?

Answer (Mr Barton):

Answer not supplied.

546. Education Department Facility, Keppel Island

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) Does the Education Department have a type of resort facility on Keppel Island; if so, for what purpose is the facility used?
- (2) What was the cost of running the facility in 1994-95 and will he give a breakdown of these costs?

Answer (Mr Hamill):

(1) The Department of Education does not operate a resort facility on Keppel Island, however it does operate the North Keppel Island Environmental

Education Centre, which plays an integral role in the statewide network of similar centres. North Keppel Island is a National Park, totally surrounded by the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

The Department of Education centre operates on a leased site which focuses on outdoor and environmental education through supporting;

- school based programs
- professional development and training
- research activities
- other educational programs including the development of environmental knowledge and understanding.

(2) The centre has only been operational since May 1995.

The 1994-95 running costs were \$10 962.00.

A school grant allocation of \$20 000.00 has been made for the 1995 calendar year.

Lease payments are expected to be in the vicinity of \$2 000.00 per year.

547. Sunshine Motorway Company Ltd

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

With reference to the Annual Report of the Sunshine Motorway Company Ltd—

- (1) When is it expected that the company's debt will stabilise?
- (2) When is it expected that the company's debt will be fully paid out?
- (3) Is it anticipated that the interest free loans paid to the company by the Government are included in (1) and (2) above?
- (4) Is it intended to draw payments, such as franchise payments, back to the Government after the debt has been repaid or earlier?
- (5) Will the road become a free road for public use when the debt has been paid back or at the end of the 30 year franchise period?
- (6) What were the direct costs and takings at each of the three toll plazas in 1994-95?

Answer (Mr Elder):

(1) Current financial modelling underpinning debt containment arrangements in place for the Sunshine Motorway Company P/L (SMCL) indicates that debt has in fact peaked in the financial year 1994/95 and will reduce from 1995/96 onwards.

(2) Current debt containment arrangements provide for all debt to be paid out by 2013.

(3) No. The amounts in question have been shown as interest free loans pending a restructure of Motorway Company arrangements under Queensland Motorway Limited (QML) as the holding company. Amounts shown as interest free loans effectively will be converted to equity during 1995/96 as disclosed in Note 15 to the financial statements of the Sunshine Motorway Company Limited.

(4) There is no intention to seek franchise fees from SMCL prior to repayment of the debt in (1) and (2). It is possible that under a restructuring of financial arrangements relating to QML and its subsidiaries, a franchise fee may apply to QML; however, this would not jeopardise the repayment of SMCL debt by 2013.

(5) SMCL has a franchise for a 30 year period which provides for the levying of tolls. Accordingly, tolls will continue to be levied for at least the franchise period. It is likely that duplication of the Motorway will be required prior to conclusion of the franchise period. This is likely to require renegotiation of the term of the franchise and the debt containment arrangements and will impact on the debt repayment schedule.

(6) SMCL has previously responded to Ms Fiona Simpson MLA that the information sought is "commercial in confidence". This is particularly so given the continuing approaches made to SMCL proposing the conversion of the Mooloolah Plaza to a service centre.

A copy of the relevant letter to Ms Simpson is tabled.

548. TAFE College Funding

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

- (1) What was the annual expenditure during (a) 1989-90, (b) 1990-91, (c) 1991-92, (d) 1992-93, (e) 1993-94 and (f) 1994-95 in relation to each TAFE college (including rural training colleges) in Queensland on (i) salary and other operating expenses, (ii) special capital works, (iii) special projects and (iv) special employment support initiatives, including Commonwealth funding for such initiatives?
- (2) What other target funding was provided by the Commonwealth?
- (3) What was the amount of income generated from commercial activities and the provision of services by the colleges during (a) 1989-90, (b) 1990-91, (c) 1991-92, (d) 1992-93, (e) 1993-94 and (f) 1994-95?
- (4) What is the precise break-up for each college of Commonwealth and State funding provided during (a) 1989-90, (b) 1990-91, (c) 1991-92, (d) 1992-93, (e) 1993-94 and (f) 1994-95?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

Rural Training Schools are known as Agricultural Training Colleges and are established under separate charter known as the Agricultural Colleges Act 1994. They are not part of TAFE Queensland.

(1) I table "Annual Expenditure by TAFE Colleges/Institutes 1989/90—1994/95—State and Commonwealth Funding (Salaries and Operating Expenses, Special Projects and Special Commonwealth Support Initiatives Inclusive). The figures do not include expenditure on special capital works or on items such as superannuation, cash equivalent of long service leave and Corporate

Services allocations as these were expended at a Program level for these years.

I also table "Annual Expenditure by Agricultural Colleges 1989/90—1994/95 on Salary and Operating Expenses, Special Capital Works and Special Employment Support Initiatives, including Commonwealth Funding". Agricultural Colleges do not receive any direct Commonwealth based grants. All Commonwealth monies are received indirectly on a Fee-for-Service basis. Expenditure includes the budget allocation and is supplemented by commercial income, income gained from the sale of non-current assets and interest.

(2) I table "Target Funding Provided by the Commonwealth" in relation to TAFE Institutes. This question does not apply to Agricultural Colleges as all funding is from a state based grant from Consolidated Revenue.

(3) I table "Income Generated from Commercial Activities and the Provision of Services" in relation to TAFE Institutes, and "Income Generated from Commercial Activities and the Provision of Services, 1989/90—1994/95" in relation to Agricultural Colleges. Farm production and student fees are detailed separately. The remainder includes traineeships, seminars, functions, short courses, hire of equipment and facilities, sale of licensed semen, livestock, materials etc. Interest and disposal of non-current assets are not included.

(4) I table "Commonwealth and State Funding for TAFE Colleges and Institute 1989/90 to 1994/95", and "State Funding for Agricultural Colleges, 1989/90—1994/95". The budget allocations for TAFE Colleges/Institutes include capital works and items such as superannuation, cash equivalent of long service leave and Corporate Services allocations. It should be noted that these items were expended at a Program level for these years. Agricultural Colleges are funded through a state based grant from Consolidated revenue and do not receive any direct Commonwealth funding.

549. TAFE College Funding

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

- (1) What are the specific and individual 1994-95 budget allocations to each TAFE college and institute (including agricultural colleges) in Queensland?
- (2) With respect to each college, what were the budget allocations for (a) salary and other operating expenses, (b) special capital works, (c) special projects and (d) special employment support initiatives, including Commonwealth funding for such initiatives?
- (3) What other target funding was provided by the Commonwealth?
- (4) What is the expected income generation from commercial activities by the colleges?
- (5) Will he provide details of the break-up for each college of Commonwealth and State funding allocations?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

- (1) I table "1994/95 Budget Allocations by TAFE Colleges/Institutes". See answer to question 4, QON 548 in relation to Agricultural Colleges.
- (2) I table "1994/95 Budget Allocations by TAFE Colleges/Institute for Specific Categories", and "1994-95 Budget Allocation" in relation to Agricultural Colleges.
- (3) See answer to question 2, QON 548.
- (4) I table "1994/95 Expected Income Generation by TAFE College/Institute", and "Expected Income Generation from Commercial Activities—1994/95" in relation to Agricultural Colleges.
- (5) See answer to question 4, QON 548.

550.Pine Plantations

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

- (1) How many hectares of additional plantation pine (not replantings) have been established in Queensland over each of the last ten years, and where has that been?
- (2) Has the department any plans for the additional planting of pine in the vicinity of Killarney, either in or around the Gambubil State Forest?
- (3) Has the department any plans for the acquisition of additional land for the planting of pine between now and the year 2,000; if so, what are those plans?
- (4) Are there any restrictions, environmental or otherwise, which preclude the Department of Primary Industries from purchasing freehold land, then clearing that land and establishing plantation timber?

Answer (Mr Gibbs):

1. Over the last ten years some 28,800 hectares of new Crown plantations have been established throughout Queensland. The annual area of new plantations established has decreased progressively from approximately 5,300 hectares in 1986 to some 375 hectares in 1995. This reflects the gradual decline in availability of cleared State Forest suitable for plantation establishment together with the Government's decision (in line with its responsibilities under the National Forest Policy Statement) to no longer clear native forest for plantation establishment. The majority of the area of new Crown plantations established, some 22,000 hectares, has been in South-east Queensland with a further 5,700 hectares established in North Queensland and 1,100 hectares in Central Queensland. Only some 4 hectares of new plantations have been established in the Darling Downs area.

2. The Department has no immediate plans to expand its operations in the vicinity of the Gambubil plantations. However, DPI Forestry was

commercialised on 1 July 1995 and under its draft commercialisation charter, is charged with maximising its market value whilst observing all regulatory (including environmental) requirements to which it is subject. As such, DPI Forestry will be assessing any plantation expansion possibilities on their respective commercial merits.

3. The Department does plan to purchase some land for both pine and hardwood plantation establishment before the year 2000. For instance we expect to purchase 500 hectares under the Native Species Plantations initiative, possibly in the Pomona or Mary Valley area. Other commercial land purchase opportunities close to existing pine plantations will also be pursued. For example, the Department is continuing negotiations over the possible purchase of ex-APM plantation lands in the Sunshine Coast area. In addition the Government has announced a series of initiatives in its Future Directions Statement to encourage private sector investment in plantations, particularly based on hardwoods.

4. Yes, under the Government's commitment to the National Forest Policy Statement, it will not clear native forest for plantation establishment. However, where suitable cleared private land becomes available and funding permits, the Department would investigate acquisition to expand the Crown plantation estate. The Government also has announced a commitment in its Future Directions Statement to encourage the private sector to expand its interest in timber plantations.

551.Air Conditioner Gas

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

With reference to newspaper and trade journal reports in which the motor trades and associated industries are concerned at the safety of hydrocarbon gases used in car air-conditioning systems which can explode if ignited by a spark—

Will the Queensland Government take similar action to that taken by the New South Wales Government and ban the use of the gas in motor vehicles in Queensland?

Answer (Mr McGrady):

The regulation of these gases, not only in automotive air-conditioning, but in all refrigeration and air conditioning systems is now finalised.

552.Queensland Principal Club

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

Will he provide details, for 1994-95, of all payments including expenses, on an individual by individual basis, made to members of the Queensland Principal Club and, in doing so, clearly identify the reasons for each category of payment to each such member?

Answer (Mr Gibbs):

Details Of 1994-95 Payments Made To Members Of The Queensland Principal Club Are Tabled Below:-

NAME	MEALS/ACCOM	AIRFARE	MILEAGE/CAR HIRE	TELEPHONE	TAXI	TOTAL
BENTLEY	4487.50	4025.00	7846.33	4978.65	120.40	21457.88
STEWART	4681.80	338.00	3387.88	166.80	20.00	8594.48
GUILFOYLE	364.30	5064.00	2540.20	2042.85	178.00	10189.35
BLACK	543.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	543.60
MARTIN	585.00	0.00	1415.00	0.00	0.00	2000.00
GREEVES	0.00	0.00	914.40	0.00	0.00	914.40
FORSTER	252.40	0.00	2678.79	5.50	252.51	3189.20
HILLMAN	0.00	274.00	0.00	0.00	42.40	316.40
TOTAL	10914.60	9701.00	18782.60	7193.80	613.31	47205.31

SUMMARY

BENTLEY	21457.88	Chairman
GUILFOYLE	10189.35	Chairman Country Racing Assoc
STEWART	8594.48	Member Executive Committee
FORSTER	3189.20	Member
MARTIN	2000.00	Member Executive Committee
GREEVES	914.40	Member Executive Committee
BLACK	543.60	Member
HILLMAN	316.40	Member
TOTAL	47205.31	

553. Disposal of Chemicals

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Racing—

Will the Government fund a public awareness campaign and provide financial support to local governments and appropriate Government departments for the safe disposal of old garden chemicals, agricultural chemicals and their containers?

Answer (Mr Gibbs):

The Department of Environment and Heritage is the lead agency for matters associated with waste disposal.

My Department is working closely with the Department of Environment and Heritage on the disposal of waste materials to ensure that these materials are disposed of safely and with minimal effect on the environment.

554. Hambleton State School

Mrs WILSON asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to Hambleton State School and the continuing growth in population due to development expansion—

- (1) What is the commencement date for construction of the proposed administration block?
- (2) Given the out of school hours care program/vacation care program will have to move (possibly into temporary accommodation), will the Government find some financial assistance to cover the move?
- (3) What is the projected timetable for the commencement of the planned new school facilities in the Edmonton area and will this facility have a two-unit preschool attached?

Answer (Mr Hamill):

(1) Work is expected to begin in early February.

(2) The provision of childcare services that falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Family and Community Services and I would refer the Member to that Minister advice on this matter.

(3) My department has conducted some indicative planning for the provision of a relief school in the future in the Edmonton area. Current enrolment trends would indicate that a relief school may need to be considered in the next 2–5 years.

555. Equine Morbillivirus

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister For Consumer Affairs—

With reference to the Vic Rail stable emergency in 1994, when SES officers worked with DPI officers at the stables and, I understand, in July 1995, a DPI debriefing was given to those SES officers— In light of the recent death of Mr Preston at Mackay from the same virus, has he taken any further action to test the SES officers involved at the Hendra stables to ensure their safety?

Answer (Mr Davies):

Queensland Emergency Services cares for the health and well-being of all its staff—both permanent and volunteer. This means looking after their psychological health as well as their physical safety as the Member for Western Downs knows. Members of the SES involved in the Hendra equine morbillivirus operation were engaged in tasks, using appropriate protective safety equipment, which allowed a very limited exposure to the horse serums or body fluids.

All personnel involved in the operation who were assessed to have been in a possibly contaminated area underwent a thorough decontamination process.

Close liaison between the SES and Queensland Health was established at the commencement of the operation. On advice from Queensland Health Senior Medical Officers, SES members were not subjected to screening or testing for the virus. This would have only placed undue anxiety or concern on these dedicated volunteers. If, however, any individual SES Member chooses to be tested then we will fully support that decision.

557. Public Hospitals

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) What income was received by the public hospitals of Queensland in 1994-95 for paid services such as private patients, transplants, etc, and how much of these collected funds was transferred to Consolidated Revenue; and
- (2) Will he provide the detail of private patient accounts written off as bad debts during 1994-95 on a per hospital basis?

Answer (Mr Beattie):

(1) Revenue received by Queensland Public Hospitals for services provided in 1994/95 was as follows:

Inpatient Fees—\$77,285,149

Other Charges—\$3,308,952

Board and Lodgings—\$2,442,827

Daily Maintenance Charge—(includes nursing home patients)—\$24,961,849

Outpatient Fees—\$4,584,817

Prosthetic Charges—\$522,910

Services Rendered—\$289,207

Total—\$113,395,711

All of these funds are returned to Consolidated Revenue. Queensland Health receives \$2.7 billion from consolidated revenue to provide services which include these services.

In addition to the above, \$2.755 million was collected for overseas patients' liver transplants. These funds are used to cover the cost of the transplants and related research.

(2) The total on private patient accounts written off as bad debts in 1994/95 totalled \$859,137.55.

558. Youth Suicide Prevention Programs

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the unacceptably high youth suicide statistics in Queensland—

- (1) Will he make available funding for further development and administration of youth suicide prevention programs in our established community help centres and support groups?
- (2) Will he take steps to implement youth suicide prevention programs into our TAFE colleges and high schools?

Answer (Mr Beattie):

(1) At this point in time, all funds available to the 'Young People at Risk: Access, Prevention and

Action' program have been committed to piloting the program in four Regional Health Authorities and undertaking a comprehensive evaluation of the program prior to ongoing allocation of funding beyond June 1997. In the event of cost savings being achieved, the provision of one-off, non-recurrent grants for projects within the philosophy and scope of the 'Young People at Risk' program will be considered.

(2) The effectiveness of suicide prevention programs in schools and TAFE colleges has yet to be established with a number of studies providing conflicting outcomes. Without definitive evidence of the effectiveness of such programs, rather than implement suicide prevention programs in schools and TAFE colleges it is expected that Queensland Health will work closely with the Department of Education in developing a school health curriculum which addresses self harming, suicidal and related behaviours in a holistic manner. This approach will provide for a sensitive and practical consideration of issues associated with these behaviours and a framework for the discussion and identification of management and support mechanisms available to young people in dealing with their issues.

559. Environmental Protection Act

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

With reference to the implications of the recently introduced *Environmental Protection Act*, and the fact that a small business in my electorate, which was paying \$30 per month to have a grease trap cleaned, is currently still paying \$30 per month but how has the added cost of \$140 per month for disposal of the sludge—

- (1) Does he agree that such costs make business less robust, more unlikely to be able to increase staff numbers and less likely to be able to ride out the economic ups and downs?
- (2) Were these add-on costs considered as part of the implementation of the *Environmental Protection Act*?
- (3) Will he consider changes to the Act to make add-on charges more business-friendly in the interests of employment and growth of the economy?

Answer (Mr Barton):

(1) No.

The Environmental Protection Act is designed to produce good environmental outcomes for all Queenslanders, by protecting the air and water quality, minimising noise nuisance, and reducing the generation of wastes. Queensland's economic growth rate demanded a change from the 'end of pipe' archaic environmental legislation that previously existed under former state governments. The Environmental Protection Act, forged after extensive community consultation, is a comprehensive response to complex environmental challenges. It seeks to cut red tape by replacing several pieces of outmoded legislation with a single comprehensive Act. Through the consultative processes, which are

enshrined in the Act, the community indicated widespread support for the principle of polluter pays. Prevention and cleanup costs should be borne by the polluter and not the community.

The Government's decision to waive any fees in the first year's operation of the Environmental Protection Act is a considerable concession for those small businesses which hold licences issued by local governments under the Environmental Protection Act. Therefore, most small businesses will have almost two years from commencement of the Act before any fee is payable.

The licensing of regulated waste disposal commenced on 1 May 1995. The monthly fee quoted by the Member for Mirani suggests that the waste disposal firm is passing on other costs besides the environmental licence fee.

Experience overseas shows that environmental regulation can result in cost reductions, yield improvements, market share increases, and/or export expansion. Improved efficiencies through the introduction of best practice processes are well illustrated by examples in the Australian Best Practice Demonstration Program and the Commonwealth Environment Protection Agency's Cleaner Production database. The development of cleaner production technologies by Queensland firms is beginning to emerge in response to business' increasing awareness of the need to deliver better environmental outcomes.

(2) Yes

(3) Yes

The Environmental Protection Act has been continually under review to identify any anomalous fee impositions.

The Government recognises that small to medium sized enterprises already employing good environmental practices in their businesses should be rewarded for their effort. The Department of Environment and Heritage continues to refine a graded licensing scheme to reward businesses which are good environmental performers. Under such a scheme, the recurrent cost of licence fees could be minimised by businesses who are managing their waste streams effectively.

The Act has sufficient flexibility and scope to provide businesses a number of ways to achieve compliance without affecting their viability. The Government may from time to time consider the introduction of changes through amendments to the Regulations to provide even more effective environmental management.

564. Koala Coast Communities Facilities Fund

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

With reference to funding to be provided under the Koala Coast Secretariat Community Facilities Fund for a \$1m contribution matched by the Local City Council for the provision of sporting and other facilities at Cornubia—

As he indicated in the House on 17 November 1995 that all first round offers made under the scheme

would be honoured, does this mean the Government will provide the \$1m; if so, when?

Answer (Mr Barton):

Answer not supplied.

565. Power Supply, Daintree Region

Mr GILMORE asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

With reference to a recent trip to the area north of the Daintree where he promised that the decision in respect of the installation of mains grid power to the area had not been made and that a decision would be made by Cabinet in the near future—

When can it be expected that this decision will be made and announced?

Answer (Mr McGrady):

The Government announced its decision on Daintree power supply on 14 December 1995.

566. TAFE College Resource Agreements

Mr WOOLMER asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

Will she table a copy of each TAFE Institute's most recent Resource Agreement?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

Yes. I table copies of the most recent Resource Agreements between the Executive Director, TAFE Queensland and the respective Directors and Administrators of the 16 TAFE Queensland Institutes.

567. Adult and Community Education Programs, TAFE Colleges

Mr J. N. GOSS asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

With reference to the ACE Program statistics provided in her answers to questions 178 and 157 and to Attachment A (provided in response to Question 178) it is possible to calculate the average hours for ACE programs in Term 1, 1995 and Term 1, 1994 at the following institutes (a) Bremer, (b) Logan, (c) Northpoint, (d) Southbank and (e) Yeronga—

(1) Why is there such a disparity between the average hours calculated from this material and the average hours provided from the CAP Program (as supplied in response to Question 157)?

(2) Does her department have any reliable, accurate enrolment figures; if so, will she provide them?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

(1) There is no disparity between the data provided in reference to Question 157 and Question 178. Questions on Notice 157 and 178 sought different data.

(2) Yes : Accurate enrolment figures have been provided.

568. Taxi Expenditure, Southbank Institute of TAFE

Mr HARPER asked the Minister for Employment and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Service Matters—

With reference to her response to Question No. 193 in which she indicated that the Auditor-General is still considering issues resulting from the massive taxi expenditure by Southbank Institute of TAFE—

Will she undertake to table the Auditor-General's Report when she receives it?

Answer (Mrs Edmond):

The Auditor-General's Report for 1994/95 was tabled in the Parliament on Thursday, 7 December 1995.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

1. Bundamba State School; Silkstone State School

Mr HAMILL asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to much needed facilities approved for Bundamba State School and Silkstone State School—

- (1) (a) When will tenders be let for the new stand alone Special Education Unit to be built at Bundamba State School, (b) when will the facility be available for use and (c) what is the estimated cost of this facility?
- (2) (a) When will work commence on the construction of a new classroom block at Silkstone State School to replace the five classrooms destroyed by fire in January 1996, (b) when will these new classrooms be available for use and (c) what is the estimated cost of this facility?

Mr Quinn:

- (1) (a) The anticipated date for tender acceptance is 28 August, 1996.
- (b) The anticipated date for practical completion is 18 December, 1996.
- (c) The estimated cost of the facility is \$320,000
- (2) a) The anticipated date for tender acceptance is 30 May, 1996 and it is expected that work will begin as soon as practicable after this date.
- (b) The anticipated date for practical completion is 29 August, 1996.
- (c) The estimated cost of the facility is \$418,400

2. North Queensland Power Supply; Collinsville Power Station; Tully/Millstream Hydroelectric Project

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Mines and Energy—

- (1) What is the electrical power maximum demand in North Queensland at the present time, i.e. Sarina North.
- (2) What is the expected growth for the same area for the next five years?
- (3) When is the Collinsville Power Station now expected to come on line?
- (4) How much of the Collinsville Power Station's 180 MW is expected to be available at any given time?
- (5) If a revised Tully Millstream Project were to be constructed with a reduced storage capacity outside the World Heritage area, what would be its expected capacity over a typical year?

Mr Gilmore:

- (1) The standard weather peak load for North Queensland is currently 810 MW.
- (2) The standard weather peak load in North Queensland is expected to average 4.5% growth over the next five years.
- (3) Collinsville Power Station is expected to come on line at 1 March 1998.

(4) The Collinsville Power Station's expected capacity is 180 MW at its guaranteed availability.

(5) The typical output of the Tully Millstream power station could be reduced by up to 20 percent over a typical year if the project is constructed without the Nitchaga Dam and the Koolmoon diversion which lie within the World Heritage area. A study is currently underway to examine this issue.

3. Moreton Institute of TAFE, Bayside Campus and Cleveland Campus

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations—

With reference to the proposed construction of the \$8m Cleveland Campus of the Moreton Institute of TAFE—

As there is presently overcrowding and insufficient resources at the Bayside Campus of the Institute and as there has been broad community support for a recommendation that the \$8m allocated be transferred to the Bayside Campus, when will work begin on either the Cleveland Campus or on better facilities at the Bayside Campus to bring it up to the standard of other TAFE facilities?

Mr Santoro: (1) Funds for the construction of a new centre for the Bayside region are included in the capital works budget for TAFE Queensland for 1995/96. However, before approving the project, I will be meeting with local MLAs, local Council representatives and the College Council to finalise the siting of the new facility.

4. Bowen/Burdekin Shire Boundary

Mrs BIRD asked the Minister for Local Government and Planning—

With reference to the Electoral and Administrative Review Commission Report 1991 and the subsequent Parliamentary Committee of Electoral and Administrative Review report which was endorsed by the Local Government Commission and recommended boundary changes between Bowen Shire and Burdekin Shire Councils and given her comments in opposition that the "only chance of stopping the amalgamation process is to vote coalition"—

- (1) What decision has she made in relation to the Bowen/Burdekin Shire boundary alterations?
- (2) Who will pay for any changes that may eventuate?

Mrs McCauley: At the outset, I would like to correct a misconception as a result of this question that the Bowen/Burdekin external boundary review is about amalgamation.

It is not!

In March 1993 a reference was issued to the Local Government Commissioner to review whether five grazing properties (Kirknie, Strathhalbyn, Rangemore, Johnny Cake and King Creek Stations) should remain in Bowen Shire or be transferred to Burdekin Shire. This reference arose out of the local government review by the Electoral and Administrative Review Commission (EARC) in 1990/91.

In its November 1991 report, EARC recommended that the five properties be transferred to Burdekin Shire. Subsequently, the Parliamentary Committee for Electoral and Administrative Review (PCEAR) in March 1992 endorsed this recommendation on the basis of community of interest, enhanced service provision in the affected area and the expressed interest of the affected residents.

The Local Government Commissioner in his Final Report which was submitted to the former Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning on 27 November 1995 has now recommended three out of the five properties be transferred to Burdekin Shire (i.e. Kirknie, Strathalbyn and Rangemore).

Accordingly, in response to the specific questions asked of me, I respond as follows:-

(1) I have made no decision at this stage on the Local Government Commissioner's recommendations, but the clear policy of this Government is not to force amalgamations.

(2) The usual practice in the implementation of the Local Government Commissioner's recommendations in the past is that any costs will be borne by the Councils involved.

5. Land Titles

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Natural Resources—

What review is intended regarding the re-introduction of the issue of property deeds, rather than the newer process of computerisation which leaves owners vulnerable to error, computer loss or manipulation?

Mr Hobbs: Queenslanders will again be able to access a duplicate certificate of title for their mortgaged properties following the passage of the Land Title Amendment Bill introduced to Parliament in April. The former Labor Government abolished general issue of duplicate certificates of title under the controversial Land Title Act 1994. This legislation specifically excluded printing a certificate of title when the land was mortgaged. There was criticism of this restriction because most concerned Queenslanders believe that the paper title is their safeguard against fraudulent use of their property.

I have introduced the Land Title Amendment Bill to free up the availability of duplicate certificates of title to those Queenslanders with and without mortgages.

6. Fisheries Regulation 1995 (Subordinate Legislation No. 325)

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry—

With reference to the Fisheries Regulation 1995 (Subordinate Legislation No. 325)—

(1) Is he aware that the Queensland Commercial Fishermen's Organisation is suggesting that certain aspects of the regulation may be the subject of a challenge in the Supreme Court?

(2) Has he sought an opinion from Crown Law, or any other legal advice, on this matter; if so, what is that advice?

Mr Perrett: The Fisheries Regulation 1995 (Subordinate Legislation No. 325 of 1995) is subordinate legislation made under the Fisheries Act 1994, and came into force on 1 December 1995.

The Fisheries Regulation 1995 contains some hundreds of separate provisions relating to many different aspects of fisheries management, (such as licensing, minimum fish sizes, areas closed to fishing, fishing apparatus, fish habitat areas, noxious fish and fees).

I am advised that the Queensland Commercial Fisheries Organisation was consulted during the drafting of the Fisheries Regulation 1995.

I am aware that the Queensland Commercial Fishermen's Organisation or its members may be contemplating legal action in relation to the Fisheries Regulation 1995, but only in relation to one specific provision—the closure of Pumicestone Passage to commercial fishing.

An individual commercial fisherman has recently successfully challenged in the Supreme Court a declaration made by the Chief Executive (Director-General) of the Department of Primary Industries on 20 October 1995 to close Pumicestone Passage to commercial fishing. However, Pumicestone Passage remains closed to commercial fishing due to Schedule 2 Part 1 (Pumicestone Strait) of the Fisheries Regulation 1995 which governs these types of matters.

My Department has sought legal advice from the Crown Solicitor in relation to various aspects of the closure of Pumicestone Passage to commercial fishing. Actions to resolve this matter are not as yet completed.

Any legal advice obtained or to be obtained on the matter is subject to legal professional privilege and I am not prepared to discuss this matter further in order to maintain legal professional privilege.

7. Community Renewal and Local Jobs Program, Zillmere

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing—

With reference to the Community Renewal and Local Jobs Program—

Is the Department of Public Works and Housing intending to establish a project for the Brisbane suburb of Zillmere; if so, (a) what are the terms of reference of the project or if none are available, what are the specific objectives of the project, (b) what community consultation will take place prior to and during the implementation of the project, (c) what time frame is proposed for the implementation of the project and (d) will he guarantee local community representation on any committee established to oversee the implementation of the project?

Mr Connor: The Community Renewal and Local Jobs Program is administered from within the portfolio of my Cabinet colleague, the Minister for Local Government and Planning.

9. Rockhampton Court House

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice—

- (1) When is the Rockhampton Court House, promised by the State Labor Government, to be commenced?
- (2) How much will it cost?
- (3) How long will it take to construct?
- (4) Will it contain watchhouse facilities; if so, how many detainees will it cater for?
- (5) Is this new watchhouse to be staffed by police or Queensland Corrective Services officers?

Mr Beanland:

- (1) Construction of the new Rockhampton Courthouse is planned to commence in November 1996
- (2) The budget for the Courthouse is \$12.99million.
- (3) The construction period is 12 months.
- (4) The building will contain a watch house which will be funded separately by the Queensland Police Service. As the second part of this question does not come within my Ministerial portfolio I suggest the member should direct the question to the Honourable the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing
- (5) This matter does not come within my Ministerial portfolio and I suggest the member should direct the question to the Honourable the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing.

10. Palm Beach Community Health Centre

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Will the Palm Beach Community Health Centre be built in Fifth Avenue, Palm Beach?
- (2) Have plans been drawn up for this project?
- (3) What is the likely starting date for construction?
- (4) What is the anticipated opening date for the centre?

Mr Horan:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The previous Government had not prepared any plan at this time. However, proposals are being sought from consultants to prepare a Functional Plan and to undertake an Economic Evaluation for the development of a new community health centre at Palm Beach which will include limited services currently provided from Coolangatta.
- (3) It is anticipated that the Palm Beach Community Health Centre will open in April/May 1997.

The Coalition Government has guaranteed the people of the Gold Coast that the \$3.8 million Palm Beach Community Health Centre will proceed under the Hospital Rebuilding Program.

This is despite your previous Labour Government's mismanagement of health which has resulted in a \$2.1 billion blowout in the Hospital Rebuilding Program.

The services which will be provided at the Palm Beach Community Health Centre include oral health, aged care, family and child health, community health, health promotion and youth health.

I have noted with concern recent media statements you have made regarding the future of the Community Health Centre when you would be fully aware that the gross mismanagement by previous Labour Health Ministers seriously delayed this project.

In May last year then Health Minister, Mr Jim Elder, approved the lease on the building at Palm Beach and commenced negotiations on the purchase of the leased building and a second property adjacent to that site. These negotiations fell through and in January this year then Health Minister, Mr Peter Beattie, purchased adjacent Palm Beach properties which will be used as the site for building the Health Centre.

The net result of this mismanagement is that Queensland Health has been left with a \$532,000, five year lease on a building at Palm Beach which has proved unsuitable for the development of a Community Health Centre.

The Coalition Government is now implementing proper planning, funding negotiation and financial management within Queensland Health with the aim of pulling the Hospital Rebuilding Program out of the Labour financial mess.

I expect completion of the functional plan for the Palm Beach Community Health Centre by mid-May 1996, call for tenders by the end of October 1996 and construction completed by August 1997.

11. Bundaberg Base Hospital

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Health—

Will he ensure that the timeframe for the redevelopment of the Bundaberg Base Hospital will be kept as proposed so that the \$20m plus redevelopment program commences construction in 1996?

Mr Horan: I am currently reviewing the Capital Works Program which includes redevelopment of the Bundaberg Hospital. However the redevelopment program proposed for the Hospital will proceed probably in 1996. Stage 2 of the redevelopment is nearing completion at a cost of \$2.3m. The final phase of the redevelopment will proceed on completion of Stage 2.

It is indeed fortunate for the people of Bundaberg that the previous Labor Health Minister, Peter Beattie, was expelled from overseeing health finances in State following the Goss Government's sacking by the people of Queensland at the July 1995 State election and the Mundingburra by-election.

In the final days of the Goss Government, Mr Beattie attempted to transfer \$34 million from the Capital Works budget to cover up to \$70 million in recurrent budget overruns which occurred under your Government.

I was able to stop this deceitful hijack before it became necessary to delay the rebuilding of Bundaberg's hospital, among other projects around Queensland.

As you would be aware, Stage 1 of the Bundaberg Hospital redevelopment is completed. Stage 2 of the redevelopment which incorporates the construction of a renal unit, electrical upgrading, carpark and civil works is now nearing completion. The final phase of the redevelopment will proceed on completion of Stage 2.

The Coalition Government is now implementing proper planning, funding negotiation and financial management within Queensland Health, with the aim of pulling the Hospital Rebuilding program out of the Labor financial mess.

It is now obvious that up to \$31 million will be needed to redevelop the Bundaberg Hospital, as opposed to the \$18.1 million allocated under your Government. Plans for how the money will be spent are yet to be finalised, however, a portion of the funding has been allocated for an additional operating theatre, increasing the Hospital's surgery departments from three to four. Expansions to the accident and emergency department, a specialist outpatients area, a rehabilitation ward and a reconfigured community health centre are on the drawing board.

Recurrent budget overruns of up to \$70 million for the past two Financial Years, attempts by the now Leader of the Opposition to hijack money from the capital works program to cover up these overruns and a \$1.2 billion blowout in the Hospital Rebuilding Program stand as testimonies to the gross mismanagement and incompetence which occurred in health under your Government.

15. Bohlevale State School; Bluewater State School

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Education—

As the funds have been frozen for the commencement of construction of half-teaching blocks approved for Bohlevale State School and Bluewater State School to take account of the need for additional teaching spaces in these two growth schools—

- (1) (a) Will he give a commitment that work will commence on these buildings as soon as the freeze is lifted and (b) when does he anticipate that that will occur?
- (2) Will the buildings be air conditioned?

Mr Quinn:

(1)(a) & (b) The freeze on financial approval for construction for Half General Learning Blocks at Bohlevale and Bluewater State Schools was lifted on 22 March 1996; contracts were let for these projects on 28 March 1996 and construction is already well under way.

(2) The Government is committed to air-conditioning all school buildings located north of 20 degrees latitude, including the new learning blocks at Bluewater and Bohlevale State Schools.

16. Bulimba Point, Land

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Natural Resources—

With reference to a strip of land on the Brisbane river front adjoining the site previously owned by Telecom at Bulimba Point (UBD Ref Map 19, bounded by Coutts Street, Kenbury Street and Brisbane River)—

- (1) Is the land in question held in trust for the people of Queensland by his department; if so, is he currently negotiating with anybody to sell, swap or give the land away?
- (2) Has his department in the past negotiated with any party to sell, swap or give this land to any party?
- (3) Will he also make available all other land held by his department in the electorate of Bulimba?
- (4) If he has sold, swapped or given this land away, to whom and for how much was it sold?
- (5) Is this the only land that is held by his department on the Brisbane River in the electorate of Bulimba; if not, what other land is held by his department?
- (6) If this land is still owned by the people of Queensland by his department, will he donate it to the Brisbane City Council to administer and make it available to the residents of Bulimba?

Mr Hobbs: The land in question is unallocated State land described as Lot 639 on Plan SL5859 containing an area of 1358 square metres. It extends along the riverfront between Coutts Street and Kenbury Street Bulimba. Departmental officers are investigating the future use of the land including an application on behalf of Telstra to incorporate the land in the overall future development of the former Telstra site.

No Decision nor recommendation has been made concerning the future use of the land. However, upon receipt of advice that the adjoining lands were contaminated, Telstra has been given permission to enclose Lot 639 with its land whilst remedial works are being carried out.

1. The allocation of unallocated State land will be assessed according to land evaluation based on the appraisal of land capability and the consideration and balancing of the different economic, environmental, cultural and social opportunities and values of the land.

See 2.

Apart from the land adjacent to Telstra, the only riverfront unallocated State land in the Bulimba Electorate is Lot 15 on USL18403. This parcel adjoins the former Bulimba B Power Station and the Brisbane City Council's Gibson Island Treatment Plant.

The suggestion for donation of the land to the Brisbane City Council on behalf of the residents of Bulimba will be considered during the investigation process.

18. Regional Health Offices

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to his decision that all Regional Offices will close on 26 April with the exception of the Central West and South West regions, in the interests of eliminating duplication of effort—

- (1) Why has he chosen to disadvantage every other Health Region and, in particular, the Mackay Region by abolishing the Mackay Regional Office when his Director-General in a memo to staff on 20 March 1996 said with respect to the regions that there was a "perceived duplication of effort"?
- (2) Will he order a review of his decision to abolish regional offices until this perception is clarified?

Mr Horan:

(1) The Government decision to close Regional Offices stems directly from the failure of regionalisation. While offices will be maintained in the former Central West and South West Regions, they will not be Regional Offices. Consequently, no part of the State, including Mackay, is disadvantaged by the decision.

(2) No.

Regionalisation was a costly failure—something even the previous Labour Health Minister and now Opposition Leader, Mr Peter Beattie, admitted.

After being told by the Goss Cabinet in November last year to shut down the regional health authorities, Mr Beattie was quoted on 6 December 1995 (Channel 10) as saying:

"Closing the offices would dramatically remove red tape and unnecessary bureaucracy".

Over 800 public submissions were received from around Queensland, with the overwhelming majority responding that the regional authority system needed to be dismantled. Under Labor, regional office staff were placed under great uncertainty by Mr Beattie's "100 Days of Listening" and his subsequent indecision over the future of the health regions.

However, the Borbidge Government has moved quickly to ensure the failed regional system has been dismantled, with the resultant savings to be put back into frontline health services like hospitals and community health centres, so that each and every Queensland patient can be given quality care.

In addition local communities can now become involved in health delivery and planning through the soon to be established District Health Councils—truly, putting health back in local hands.

19. Water Storages

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Natural Resources—

- (1) Which of the major departmental water storages are at critically low levels?
- (2) What is their storage volume per cent capacity as at the end of March 1996 compared with 1995 and 1994?
- (3) What services is his department providing for those primary producers who are affected by drought?

Mr Hobbs:

1. Seven major departmental water storages are storing 25% or less of their storage capacity and a further five water storages are storing between 25% and 50% of their storage capacity. Two of these,

Fairbairn Dam, near Emerald (19%), the major water supply for the Emerald Irrigation Area and Fred Haigh Dam, near Gin Gin (24%), the major water source for the Bundaberg Irrigation Area are the main cause for concern.

2. The major water storages with a current storage volume of less than 50% together with their storage volume at end March 1995 and 1994 are as follows.

Water Storage	Storage Volume (%) at		
	March 96	March 95	March 94
Bill Gunn Dam	18	0	4
Fairbairn Dam	19	31	55
Maroon Dam	22	25	56
Callide Dam	22	13	21
Fred Haigh Dam	24	20	64
Wuruma Dam	25	1	13
Moogerah Dam	25	3	35
Lake Clarendon Dam	29	0	0
Peter Faust Dam	43	51	64
Eungella Dam	45	51	65
Cania Dam	46	26	5
Leslie Dam	48	23	5

Reference to the table shows that most of these water storages are in a better position now than they were 12 months ago. The main exception is Fairbairn Dam near Emerald.

3. The majority of Queensland has experienced below average rainfall over the past five years. Those primary producers who are beneficiaries of the departmental water storages have been insulated against the prolonged effects of drought.

This Government is committed to the development of new water storages and intends to spend some \$1 billion for this purpose over the next fifteen years.

My department's Rural Advisory Service is available to advise and assist primary producers with on-farm water conservation measures.

My department will be working very closely with the new Department of Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry in the management of the State's natural resources to minimise the effects of drought on primary producers.

20. Rev. A. Male; Shaftesbury Citizenship Centre

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care—

With reference to the appointment of the Reverend Alan Male as Chief Executive Officer of the Family, Youth and Community Care Department—

- (1) As Mr Male has received direct Government funding over the years for his Shaftesbury venture at Deception Bay, is there a conflict of interest regarding his recent appointment?
- (2) Will he ensure that if Government funding is continued in this area, that Mr Male does not benefit personally from this funding?

Mr Lingard:

(1) No. Reverend Allan Male, as founder of the Shaftesbury Citizenship Campus at Deception Bay and former Chief Executive Officer of the Shaftesbury Citizenship Centre, has not received

funding from my Department for any of the establishment work he has done at the Campus over 8 years.

(2) The Deception Bay Campus is built on Crown Land under a Deed of Grant in Trust. All developments on that land are consequently the property of the Crown irrespective of the source of the funding. No person can personally derive benefit therefrom. Reverend Male in fact mortgaged his own beach house at Caloundra and his family home at Narangba to ensure that infrastructure and facilities at the Campus were completed. Rather than a conflict of interest as the Member suggests, Reverend Male's sacrifices for the youth of Queensland through Shaftesbury activities are a model of community service which others would do well to emulate.

Despite an open invitation to all citizens, I understand that neither you nor the former Premier, who was personally invited, have ever visited the Campus. I am advised by Reverend Male that you remain very welcome anytime.

22. Morayfield West Primary School

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the proposed new primary school at Morayfield West—

- (1) What is the present position regarding the acquisition of the land off Walker Road, Morayfield?
- (2) Is the proposed Morayfield West Primary School still a high priority for construction and opening in 1997?

Mr Quinn:

- (1) Acquisition of the school site off Walker Road, Morayfield West, is proceeding and the land will be acquired by proclamation in the near future.
- (2) Tenders for construction of the Morayfield West Primary School were called on 10 April 1996, with a view to the school opening in 1997.

24. Queensland Ambulance Service

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport—

With reference to the Queensland Ambulance Services Cost Works Budget—

- (1) What is the current Capital Works Budget for the Queensland Ambulance Service?
- (2) What was this Budget in 1989-90?
- (3) What is the priority list for new ambulance buildings in 1995-96?
- (4) Who determines these priorities?
- (5) How are they determined?

Mr Veivers:

(1) The 1995-96 Queensland Ambulance Service Capital Works Budget is \$13.5M. This comprises \$7.25M in new buildings and major renovations, \$1.2M in minor capital works and a carry over of \$5M for projects commenced in the 1994-95 FY.

(2) The budget in 1989-90 was \$4.4M.

(3) Capital works projects carried over from 1994-95 FY or programmed in the 1995-96 FY budget (listed in Attachment A) were identified in the 1995-96 budget document. All 1995-96 FY projects have either been completed or will commence with project start up costs incurred this financial year.

(4) The priority classifications are determined by the Minister of the day from advice received from the Commissioner of the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS). The Commissioner consults widely with Local Ambulance Committees (LAC), community stakeholders and staff before determining his recommendation to the Minister.

(5) The factors included in determining priorities include:

Community needs;

State of repair of any existing buildings;

Ability to subsidise the capital works project from the sale of existing assets, or funding from LACs.

The QAS Capital Works Programme in 1995-96 has provided the Queensland community with new resources from which the QAS can continue to provide an excellent service to the community.

ATTACHMENT A

Bundaberg—replacement station
 Caboolture—station relocation
 Cairns—replacement station
 Charters Towers—replacement station
 Cleveland—replacement station
 Cloncurry—replacement station
 Dunwich—replacement/temporary station
 Edmonton—replacement station
 Emerald—replacement station
 Kilcoy —replacement station
 Kirwan—refurbishment
 Kuranda—new station
 Maryborough—replacement station
 Mission Beach—new station
 Monto—replacement station
 Noosa—station relocation
 Pimpama/Coomera—new station
 Proserpine—replacement station
 Spring Hill—refurbishment—stage 2
 Spring Hill—computer aided dispatch accommodation
 Toowoomba—renovations
 Wynnum—replacement station

25. Fire Service Equipment

Mr MILLINER asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport—

With reference to the Queensland Fire Services—

- (1) How much was spent on the provision of protective clothing for firefighters during the last two years?
- (2) What items of protective clothing and equipment have been provided?
- (3) Are these satisfactory, ie do they meet with the widespread approval of the firefighters?
- (4) Are there any firefighters who turn out without their proper safety equipment; if so, why?

- (5) Will he ensure that the Queensland Fire Service maintains its Budget on protective clothing and equipment?

Mr Veivers:

- (1) The amount of funds expended in the last two years is \$2,320,603, as set out below:

FIRE TURNOUT CLOTHING

Expenditure from 1 July 1994 to 3 April 1996

Coat turnout (older style)—\$59,915.00
 Overtrousers turnout (older style)—\$96,785.00
 Coat turnout (new style)—\$732,086.00
 Overtrousers turnout (new style)—\$323,600.00
 Helmets (N.F.P.A.)—\$298,505.00
 Gloves turnout—\$150,620.00
 Boots turnout—\$138,105.00
 Sub total—\$1,799,616.00
 Rural fires—\$520,987.00
 TOTAL—\$2,320,603.00

- (2) The following protective clothing and equipment have been provided:

A—URBAN

- (i) Protective helmets (NFPA Standard)
- (ii) Turnout coats new style & old style
- (iii) Turnout overtrousers and braces
- (iv) Structural fire fighting gloves
- (v) Protective leather gloves (NFPA Standard)
- (vi) Structural fire fighting boots (top boots & GP style)

B—RURAL

- (i) Overalls
 - (ii) Gloves
 - (iii) Respirators
- (iv) Goggles
 - (v) Helmets
 - (vi) Boots

- (3) The Commissioner has advised me that the equipment is satisfactory. Where there are recognised issues the Queensland Fire Service is actively working with the UFU and firefighters to improve and upgrade such equipment. By way of example Queensland Fire Service is currently improving the standard of firefighters gloves and boots. The turnout coat is also being revised in line with requests by firefighters, ie. pockets, radio holders etc.

Protective clothing will always be a compromise between ultimate protection and user comfort and dexterity. The Queensland Fire Service is committed to improve the protective clothing as technology allows.

- (4) The Commissioner has advised me that all urban and auxiliary firefighters have sufficient safety and protective clothing to respond to fire calls. All urban firefighters are required to respond to fire calls wearing the proper protective clothing.

The Rural Fire Brigade 1st Officer has a responsibility to ensure that all personnel working under their control are safely attired. Volunteers who, in the opinion of the 1st officer are attired inappropriately are not employed in suppression duties.

- (5) The Commissioner has advised me that he intends to maintain the current policy that all firefighters will be provided with adequate and appropriate safety and protective equipment.

26. Gracemere, High School

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the town of Gracemere, west of Rockhampton, which has experienced rapid growth in population and strong calls from the community for the provision of a high school in the town which would also cater for the needs of families in the Bouldercombe, Stanwell, Kalapa and Westwood areas—

When does the Government consider it is most likely that a high school will be built in the town of Gracemere and what factors would influence the bringing forward or delay or approval for the school?

Mr Quinn:

The secondary education needs of Gracemere and environs are met by the Rockhampton State High School and the North Rockhampton State High School. Enrolments are forecast to decline at these two high schools in the period to the year 2000 and as a consequence they have the capacity to serve the secondary educational needs of their catchment, including the areas of Gracemere, Bouldercombe, Stanwell, Kalapa and Westwood.

The development of the Gracemere community has produced consistent, but not rapid, growth in secondary enrolments. This growth does not, at present, warrant the construction of a new high school. The Department will reconsider this view, in accordance with stated policy, if unexpected growth occurs and the capacity of the Rockhampton and North Rockhampton State Schools, to adequately serve their catchment area, is reduced.

30. Building and Construction Industry Inquiry

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing—

With reference to the inquiry into security of payment within the building and construction industry—

- (1) Why are no employee unions represented on the committee?
- (2) Does he realise who is at the bottom of the financial chain in the building and construction industry?
- (3) Does he know who are always financially left out of pocket when companies cannot meet their commitments?
- (4) Does he realise that over half the industry is unrepresented?
- (5) Will he rectify this matter immediately and appoint employee representations onto the committee?

Mr Connor:

- (1) The 1991 Green Paper on Security of Payment for Subcontractors in the Building and Construction Industry circulated by the then Labor Government commented, in its introduction, that:

"Use of subcontractors has overtaken employment as a means of acquiring labour services. It is the legitimate expectation of those subcontractors to be paid"

"While there can be no doubt that the best form of protection is employment, the change from employment to subcontracting is widely recognised and accepted".

"The industry no longer has an employment tradition".

It is noted that in the Paper it is stated—"Head Contractors typically employ only about 10% or less of on-site labour". On-site labour, where it is used, is typically employed by subcontractors".

The inquiry established by the Coalition Government recognises the vital importance of monetary payments flowing down the contractual chain. Such flow of money is the life blood of the industry. If certainty is introduced into payments down the contractual chain, it will naturally follow that employees will receive payment.

The inquiry is aimed at ensuring payment to all parties in the contractual chain, but more particularly, the subcontractors who perform the actual construction work. This certainty of payment is the step that is vital before payment of employees can be assured.

Unions are not represented on the Committee because it is seen that they are one step removed from the contractual chain, down which the flow of money is so essential. If there remains a problem of payment of employees after certainty of payment in the contractual chain is assured, then that matter would be for inquiry by another forum.

Further to the above, the individual numbers of the Committee are nominees of Arthur Scurr, the Committee Chairman and I could not, and would not, overrule Mr Scurr in his independent role.

(2) I do realise who is at the bottom of the financial chain. Most often it is the "Mums and Dads" of the subcontracting business. The small enterprises who cannot afford losses when their superior Contractor fails and to whom even small losses raise the spectre of bankruptcy, loss of homes and financial ruin.

I realise employees also suffer when there is financial failure in the contractual chain and that hardships occur in such situations. It is this Government's aim to ensure that there are no failures in the contractual chain. As I have said in my response to question 1, the natural flow-on effect of certainty of payments should result in employees receiving their regular entitlements.

(3) I believe my response to question 2 adequately addresses this question.

(4) I have difficulty in understanding what is meant by this question.

If the question is intended to refer to employees then—as I have indicated in my response to question 1—the inquiry is not intended to review security of payment for employees. Security of payment for employees is a matter for the industrial laws and forums of this State and if there is a difficulty in this area, an appropriate question should be addressed

to my colleague with portfolio responsibility in that area.

Perhaps the Honourable Member would identify the half of the industry that is unrepresented on the inquiry.

(5) No. It is not appropriate that employee representatives be appointed to the Committee for the reasons I have outlined previously.

I would, however, assure the Honourable Member that the inquiry will accept submissions from all parties and any input from Unions or employees will be most welcomed and valued. In this regard, the Honourable Member should note that the closing date for any submission is 9 May 1996.

32. Rev. A. Male; Shaftesbury Citizenship Centre

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care—

With reference to a widespread perception of a conflict of interest between Mr Alan Male's appointment as Acting Director-General of the Department of Family, Youth and Community Care and his involvement with the Shaftesbury Citizenship Centre—

- (1) Does Alan Male continue to hold the position of Director, or any other position, of the Shaftesbury Centre?
- (2) Does Alan Male derive any benefit from his involvement with the Shaftesbury Centre, such as Director's fees, accommodation or other benefits.
- (3) Does Alan Male continue to undertake duties at the Shaftesbury Centre?
- (4) What are Alan Male's hours of duty in the Department of Family, Youth and Community Care and what salary is he being paid for these hours?
- (5) Does the Shaftesbury Centre currently receive funding from the Department of Family, Youth and Community Care; if so, how much?
- (6) What steps has he taken to ensure that (a) there is no conflict of interest between Mr Male's responsibilities as Acting Director-General and his involvement with the Shaftesbury Centre and (b) any perceptions of a conflict of interest which the public may have, are removed?

Mr Lingard:

- (1) No.
- (2) Reverend Male receives no remuneration from Shaftesbury. He and his wife reside at the Deception Bay Campus which is built on Crown Land under a Deed of Grant in Trust. All development on that land is consequently the property of the Crown. No individual can personally derive benefit therefrom. Reverend Male in fact mortgaged his own beach house at Caloundra and his family home at Narangba to ensure that infrastructure and facilities at the Campus were completed.
- (3) Reverend Male continues to provide advice in an honorary capacity. Surely you would not expect a man who has devoted 30 years of his life to

community service for young people to suddenly sever his ties completely with the organisation he founded. To suggest that he would not avoid any conflict of interest is a slur on his fine reputation.

(4) Acting as a Chief Executive Officer of a large and diverse Department, Reverend Male works well beyond the standard public service hours including nights and weekends, is on call at all times in the event of an emergency and receives the standard remuneration for a Chief Executive in such a Department.

(5) The Centre currently receives \$82,161 per annum to assist its youth activities.

(6)(a) Reverend Male is no longer the Chief Executive Officer of Shaftesbury and as stated above, does not receive any benefits from the organisation, except the moral satisfaction that he is setting a fine example of voluntary community service with disadvantaged people.

(6)(b) Reverend Male will not be the approving authority for funding of community organisations. Such decisions will rest with me as the responsible Minister. The Chief Executive is accountable to implement such decisions. I would be surprised if any member of the public had anything but the greatest admiration for Reverend Male's outstanding contribution to the Queensland community, especially its youth.

33. Chalumbin-Woree Power Line; Powerlink; Mr P. Bosanquet

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Mines and Energy—

With reference to the decision by Powerlink on the routing of the Chalumbin to Woree powerline—

- (1) Is it true that he will give a direction to the Powerlink Board sometime this week on re-routing this powerline?
- (2) Does this new route have the support of the Powerlink Board?
- (3) What community consultation has taken place by him?
- (4) What involvement has the Member for Mulgrave and Mr Peter Bosanquet and his group had in the decision?
- (5) What additional costs are involved in re-routing this transmission line?
- (6) Is he aware of any financial assistance which Mr Peter Bosanquet and his group gave to the National Party prior to the recent Queensland State Election?
- (7) How does he justify spending this extra money on this particular transmission line when there have been similar requests from communities in other parts of the State?
- (8) Will he now review those requests with a view to undergrounding other transmission lines around the State?

Mr Gilmore: Yes. Following a Government review of the proposed route for the Chalumbin to Woree transmission line where five options were presented by Powerlink Queensland, Shareholding

Ministers of Queensland Transmission and Supply Corporation wrote to their Board to advise Powerlink of the route which was endorsed by Government.

Yes. Powerlink Queensland reviewed all of the 19 public responses to its Preliminary Impact Assessment report, several of which (including one from the Wet Tropics Management Authority) endorsed the underground alternative presented in Powerlink Queensland's report and criticised the overhead alternative. After weighing up all the feedback, the Board of Powerlink Queensland approved the route nominated by Government.

Extensive community consultation was undertaken as part of the Preliminary Impact Assessment process. That process considered two alternatives—an overhead route and a combined overhead/underground route.

The chosen route is essentially a "hybrid" combining the better features of both alternatives covered in the Preliminary Impact Assessment, and its selection was influenced by all the public and community group responses to the Preliminary Impact Assessment.

At my request, Powerlink Queensland has consulted with landholders directly affected by the chosen route, as well as with other agencies and groups such as Wet Tropics Management Authority and the Trinity Anglican School. The Member for Mulgrave was also consulted at this time.

Mr Peter Bosanquet represented a group of residents in the Edmonton area which provided one of the 19 written responses to Powerlink Queensland's Preliminary Impact Assessment. That submission was considered along with all the other public submissions, including those from concerned landholders, local community groups, Cairns City Council, Wet Tropics Management Authority and Trinity Inlet Management Group.

The new route for the Chalumbin to Woree line (including the realignment of the existing 132 kV line out of the White Rock residential suburb) will cost an additional \$12 million, compared to the original option proposed by Powerlink Queensland. This brings the total cost of the new line to approximately \$49 million.

34. Birkdale State School; Birkdale State Preschool

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the installation and upgrading of electronic security at schools within my electorate under the previous Government's Building Better Schools Program—

- (1) As Birkdale State School and Birkdale State Preschool are in desperate need of electronic security upgrades as a result of recent vandalism and theft, and as the freeze on the Building Better Schools Program funding by his Government is the only thing holding up the work at Birkdale State School and Birkdale State Preschool when will this upgrade of electronic security be undertaken at the schools?

- (2) When will the other schools within my electorate have electronic security installed and existing electronic security systems upgraded?

Mr Quinn:

(1) The continuation of the Building Better Schools project was approved on the 2 April 1996. The upgrade of electronic security at Birkdale State School and the Birkdale State Preschool Centre is accordingly expected to commence by the end of May. Contrary to sentiments expressed within this question, the only thing holding up the work at these facilities is the fact that normal tender processes are being followed.

(2) The setting of priorities for security installation work within a region is a regional responsibility. Those schools within the Cleveland electorate that are considered by the Metropolitan East region as being very high risk are expected to be audited by the end of the current financial year, and security upgrade work is due to be completed by the end of the 1996 calendar year. It is expected that security upgrade work in high risk schools throughout the state will require the full five year term of the program.

37. Queensland Fire Service, Staffing

Mr NUNN asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport—

With reference to 1 and 3 crewing levels in the Queensland Fire Service—

- (1) How many such crews already exist within the QFS?
 (2) At what stations are these located?
 (3) How many QFS crews are expected to turn out without 1 and 3 staffing levels?
 (4) What is the cost of bringing these levels up to 1 and 3 standard?
 (5) When will this occur?

Mr Veivers:

(1) The number of stations responding with permanent crewing levels of 1 and 3 will vary at any particular time depending on the impact of training, leave, sickness and retirements.

(2) The QFS does not maintain a minimum level of 1 and 3 at any station regardless of absences.

(3) The following stations have a turnout strength of 1 and 3 but may turnout with 1 and 2 when staff numbers are depleted.

FAR NORTHERN REGION—Cairns, Smithfield

NORTHERN REGION—Garbutt, Kirwan, Townsville, Mount Isa, Wulguru

CENTRAL REGION—Mackay, North Rockhampton, Rockhampton, Gladstone

NORTH COAST REGION—Bundaberg, Maryborough, Caloundra, Maroochydore, Nambour, North Mackay

SOUTH WESTERN REGION—Toowoomba, Anzac Avenue

GREATER BRISBANE REGION—Acacia Ridge, Annerley, Balmoral, Camp Hill, Capalaba, Cleveland, Hamilton, Kemp Place, Mt Gravatt, Oxley, Rocklea,

Wynnum, Arana Hills, Ashgrove, Enoggera, Kenmore, Mt Ommaney, Nundah, Roma Street, Taringa, Windsor, Chermshire, Eatons Hill, Redcliffe, Sandgate, Taigum, Caboolture, Petrie

SOUTH EASTERN REGION—Bilinga, Burleigh Heads, Hollywell, Southport, Worongary/Robina, Helensvale, Beenleigh, Loganlea, West Logan, Woodridge, Bundamba, Ipswich, Redbank, Surfers Paradise

(4) Joint agreement with the United Firefighters Union on the positioning of one and three career firefighters is a matter for consideration. The Government's decision to increase firefighting strength by 135 will greatly enhance the objectives sought by the fire service and unions. This will cost approximately \$10M over two years.

There are stations with permanent staff who respond with crews of 1 and 2 made up of either permanent staff or combined permanent or auxiliary staff. Auxiliary crew sizes will vary according to circumstances.

(5) QFS is currently negotiating with the United firefighters Union with a view to provision of 1 and 3 career firefighter crewing at agreed fire stations across the State.

At this point, the agreed time scale covers the next three years. The final increase in staff and associated costs will depend on the outcomes of negotiations.

39. Redcliffe TAFE Campus

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations—

With reference to the Labor Government's commitment to construct a TAFE College on the Klingner Road site in the electorate of Redcliffe and a commitment by the then Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Mrs Sheldon, during the 1995 Election campaign to construct a \$3 million TAFE College on this site—

Will he publicly declare his support for this project and also release estimated dates of commencement and completion of the Redcliffe TAFE Campus?

Mr Santoro: (1) As the responsible Minister, this project has my full support. It also has the full support of the Honourable the Treasurer and the local community, which was consulted and involved in plans for the campus through the Redcliffe State High School and the Council of the North Point Institute of TAFE. The design planning for the facility is progressing as scheduled. I have approved funding for its construction from within TAFE Queensland's capital works budget, with the total cost to be funded in part by the planned sale of TAFE land at Nathan Road, Kippa-Ring. I anticipate that construction will start in July and be complete by mid January 1997 allowing classes to begin in late January 1997.

40. Bundaberg, Ambulance Services

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister For Emergency Services and Minister for Sport—

Will he give an assurance that (a) the position of Assistant Commissioner (Queensland Ambulance

Service) for the North Coast region will remain in Bundaberg, (b) the two aerial ambulances will remain in Bundaberg and be upgraded as required and (c) the new ambulance station planned for Bundaberg will be built in 1996?

Mr Veivers:

(a) The Assistant Commissioner (Queensland Ambulance Service) for the North Coast region is currently based in Bundaberg however, the location is at the extreme end of the region and the Assistant Commissioner is thus separated not only from administrative support services within the region but also from the bulk of the population which is located at the southern end of the region. I am of the view that the regional office will be better located in the southern part of the region and therefore cannot give an assurance that it will remain in Bundaberg.

Although no final decision has been made at this stage, this matter is being carefully evaluated and a decision should be made in the near future.

(b) With respect to the two aerial ambulances currently based in Bundaberg, these aircraft will require replacement in due course. These aircraft currently fly approximately 1,500 hours per year and their services are now provided across the state. New helicopter services have been developed in Rockhampton and Nambour and the Royal Flying Doctor Service has established bases in Rockhampton and Brisbane. The future of the Bundaberg air ambulance base does need to be reassessed. Again, this will be carefully evaluated including discussions with the Department of Health and alternatives of helicopter services and future fixed wing services will be considered. I therefore cannot give any assurance on the future of the air ambulance base at Bundaberg until such time as this careful evaluation has occurred.

(c) A new ambulance station has been planned for Bundaberg for sometime. The announcement was made by the former Minister for Emergency Services in the 1995/96 budget that a new station would be built with the assistance of the Local Ambulance Committee of Bundaberg who are directly providing funds for the new station. I am advised that the final designs are currently being considered by the ambulance service in Bundaberg and by the local community as represented through its Local Ambulance Committee, and as soon as those final designs are agreed to, tenders will be let and construction will commence immediately. I am confident that the project will be completed during 1996.

41. Mackay, Health Funding

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Health—

Is the extra funding of some \$1.2m under the Resource Allocation Formula which was scheduled for the Mackay region in 1996-67 still forthcoming to the Mackay region in that financial year?

Mr Horan: Queensland Health will have a substantially different structure in 1996-97 with Health Service Districts rather than the current Regional structure. The forward estimates referred to in the question were calculated for Regions and are

being re-examined in the context of Districts. Considerable work is being undertaken in restructuring the whole Health budget to align it with the District structure, and forward estimates are part on this process.

All Regions were notified earlier this year that the current forward estimates were three years old and would need adjustment in the light of current budget figures. Regions were informed that forward estimates for 1996-97 were indicative only rather than an entitlement.

Since Regions which were to receive extra funding in 1996-97 under the previous budgetary system are being replaced by a number of Districts, ways of distributing this funding to Districts are under consideration to ensure a fair and equitable allocation.

44. Gaming Machine Community Benefit Fund

Mr NUTTALL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts—

Will the Gaming Machine Community Benefit Fund be maintained in its present form and will the current guidelines for the distribution of funds remain in place?

Mrs Sheldon: The Fund was established as a joint initiative of the Queensland Government and the Club and Hotel industries. There are no plans to alter the framework of the Fund. The guidelines for the distribution of funds are subject to ongoing review in the light of experience with the Fund: at present there are no plans to make any changes to the current guidelines.

46. Management of Behavioural Problems in Schools

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to his claims on ABC radio that students and parents in rural areas have fewer behaviour management problems and different expectations about what should be done to deal with the management of behaviour—

What will his Government do to ensure that all schools have access to withdrawal facilities so that teachers and students work free of unnecessary interruptions?

Mr Quinn: This Government is committed to assisting schools with the management of student behaviour in a way that will best enable teachers to teach and the students to learn in the best possible environment. As an indication of support the Government has committed \$1.85 million this financial year to fund programmes and facilities developed by regions to meet the specific needs of schools within their area.

The priority of the Government in the area of behaviour management is to give principals more authority to suspend and exclude those students who are persistently disruptive. Accordingly, the Department of Education is in the process of designing a range of withdrawal options that will enable the many different school communities

around the state to deal appropriately with students on suspension.

The withdrawal options that are put into place will reflect the practical differences that rural and urban communities experience.

47. Woorabinda, Hospital

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to funding approved by the former Labor Government for the planning and construction of a hospital for the aboriginal community of Woorabinda—

Is the Coalition Government committed to the provision of a hospital at Woorabinda; if so, what is the current status of the planning process and what is the timeframe for construction?

Mr Horan: The Coalition Government is fully committed to providing improved health services to the Woorabinda community. An Asset Review, Functional Plan and Master Planning exercise has recently been completed. The objective of this exercise was to identify the health needs of the community through a process of consultation, in order to develop an integrated health service with facilities which respond to the cultural requirements of the community and the essential needs of professional/non-professional staff and visiting specialists, who deliver these services.

Following completion of the Master Planning studies, a sign-off from all key stakeholders is being sought prior to proceeding to the next phase of the project (Project Definition Plan). The preferred option arising from the planning studies and consultation is to provide a multi-purpose facility with acute care, birthing suite and support services. Staff accommodation will also be expanded to provide for the medical superintendent, the director of nursing, visiting specialists and other health staff. Subject to agreement of the preferred option, it is intended to appoint consultants at the earliest opportunity in order to complete schematic design, design development and documentation for the calling of tenders by October/November 1996. Construction is likely to commence in early 1997.

48. Coalition Financial Strategy; Statement by Treasurer

Mr BEATTIE asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts—

With reference to her recent address to the Conservative Club in Brisbane where she stated that the Coalition would obtain additional capital from "structured financings to reduce the cost of capital"—

Will she give some examples of the type of financing to which she refers?

Mrs Sheldon: This Government is committed to obtaining maximum value for money, including in the provision of infrastructure. In this regard, there are a variety of means available by which the cost of capital for the provision of infrastructure can be lowered, including:

funding specific projects where the funding method adopted is tailored to the particular project to take advantage of the particular characteristics of that project (eg. private sector involvement in the project to gain a lower overall cost of capital);

facilities that are tailored to take advantage of windows of opportunity that become available in financial markets from time to time (eg. private placements in overseas markets); and

where it is to the benefit of the State, accessing funding other than conventional debt or equity funds for infrastructure or equipment required by Government bodies.

49. Departmental Budget Allocations

Mr HAMILL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts—

With reference to the 1995-96 Budget—

- (1) What is the estimated consolidated revenue allocation for each department for 1995-96?
- (2) What proportion of that allocation had been expended by each of those departments as at 31 December 1995?
- (3) What proportion of that allocation had been expended by each of those departments as at 31 March 1996?
- (4) What balance remained in the Consolidated Fund as at 31 March 1996?

Mrs Sheldon:

(1) Administrative Services \$324.1M; Queensland Audit Office \$15.4M; Business, Industry and Regional Development \$53.5M; Education \$2,743.3M; Electoral Commission \$14.3M; Environment and Heritage \$180.0M; Emergency Services \$125.5M; DEVETIR \$601.6M; Family and Community Services \$484.1M; Office of the Governor \$2.9M; Health \$2,765.2M; Housing, Local Government and Planning \$253.9M; Justice \$301.1M; Justice \$301.1M; Legislative Assembly \$37.1M; Lands \$125.6M; Minerals and Energy \$153.1M; Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative investigations \$3.1M; Primary Industries \$553.4M; Police \$552.8M; Premier, Economic and Trade Development \$77.1M; Queensland Corrective Services Commission \$216.8M; Tourism, Sport and Youth \$67.2M; Transport \$1,707.1M; Treasury \$823.3M; Total all Departments \$12,181.7M.

(2) Administrative Services 35.5%; Queensland Audit Office 42.3%; Business, Industry and Regional Development 46.3%; Education 47.0%; Electoral Commission 65.8%; Environment and Heritage 38.0%; Emergency Services 48.3%; DEVETIR 45.1%; Family and Community Services 43.4%; Office of the Governor 51.1%; Health 48.7%; Housing, Local Government and Planning 38.2%; Justice 52.3%; Legislative Assembly 44.8%; Lands 45.2%; Minerals and Energy 48.4%; Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations 44.9%; Primary Industries 39.6%; Police 45.0%; Premier, Economic and Trade Development 48.7%; Queensland Corrective Services Commission 44.0%;

Tourism, Sport and Youth 46.2%; Transport 51.7%; Treasury 79.1%; Total all Departments 49.0%

(3) This information is not yet available, but will be published in the March Quarter Queensland Economic Review.

(4) This information is not yet available, but will be published in the March Quarter Queensland Economic Review.

50. Land Rents

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Natural Resources—

With reference to his decision to freeze land rents—

- (1) Does this freeze apply to all rents; if not, what rents are not covered by the freeze?
- (2) Is the reason for this decision based on the effects of the terrible drought?
- (3) Will it apply to drought areas only or will it apply to all leaseholds including lands that have not been on or are currently not drought affected?
- (4) Is it true this freeze will not apply to valuations for local government rates so town residents and small business people affected by drought will receive no relief?
- (5) Will he supply Treasury and his department's recommendation or reports that led him to make this decision?

Mr Hobbs:

1. The crown land rent freeze applies to Category 1 leases for grazing and agriculture.
2. The freeze has been applied because of chronic widening drought and poor commodity prices.
3. See answer to 1.
4. The freeze applies to land rentals, not valuations.
5. No.

51. Housing, Local Government and Planning Department, Relocation

Mr MACKENROTH asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing—

With reference to the reorganisation of his department—

- (1) Which sections of his department are shifting from 111 George Street and to what location?
- (2) Which sections of his department are shifting from 80 George Street and to what location?
- (3) Are any other sections of his department being relocated from any location throughout the State?
- (4) What is the full cost of this reorganisation?

Mr Connor:

1. Sections of the Housing program will be relocated to 80 George Street. These include the Housing Services Group and a number of policy areas. The Housing Property Services Branch will be relocated to Mineral House to be with the former Administrative Services Department Property Group.

2. The Q-Build and Q-Fleet Commercial Business Units will be relocating from 80 George Street to less expensive accommodation on the fringe of the CBD. The former Administrative Services Department Internal Audit Unit comprising five (5) officers has relocated to 111 George Street, to be amalgamated with the former Housing Audit Unit, to achieve efficiencies and remove duplication.

3. There are no plans to relocate any other sections of my Department at this time. If any relocations are shown to improve efficiency or present cost savings, they will be considered in the future.

4. The cost of relocating Units to 80 George Street will be in the order of \$168,000. The cost of relocating Units to Mineral House will be in the order of \$530,000 including fitout and furniture to otherwise vacant floors. Therefore, the total cost to Consolidated Revenue of relocation accommodation changes for Public Works and Housing is estimated at \$698,000. The 2 Business Units that are moving from 80 George Street to less expensive fringe-CBD accommodation are Commercialised Business Units. These costs will be offset by considerable ongoing rent reductions which will further reduce overheads and hence improve the commercial viability of these business units. Units will absorb the cost of this move from within their operational budgets.

52. QE II Hospital

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Health—

When will the QE II Hospital at Coopers Plains provide all of the health services which were proposed by the previous Minister, Mr Beattie, and which are anxiously awaited by the people of outer South Brisbane?

Mr Horan: The Government is committed to upgrading services at the Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee (QE II) Hospital to enable the facility to provide a range of services to its local community. Considerable detailed planning has already been undertaken and the staged implementation of specific services is being considered as a matter of priority by this Government. Medical staff are actively being recruited to support service development and, in particular, the provision of a 30 bed medical ward and accident and emergency services at the QE II Hospital are considered high priorities.

53. Retirement Village Legislation

Ms SPENCE asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice—

- (1) What priority is he giving to new Retirement Village legislation?
- (2) Will new legislation come before the House during this session of Parliament?

Mr Beanland:

- (1) I am currently giving attention to high priority legislation for my Department. Retirement village legislation forms part of my priority program.
- (2) I would hope to introduce legislation on retirement villages during this session of Parliament.

54. Special Needs Students, Rockhampton

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care—

With reference to the previous Labor State Government's promise to provide a \$500,000 per year post-school options package to Rockhampton people with special needs—

Will this commitment be honoured by the Coalition Government; if so, when will this occur and what process will be employed to deliver this much needed support to Rockhampton families?

Mr Lingard: In the 1995/96 State Budget, the then State Government provided \$1.5 million to support the development of two Post School Options Demonstration Projects in Queensland.

An Information Paper, circulated in September 1995, invited community based organisations in the Brisbane South and Townsville regions to make submissions to sponsor the two demonstration projects. The locations for these demonstration projects were based on advice from the Department of Education and the selection criteria required well developed school transition services and a high level of client need.

The Information Paper also indicated that growth funds would be available in 1996/97 to provide support for students leaving school (in these areas) in 1996, as well as for funding an additional Post School Options service elsewhere in Queensland.

The location of a third program had not been nominated. I am advised there is no record of any commitment to locate this service in Rockhampton.

The Coalition Government policy reflects a concern for the demands placed on families and carers when appropriate support services are not available. The particular needs of school leavers with disabilities were acknowledged in our policy.

All commitments of the previous Government are currently being reviewed. I would expect that an announcement regarding funding for Post School Options in 1996/97 will be made in the context of the 1996/97 State Budget.

55. Sunfish; Commercial Fishing

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Premier—

- (1) Prior to the Mundingburra by-election, did he meet with Townsville based representatives of the Sunfish Organisation; if so, did he give those representatives an undertaking that the closure of Pumicestone Passage to commercial fishing would remain in force under a Coalition Government?
- (2) Did he also give an undertaking that proposed closures of Trinity Inlet and Hinchinbrook Channel would proceed?

Mr Borbidge: (1) & (2) I attended a public meeting during the Mundingburra by-election where a wide range of people expressed their dissatisfaction with the policies of the Goss Labor Government. I believe my comments were widely reported in the Townsville media at the time.

56. Magnetic Island Harbour

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Natural Resources—

- (1) Will he release for public scrutiny the essential elements of Crown Law advice on the legal aspects of the boundary dispute between Takora Development Pty Ltd who own freehold land at Bright Point on Magnetic Island who have taken action against the preferred developer Nelly Bay Harbour Pty Ltd and the then Lands Department?
- (2) If, as I understand, the report commissioned by the then Lands Department into the dispute has found in favour of Takora, will his Government take the necessary action, including the payment of compensation to Nelly Bay Harbour Pty Ltd, in order that the construction of a safe all-weather harbour at Magnetic Island can proceed?
- (3) Irrespective of the outcome of any legal action, will his Government match the Goss Government's offer of financial and other assistance to Nelly Bay Harbour Pty Ltd to ensure the viability of the project with a reduced residential component required to meet the conditions set out by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority?

Mr Hobbs:

1. Advice on the legal aspects of the disputed boundary between the land owned by Takora Development Pty Ltd and the site of the proposed development by Nelly Bay Harbour Pty Ltd has yet to be finalised. It would be inappropriate to release legal advice which is a private matter between the legal adviser and their client. The release of such advice could destroy any legal privilege that exists.

2. See (1)

3. I have been advised there is no record in my department of a decision by the Goss Government to offer financial assistance to Nelly Bay Harbour Pty. Ltd in relation to the matter raised by Mr Smith.

63. Deferral of Government Projects

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Natural Resources—

- (1) What projects did he include in the list of government funding commitments, the implementation or continuation of which could be permanently curtailed, scaled back or deferred, which was requested by the Treasurer by 16 March?
- (2) What is the cost of each project?
- (3) How many person hours of work were involved in each project?

Mr Hobbs:

(1) The State Coalition Government has made it clear that it intends to review all of the previous Labor Government's funding commitments arising from the annual Budget context, post Budget election commitments, the accelerated capital program and the Mid-Year Review of the Budget. Such a review is a legitimate action for a new Government to take in

order to assess the initiatives and projects against the new Government's priorities and strategic direction and to provide capacity for the implementation of high priority Coalition commitments. This task is also essential because the commitments put in place by the previous Government are not sustainable from an overall funding perspective.

The initiatives and projects under review are documented and described in recent Budget Papers and subsequent announcements by the previous Government. Those projects initiated by the previous Government have continued under the various contractual arrangements.

(2) & (3) As noted in (1), the costs and other details such as employment effects of projects and initiatives were documented by the previous Government and can be sourced from those documents.

64. Deferral of Government Projects

Mr MACKENROTH asked the Minister for Local Government and Planning—

- (1) What projects did she include in the list of Government funding commitments, the implementation or continuation of which could be permanently curtailed, scaled back or deferred, which was requested by the Treasurer by 16 March 1996?
- (2) What is the cost of each project?
- (3) How many person hours of work were involved in each project?

Mrs McCauley:

(1) The Government has made it clear that it intends to review all of the previous Government's funding commitments arising from the annual Budget process, post Budget election commitments, the accelerated capital works program and the Mid-Year Review of the Budget. Such a review is a legitimate action for a new Government to take in order to assess the initiatives and projects against the new Government's priorities and strategic direction and to provide capacity for the implementation of high priority Coalition commitments. This task is also essential because the commitments put in place by the previous Government are not sustainable from an overall funding perspective.

The initiatives and projects under review are documented and described in recent Budget Papers and subsequent announcements by the previous Government. Those projects initiated by the previous Government have continued under their various contractual arrangements.

(2) & (3) As noted in (1), the costs and other details such as employment effects of projects and initiatives were documented by the previous Government and can be sourced from those documents.

67. Deferral of Government Projects

Mr BEATTIE asked the Premier—

- (1) What projects did he include in the list of Government funding commitments, the

implementation or continuation of which could be permanently curtailed, scaled back or deferred, which was requested by the Treasurer by 16 March 1996?

- (2) What is the cost of each project?
- (3) How many person hours of work were involved in each project?

Mr Borbidge:

(1) The Government has made it clear that it intends to review all of the previous Government's funding commitments arising from the annual Budget context, post Budget election commitments, the accelerated capital program and the Mid-Year Review of the Budget. Such a review is a legitimate action for a new Government to take in order to assess the initiatives and projects against the new Government's priorities and strategic direction and to provide capacity for the implementation of high priority Coalition commitments. This task is also essential because the commitments put in place by the previous Government are not sustainable from an overall funding perspective. The initiatives and projects under review are documented and described in recent Budget Papers and subsequent announcements by the previous Government. Those projects initiated by the previous Government have continued under the various contractual arrangements.

(2) & (3) As noted in (1), the costs and other details such as employment effects of projects and initiatives were documented by the previous Government and can be sourced from those documents.

70. Deferral of Government Projects

Mrs EDMOND asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) What projects did he include in the list of Government funding commitments, the implementation or continuation of which could be permanently curtailed, scaled back or deferred, which was requested by the Treasurer by 16 March 1996?
- (2) What is the cost of each project?
- (3) How many person hours of work were involved in each project?

Mr Horan:

(1) The Government has made it clear that it intends to review all of the previous Government's funding commitments arising from the annual Budget context, post Budget election commitments, the accelerated capital program and the Mid-Year Review of the Budget. Such a review is a legitimate action for a new Government to take in order to assess the initiatives and projects against the new Government's priorities and strategic direction and to provide capacity for the implementation of high priority Coalition commitments. This task is also essential because the commitments put in place by the previous Government are not sustainable from an overall funding perspective.

The initiatives and projects under review are documented and described in recent Budget Papers and subsequent announcements by the previous

Government. Those projects initiated by the previous Government have continued under the various contractual arrangements.

(2) & (3) As noted in (1), the costs and other details such as employment effects of projects and initiatives were documented by the previous Government and can be sourced from those documents.

74. Timber Industry

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry—

With reference to his recent announcement that he was dumping the 15 per cent retention of pre-1750 forests —

- (1) Has he been able to convince the Premier and Prime Minister Howard to accept his decision in this matter?
- (2) When will he be able to assure the Timber Industry that they can get on with developing their business and employing people?

Mr Perrett:

1. My statement not supporting the "locking up of 15% of the forests and woodlands which existed pre-1750" reflects the position of the Queensland Coalition Government.

I note that the 15% criterion was not supported by the former Labor Government in Queensland. In its draft reports, the JANIS Technical Working Group, an inter-governmental group charged with recommending broad reserve selection criteria consistent with the process established in the National Forest Policy Statement, also has not supported the 15% criterion for all situations.

The Commonwealth Coalition, in its 1996 election policy, noted that the 15% criterion would be difficult or impossible to achieve in Queensland.

I will be discussing this issue, amongst others, when I meet with the Commonwealth Minister for Primary Industries and Energy in the near future.

2. I have already assured the timber industry that the Queensland Coalition Government is committed to restoring confidence in the industry. Some of the initiatives that the Coalition Government is pursuing to achieve this include:

3. development of a Forest Industry Strategy. Such a strategy would address major issues such as resource development, resource security and industry competitiveness.

4. creation, within the Forestry business group of the Department of Primary Industries, of the position of General Manager, Forest Industries Development. As the title suggests, this position will have a principal focus on industry development, private forestry development and industry services.

5. embarking on a major program to encourage plantation development on private lands and ensuring that private landholders who establish such plantations have a right to harvest such plantations in the future.

6. reviewing the membership of the Forest Working Group to include Forestry representation.

The Government recognises that the Comprehensive Regional Assessment process needs resolution if the planning certainty that is essential before industry can confidently invest is to be provided. The Coalition Government will also consider legislative options to guarantee the security of the timber resources.

In pursuing these various initiatives, the Coalition Government has given a commitment to ensuring that forestry policy in Queensland forest is developed in consultation with all parties involved in the timber industry.

76. Deferral of Government Projects

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport—

With reference to the request made to him by the Treasurer to provide by 16 March a list of projects which could be permanently curtailed, scaled back or deferred —

- (1) What projects did he include on his list?
- (2) What is the cost of each project?
- (3) How many person hours were involved in each project?

Mr Veivers:

(1) The Government has made it clear that it intends to review all of the previous Government's funding commitments arising from the annual Budget context, post Budget election commitments, the accelerated capital program and the Mid-Year-Review of the Budget. Such a review is a legitimate action for a new Government to take in order to assess the initiatives and projects against the new Government's priorities and strategic direction and to provide capacity for the implementation of high priority Coalition commitments. This task is also essential because the commitments put in place by the previous Government are not sustainable from an overall funding perspective.

The initiatives and projects under review are documented and described in recent Budget Papers and subsequent announcements by the previous Government. Those projects initiated by the previous Government have continued under the various contractual arrangements.

(2) & (3) As noted in (1), the costs and other details such as employment effects of projects and initiatives were documented by the previous Government and can be sourced from those documents.

79. Public Trust Office, Bundaberg

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice—

Due to the amount of work the Public Trust office undertakes for Bundaberg and district residents, will he open a Public Trust office in Bundaberg as soon as possible, and appropriate staffing levels provided to meet the needs of Bundaberg and Burnett region residents?

Mr Beanland: As the Member would be aware, the needs of clients of the Public Trust Office in

Bundaberg and surrounding regions are currently serviced on a weekly basis from Maryborough.

I have directed the Public Trustee to commence to trial servicing the needs of clients in Bundaberg by stationing officers in that town on a full-time basis. Consideration will be given to establishing a permanent branch of the Public Trust Office after the conclusion of the trial.

83. Redcliffe Hospital

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to an article in the *Redcliffe Herald* of 14 February 1996 where he stated that “around \$2.5m would be required to provide staff for the two new operating theatres commissioned by the former Labor Government”—

Will he be providing this additional \$2.5 million to the Redcliffe Hospital; if so, will he instruct the hospital administration to treat this budget allocation as a separate budget item, so that the people of Redcliffe see for themselves whether or not he carries out his promises?

Mr Horan:

(1) The Sunshine Coast Region agreed in February 1995 to provide the required recurrent funding from within its budget allocation (estimated by the Region at that time at \$1.35 million) for full utilisation of one theatre and part use of another. The capital funding for the fitout of the two theatre shells was approved and proceeded on that basis.

The latest proposal for recurrent costs by the Redcliffe Hospital is in the vicinity of \$2.8 million (labour \$2.1 million, non Labor \$0.7 m). These costs are for fuller utilisation of the theatres than originally approved. Currently, there is no budget provision to cover the additional recurrent costs.

(2) It is indeed breathtaking hypocrisy for the Opposition to even raise the issue of additional recurrent budget funding, when the Borbidge Government has inherited about \$70 million in recurrent budget debt from the previous Labor Government. In fact, this Government has inherited an absolute shambles from previous Labor Health Ministers.

The recurrent budget overrun included \$24 million from the 1994/95 Financial Year and up to \$98 million this Financial Year.

Additionally, in coming to power the Borbidge Government immediately halted the attempted transfer of \$34 million from the Capital Works budget which the previous Health Minister and now Opposition leader, Mr Beattie, had arranged for to cover the 1995/96 recurrent budget overrun.

And to make matters even worse, the Borbidge Government has inherited a Hospital Rebuilding program which has blown out by over \$1 billion, due to blatant political promises and extremely poor administration, planning and financial management by a succession of previous Labour Health Ministers.

86. Home and Community Care Program

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Health—

(1) What is the current financial status regarding the Home and Community Care Program (HACC)?

(2) Are recipients under the HACC program having their services reduced in the Brisbane North Region; if so, why?

Mr Horan:

(1) It is estimated that \$102 million will be spent under the HACC Program in Queensland this financial year. Expenditure under the Program is running according to forecast, and it is anticipated that by the end of the financial year the Program will have fully expended its allocated budget.

(2) The HACC Program funds a range of services throughout Queensland including domiciliary nursing, meals on wheels, home care, centre based respite and other respite services.

Under the previous Federal Labor Government the eligibility criteria for the HACC program was changed and subsequently, while most of these services have not been reduced in the Brisbane North Region an increasing demand for home care services particularly for high need/high risk clients exceeding available resources has led to the implementation of two strategies:

waiting lists for high and moderate need clients; and

reassessment of service needs of low and moderate risk clients, and reallocation of services to higher need/risk clients.

Following reassessment some low risk and moderate risk clients have had home care hours either reduced or ceased. This reassessment has been undertaken in consultation with the clients and includes discussions about other service options available to them. Where appropriate and with client consent, the client's general practitioner was contacted to confirm assessment of the client's capabilities.

Periodic reassessment of the needs of home care clients is an integral feature of this service.

87. Consolidated Fund and Trust and Special Funds

Mr FOURAS asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts—

With reference to her Ministerial Statement of 2 April, concerning the “Budget position and outlook for 1996-97” in which she stated that there have been \$50m in transfers into the Consolidated Fund from trust funds—

Will she identify each of these trust funds to which she refers and the sum of money drawn from each fund?

Mrs Sheldon: The 1995-96 Budget includes provision for a transfer of \$50M from the Government Schemes Agency Fund to the Consolidated Fund.

88. Performance Management Dividend

Mr HAMILL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts—

With reference to the Coalition policy to obtain a 1 per cent “efficiency dividend” from Government outlays “across the board” in order to fund in part their extensive election promises—

- (1) Does this 1 per cent 'across the board' cut (a) apply to outlays from the Consolidated Fund and (b) apply to outlays from Trust and Special Funds?
- (2) Will she (a) detail the specific dollar value of this 1 per cent 'across the board' cut for each department and agency, (b) provide details of the specific measures identified by each department and agency in order to meet its obligation to achieve a 1 per cent 'across the board' cut in outlays, (c) provide details of the specific dollar value of each of these savings measures identified by each department and agency and (d) impose a budget cut on those departments and agencies which fail to deliver sufficient savings measures in order to meet the Coalition's Budget policy requirement of a 1 per cent 'across the board' cut in outlays?

Mrs Sheldon:

(1) In costings prepared for the implementation of the Coalition Government's election policies, a 1 per cent efficiency dividend on the published expenditure forward estimates of the Consolidated Fund was identified as a funding source.

(2) Since those costings were prepared, the previous Government embarked on an expenditure campaign to implement its own promises. This has changed the basis of the Coalition costings.

As a result, a review of expenditure commitments across all departments and agencies has been instituted. The findings of this review will be embodied in the May interim Budget Statement. Further, the Commission of Audit also is examining the state of Queensland's finances. The Commission is due to report around the end of June. Once this and any other relevant information is available, the Coalition Government will begin the task of preparing the 1996-97 State Budget. In the course of preparing the Budget, all relevant funding sources will be considered.

91. Suicide

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care—

- (1) Is he aware that people who make an unsuccessful attempt to commit suicide are statistically 30 times more likely to make a subsequent and successful attempt than a member of the general population?
- (2) In the light of this fact, does he become aware of the identities of all persons who are known to any agency of Government to have attempted to commit suicide?
- (3) Does a social worker from his department make contact with such persons to offer counselling, or other appropriate assistance?
- (4) If that person is unwilling to receive counselling or other assistance, does his department make contact with the family of that person to offer indirect assistance via the family?

Mr Lingard:

(1) I am aware of studies which show that people who attempt suicide are more likely to make

subsequent attempts. The actual number of persons involved is debatable.

(2) To my knowledge there is no requirement that people who have attempted suicide should be reported to my Department. Persons contemplating or having attempted suicide often seek the assistance of church and community agencies. I am pleased to advise that many of these organisations are funded by my Department to provide counselling and support to such persons and their families.

(3) & (4) For those clients for whom the Department has a duty of care all efforts are made to provide assistance directly or through the use of other specialist services. The Department liaises with family members where this is considered necessary or appropriate.

92. Deferral of Government Projects

Mr MILLINER asked the Minister for Environment—

With reference to the Treasurer's request for him and his department to provide by 16 March a list of Government funding commitments, the implementation or continuation of which could be permanently curtailed, scaled back or deferred—

- (1) What programs or projects has or will he include in the list furnished to the Treasurer?
- (2) What is the cost of each project?
- (3) How many person hours of work were involved in each project?

Mr Littleproud:

(1) The Government has made it clear that it intends to review all of the previous Government's funding commitments arising from the annual Budget context, post Budget election commitments, the accelerated capital program and the Mid-Year Review of the Budget. Such a review is a legitimate action for a new Government to take in order to assess the initiatives and projects against the new Government's priorities and strategic direction and to provide capacity for the implementation of high priority Coalition commitments. This task is also essential because the commitments put in place by the previous Government are not sustainable from an overall funding perspective. The initiatives and projects under review are documented and described in recent Budget Papers and subsequent announcements by the previous Government. Those projects initiated by the previous Government have continued under the various contractual arrangements.

(2) & (3) As noted in (1), the costs and other details such as employment effects of projects and initiatives were documented by the previous Government and can be sourced from those documents.

93. Labour Market Reform for Women

Ms SPENCE asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations—

With reference to his recent withdrawal of funding from an initiative called Women in the Labour

Force—Enterprise Bargaining and Family Responsibilities which aimed to promote equitable labour market outcomes in regard to enterprise bargaining and women —

- (1) Does he accept that women can face inequities in the labour market?
- (2) Is he prepared to do anything to address labour market reform for women?

Mr Santoro:

(1) Women face inequities in a range of life areas, including the labour market. They are concentrated in a narrow range of occupations and industries, often in part-time and casual positions without job security and access to workplace training, career progression and adequate superannuation. In addition, because women continue to bear the major responsibility for caring for children and other family members, they frequently have broken employment patterns and exhausting daily schedules as they balance work and family commitments.

(2) The Government is genuinely committed to achieving real equality for women to allow them to achieve their goals in the labour market. The implementation of the Government's Policy on Women will, amongst other matters, ensure that women enjoy equality under enterprise bargaining.

The Government will address labour market reform for women through a co-ordinated approach that takes account of the many factors that impact upon women's experiences in the labour market. A number of initiatives are in place as part of this co-ordinated approach. These include the State's contribution towards the funding of the Working Women's Service which operates via the Open Learning Network across Queensland. This service provides advice and information to Queensland women about employment and workplace issues, including enterprise bargaining. Other programs include the TAFE New Horizons courses for women wishing to re-enter the workforce after an absence due to child rearing, and Tradeswomen on the Move which encourages young women at school to widen their career options by considering trade and technical occupations.

The Office of Women's Affairs is working closely with the Department of Training and Industrial Relations to co-ordinate the achievement of practical gains for working women in this State, such as child care, access to information technology, advancing the representation of women in decision-making positions and promoting the roles of women in small business and rural industry.

Women in the labour market programs are being monitored by my Department, in conjunction with the Office of Women's Affairs, with a view to providing a cohesive approach and ensuring real advances for women in the labour market.

94. Oyster Point Development

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment—

With reference to his announced conditional approval of the Oyster Point Resort development—

- (1) Does the approval announced by him have the endorsement of Cabinet?
- (2) Has the approval been communicated to the developer; if so, how and when was this done?
- (3) What are the specific outstanding matters he required to be satisfied before granting the announced approval?
- (4) Upon what evidence and what factors did he take into consideration in reaching his decision to grant the announced approval?
- (5) What are the precise terms of the approval and the conditions imposed by him to which the approval is subject?
- (6) What State Government permits or other approvals have been given for this project to date and under what statutory provisions have each of these permits or approvals been given?

Mr Littleproud:

(1) All approvals requiring Cabinet consideration were issued by the previous Government. The issues which have required consideration by the present Government either do not require Cabinet consideration or are procedural in nature. With regard to procedural matters, I intend to recommend to Governor in Council an amendment to the staging program for the canals construction previously approved but this will not alter the approved works.

(2) Mr. Williams has been advised by letter that issues relevant to the Department of Environment have been addressed.

(3) The specific outstanding matters considered prior to making the statement are as follows:

- (a) Staging under the Canals Act approval;
- (b) Beach and foreshore management including building set backs.

(4) Briefings and technical advice from the Department about the Canals Act, foreshore erosion including the so called Duke and Oliver Report, and on proposals to plant additional mangroves provided by Mr. Williams were all taken into consideration.

(5) The Port Hinchinbrook development is covered by a Deed of Agreement between Mr. Williams, the Cardwell Shire Council and the Queensland Government. This document and specific conditions of approval were established by the previous government to provide effective environmental controls for this major development.

With the intervention of the then Commonwealth Government, Mr. Williams was prevented from complying with this Deed of Agreement. Should the project receive Commonwealth approval, this Deed will be reinstated with revised time lines to reflect the delay in project implementation. Formal approval of issues like the revised beach management plan will be dealt with at that time.

(6) The State Government had issued approvals for all of the major components of the project and entered into a detailed Deed of Agreement with the Cardwell Shire Council and Mr. Williams prior to the Commonwealth intervention on the project. The approvals issued cover a range of activities with key approvals set out below.

- (a) Marina, access channel, breakwaters and public boat ramp under section 86 of the Harbours Act 1955 and the Canals Act 1958.
- (b) A permit for the breakwater construction, dredging and mangrove removal in the Marine Park under the Marine Parks Act 1982.
- (c) Tree clearing approval from the then Department of Lands (Lands Act 1962).
- (d) Licences for discharges for dewatering the marina basin under the Clean Waters Act 1971.
- (e) A mangrove clearing permit from the then Department of Primary Industries under section 71 of the Fisheries Act 1976.

In addition to these permits or approvals there were several transactions involving land including the issue of a Permit to Occupy over the foreshore during the mangrove clearing process. The Cardwell Shire Council also dealt with town plan zoning issues under the Local Government (Planning and Environment Act) 1990.9

95. Gateway Bridge Toll

Mr PURCELL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts—

- (1) When will she be taking the toll off the Gateway toll bridge?
- (2) As her decision to remove the toll in her electorate on the North Coast was because it was "harsh, selective and unjust" to workers, will she also extend it to the workers in my electorate in Bulimba by removing the Gateway toll of \$2.20 per trip?
- (3) Are workers and their families who use the Gateway toll bridge to be represented by the Queensland Treasurer to the same extent as those on the North Coast in her electorate?
- (4) When she does remove the Gateway toll will she give assurances that employees currently employed collecting the toll will be employed by the Government?

Mrs Sheldon:

- (1) There is no intention to abolish the toll on the Gateway Bridge.
- (2) There are several significant differences between the Sunshine Motorway and the Gateway Bridge which make the removal of tolls on the Gateway Bridge inappropriate. In particular:-

the large proportion of local traffic captured by the Sunshine Motorway is in direct contrast to the significant proportion of commercial and non-local traffic using the Gateway Bridge; and whilst tolls have been in place continuously on the Gateway Bridge since 1986, there have been various changes to tolling arrangements on the Sunshine Motorway (including no toll on the Maroochy River Bridge on the Sunshine Motorway for a period of time), leading to a degree of uncertainty for the local community.

Unlike sections of the Sunshine Motorway, the Gateway Bridge was built on the clear undertaking that it would attract a toll. Parts of the Sunshine Motorway were public roads prior

to the imposition of the toll and the subsequent false promise from the former Labor Government that the Sunshine Motorway tolls would be removed.

For the reasons outlined above, a clear distinction can be made between patronage, operational and economic features of the Sunshine Motorway and the gateway bridge. Under present Government policy, removal of the tolls on the Sunshine Motorway is not intended as a precedent for Queensland's other existing motorways.

(3) Yes.

(4) Not relevant. See answer to Question 1.

96. Deferral of Government Projects

Mr De LACY asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care—

- (1) What projects in the youth areas of his responsibilities did he include in the list of all government funding commitments, the implementation or continuation of which could be permanently curtailed, scaled back or deferred, which was requested by the Treasurer by 16 March 1996?
- (2) What is the cost of each project?
- (3) How many person hours of work were involved in this project?

Mr Lingard:

- (1) The Government has made it clear that it intends to review all of the previous Government's funding commitments arising from the annual Budget context, post Budget election commitments, the accelerated capital program and the Mid-Year Review of the Budget. Such a review is a legitimate action for a new Government to take in order to assess the initiatives and projects against the new Government's priorities and strategic direction and to provide capacity for the implementation of high priority Coalition commitments. This task is also essential because the commitments put in place by the previous Government are not sustainable from an overall funding perspective.

The initiatives and projects under review are documented and described in recent Budget Papers and subsequent announcements by the previous Government. Those projects initiated by the previous Government have continued under the various contractual arrangements.

- (2) & (3) As noted in (1), the costs and other details such as employment effects of projects and initiatives were documented by the previous Government and can be sourced from those documents.

98. Apprentices; Housing Industry Trade Training Program

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing—

With reference to the State's group apprenticeship schemes and as he would be aware that houses contracted for construction to group apprenticeship schemes by his Department have been frozen—

- (1) Does he support this freeze?
- (2) If so, what is the reason?
- (3) How many housing projects have been frozen and where are they located?
- (4) As a result of this freeze will he guarantee that the number of apprentices employed under the scheme will be maintained?
- (5) If he does not support this freeze what action will he take to have the decision reversed?
- (6) If the freeze is lifted will he guarantee that these projects will proceed as previously scheduled under the Housing Industry Trade Training Program and the Turbo project?

Mr Connor:

1. When the coalition took office, it was my duty as Minister to investigate the state of the budget and planned spending for all programs within the Department instead of continuing with profligate spending amounting to a loss of client/service delivery. The delay in approvals for various construction projects was a necessary part of that investigation to ensure the public's money was being spent appropriately.
2. As stated in question one.
3. Priority is being granted for the expenditure for ongoing public housing projects to support the current apprenticeship training. This includes projects in Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Chermside, Sunshine Coast, Redcliffe, Woodridge, Capalaba, Central Queensland, Gold Coast, and Wide Bay—Burnett.
4. The Government is committed to supporting the training of apprentices and those apprentices currently employed under the Housing Industry Trade Training scheme will be maintained.
5. Top priority is currently being given to the funding of Housing Industry Trade Training program and Public Housing Capital Works Program projects. On 2 April 1996 five projects totalling \$560,000 were authorised and a further 19 projects totalling \$3,734,273 are currently being processed for approval.
6. Public housing projects scheduled for Group Training Schemes are continuing as scheduled.

101. Health Funding

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to hospital and health facilities budgets—

- (1) What steps has he put in place to ensure that hospitals and health facilities stay within their budgets?
- (2) Will he guarantee that all hospitals and health facilities will stay within their budgets?

Mr Horan:

- (1) As well as maintaining the requirement for service delivery executives to report monthly on working to budget and appropriate savings strategies, additional funding of more than \$2.5 million for the remainder of this financial year has been approved to reduce

budget pressures arising from the significant waiting list problems facing hospitals.

In addition, initiatives from the previous Government are being reviewed to identify savings which could then be reallocated to service delivery to alleviate budget difficulties in some areas.

(2) No, it is impossible to guarantee that all service delivery units will stay within budget. However, this Government, unlike its predecessor, is committed to management accountability and my Department will be monitoring budget performance constantly. It should be remembered that the current budget situations of many service delivery units in the public health system are directly attributable to actions of the previous Government. Moreover the approval by the previous Government to use unspent capital works funds to supplement budget shortfalls which means using a one off cash flow strategy to address a recurrent budget problem, will not be implemented by this Government.

It is indeed hypocritical for the Opposition to even raise the issue of guaranteeing that hospitals and health facilities stay within their budgets, when the Borbidge Government has inherited up to \$72 million from the previous two Financial Years in recurrent debt from the previous Labor Government.

Additionally, in coming to power the Borbidge Government immediately halted the attempted transfer of \$34 million from the Capital Works budget, which the previous Health Minister, now Opposition Leader, Mr Peter Beattie, had arranged to cover the 1995/96 recurrent budget overrun.

For Labor to even ask for a guarantee from this Government that Qld Health stays within its budgets is, to say the least, breathtaking hypocrisy.

And to make matters even worse, the Borbidge Government has inherited a Hospital Rebuilding program which has blown out by over \$1.2 billion, due to blatant political promises and extremely poor administration, planning and financial management by a succession of previous Labor Health Ministers.

102. Environment Department

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Environment—

With reference to the decision to change the name of the Department of Environment and Heritage to the Department of Environment and the fact that the principle responsibilities of this department have not changed—

How much will it cost to replace stationery, letterheads, business cards, publications, all other printed materials and signage on government buildings and in departmental offices throughout Queensland as a result of this name change?

Mr Littleproud: To date the Department has incurred expenditure of \$8,292 across the State in relation to new stationery and signage for the Departmental name change. Some of this expenditure is normal replacement of stationery which would have occurred in any case during February and March. The opportunity was taken to order the stationery with the new letterhead.

I am happy to assure the Member that no existing stationery will be wasted. It will be used for routine and internal mail and this use will continue until stocks are exhausted. Thus, over time, there will be minimal costs involved in the change of name for the Department. The expenditure incurred so far is simply expenditure brought forward, partly to provide a small supply of new letterhead, mainly for the ministerial office and the office of the Director-General.

Throughout the State wooden and metal signs will be painted over at minimal cost or replaced on schedule as part of continuing signage maintenance.

109. Performance Management Dividend

Mr MULHERIN asked the Premier—

With reference to his Government's planned imposition of a Performance Management Dividend across whole of Government—

- (1) What impact will this decision have on the electorate of Mackay in relation to how much money will be returned to Treasury from the Mackay region in the following departments (a) Arts, (b) Families, Youth and Community Care, (c) Justice, (d) Police, Corrective Services and Racing, (e) Health, (f) Education, (g) Tourism, Small Business and Industry, (h) Environment, (i) Primary Industries, (j) Fisheries and Forestry, (k) Local Government and Planning, (l) Training and Industrial Relations, (m) Natural Resources, (n) Transport and Main Roads, (o) Public Works and Housing, (p) Emergency Services and Sport and (q) Mines and Energy?
- (2) Will there be a reduction in staff numbers or redundancies across these departments?
- (3) Will the service delivery be maintained or improved in these departments?
- (4) Will there be any departmental office closure in these departments?

Mr Borbidge:

(1) As previously indicated in the response by the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts to Question on Notice number 88 by Mr HAMILL on Thursday 4 April 1996, in costings prepared for the implementation of the Coalition's election policies, a 1 per cent efficiency dividend on the published expenditure forward estimates of the Consolidated Fund was identified as a funding source.

Since those costings were prepared, the previous Government embarked on an expenditure campaign to implement its own promises and this has changed the basis of the Coalition costings.

As a result, a review of expenditure commitments across all departments and agencies has been instituted. The findings of this review will be embodied in the May Interim Budget Statement. Further, the Commission of Audit also is examining the state of Queensland's finances. The Commission is due to report around the end of June.

Once this and any other relevant information is available, the Coalition Government will begin the task of preparing the 1996-97 State Budget. In the course of preparing the Budget, all relevant funding

sources will be considered, including any efficiency dividend that may be considered desirable and necessary.

- (2) See answer to question (1) above.
- (3) See answer to question (1) above.
- (4) See answer to question (1) above.

119. Neighbourhood Centres

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care—

- (1) Is he aware of the many kinds of constructive community work undertaken by neighbourhood centres, especially in the rapidly developing areas of the outer northside of Brisbane?
- (2) Will he guarantee that recurrent funding to these neighbourhood centres will be sustained?

Mr Lingard:

(1) Yes. Over the past nine years the Department has purchased 52 buildings to use as neighbourhood centres, which are made available to community-based organisations on a peppercorn rental basis. Neighbourhood centres have also been provided by local government authorities, other State Government departments and Commonwealth departments.

Most neighbourhood centres provide premises for the delivery of a range of services to families and individuals to strengthen their capacity to meet their own needs. These services include counselling, information and referral, home help/family aide service, establishing self-help groups, advocating for and working with groups to help them to develop skills which will help them meet their own needs, assessing needs of the community and working with the groups affected to develop services within their area to meet these needs.

One response being made by my Department to the needs of the rapidly developing areas of the outer northside of Brisbane is to provide funds for the construction of a multi-purpose neighbourhood centre in Deception Bay. Funds of \$330,877 have been allocated for this project. I understand that tenders for the construction of the Centre have been called and an announcement of a successful tenderer is imminent.

(2) Yes. The community work being carried out by workers and management committees at neighbourhood centres, either on a paid or voluntary basis, is regarded by this Government and my Department as very important. The recurrent funding programs of my Department which are currently supporting neighbourhood centres and the services they provide will continue to be developed and strengthened.

127. Mr B. Smith

Mr De LACY asked the Minister for Natural Resources—

With reference to former Director-General Barry Smith who was fired by him immediately upon the change of Government, re-appointed at the end of

that week by order of the Governor in Council, then fired again immediately after the Federal election—

Will he apologise to the Governor for misleading her about Mr Smith's appointment, and to Mr Smith and his family for the humiliation of his bungled and unjust dismissal?

Mr Hobbs:

1. I refer to the Member for Cairns question in regard to the former Director-General of the Department of Lands, Mr Barry Smith and refresh the members memory that the employment contract arrangements are between Directors General and the Premier of the State.

130. Apprentices

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations—

- (1) How many first year apprentices were indentured in Queensland in 1994-95?
- (2) How many first year apprentices were indentured in Queensland since June 1995?
- (3) How many of those apprentices indentured in (1) above have been (a) terminated or (b) transferred to another employer?
- (4) How many of those apprentices indentured in (2) above have been (a) terminated or (b) transferred to another employer?

Mr Santoro:

(1) There were 9722 first year apprentice Training Agreements approved in Queensland in the 1994/95 financial year.

(2) There were 5772 first year apprentice Training Agreements approved in Queensland between 1 July 1995 and 31 March 1996.

(3)(a) Of the 9722 first year apprentices approved during 1994/95, 2397 had their Training Agreement cancelled or withdrawn.

(b) Transfer procedures were removed from the Vocational Education, Training and Employment Act 1991 in January 1994. Of the 2397 Training Agreements that were either cancelled or withdrawn in 1994/95, 949 subsequently recommenced under a new Training Agreement.

(4)(a) Of the 5772 first year apprentices approved during the period 1 July 1995 to 31 March 1996, 534 had their Training Agreement cancelled or withdrawn.

(b) Transfer procedures were removed from the Vocational Education, Training And Employment Act 1991 in January 1994. Of the 534 Training Agreements that were either cancelled or withdrawn during the period 1 July 1995 to 31 March 1996, 126 subsequently recommenced under a new Training Agreement.

140. Wynnum Hospital

Mr BURNS asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) What plans has his Government in place to ensure that Wynnum Hospital has sufficient doctors, dentists and nurses and support personnel to provide a full 24 hour hospital, emergency and outpatient service?

- (2) What is the current position in relation to the dental service at the hospital—are locals able to immediately access dental treatment?
- (3) What process is used to determine who is eligible for treatment?
- (4) As the hospital for many years under a previous Liberal/National Party Government operated without a doctor, full staff, and in many cases without admitting any patients, will he guarantee that this hospital will not revert to its former status and that outpatient and emergency services will be maintained with full medical and support staff?

Mr Horan:

(1) Wynnum Hospital has sufficient staff to provide for its current range of services. After hours care for in-patients, outpatients and emergency services, are provided under a contractual arrangement with GP Medical Services Pty Ltd. With respect to dentists and nurses, the hospital is running at its full staff establishment and there has been no curtailment in services.

(2) The dental service at Wynnum Hospital provides a same day emergency treatment care service for residents and there is a booking system for recalls for all ongoing dental work. An additional dental clinic has been established at the Moreton Bay Nursing Care Unit which is available to members of the public.

(3) Veteran Affairs people requiring dental treatment go to a private dentist and all other concession card holders (aged care, health care card, seniors card and health benefit card) are entitled to free treatment at either Wynnum Hospital or the Moreton Bay Nursing Care Unit Oral Health Clinic. Although rare, inpatient trauma cases are treated regardless of eligibility.

(4) This Government has no intention of changing the role of the Wynnum Hospital to provide any less services than it currently provides.

156. Metallic Coating Line Plant, Cannon Hill/Murarie

Mr PURCELL asked the Premier—

- (1) Will he and his Government protect the residents of the Bulimba electorate from a metallic coating line plant planned by BHP in the Cannon Hill/Murarie area?
- (2) Will he and his Government guarantee that a second metallic coating line plant planned by BHP will not be built on this site?
- (3) Will he guarantee that no smelter as planned by BHP will be built in the Cannon Hill/Murarie area?

Mr Borbidge:

(1) In late 1995 BHP announced that they were committed to the construction of a new metallic coating plant at Murarie. This announcement followed detailed discussions between the company, the previous Government and Brisbane City Council. Permission to proceed with such a project is naturally subject to a number of conditions which

include approval of a detailed Environmental Impact Study, which is currently being reviewed by BCC, rezoning of certain areas of land and commercial negotiations regarding rail access to the property concerned.

The Government is committed to ensuring that adequate environmental safeguards are in place to protect the residents of Bulimba adjacent to the proposed plant.

(2) Whilst BHP have made provision with their long-term planning for a second line they have only confirmed their intention to build a single line. Any proposal to build a second line would require a separate application that would be subject to a new Environmental Impact Study and approvals process.

(3) Whilst BHP have made provision in their long term planning for the possible construction of an electric arc furnace they have made no commitments to proceed with such a development.

Should the company wish to proceed with such a facility they will need to make a separate application and the proposal would be subject to a rigorous approval process which would include a separate Environmental Impact Study.

169. Performance Management Dividend

Mr BRADY asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations—

With reference to his department—

- (1) What savings options have been offered by his Department in order to achieve the Government's budget policy of a 1 percent "across the board" efficiency dividend?
- (2) Which of his savings options have been adopted by the Government?
- (3) What is the specific dollar value of each of these options?
- (4) What new initiatives in his portfolio have been announced by the Coalition Government since 19 February 1996?
- (5) What is the estimated full year cost of each of these initiatives and what is the source of funding for each initiative—Consolidated Revenue, Trust and Special Funds or borrowings?
- (6) When will each of these new initiatives be implemented, or in the case of capital projects, when will the project commence and what is its estimated date of completion and its costs?

Mr Santoro:

- (1) My Department has not been informed of any 1 percent "across the board" efficiency dividend.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) Nil.
- (5) Not applicable. See (4).
- (6) Not applicable. See (4).

180. Phoenix House, Redcliffe

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care—

With reference to premises occupied by the Department of Family and Community Services at Phoenix House, Redcliffe and as these premises are unsuitable due to overcrowding and lack of access for the aged, infirmed and mothers with prams or strollers—

As the previous Minister, Mrs Woodgate gave the staff at Redcliffe an assurance that she would relocate this office, will this relocation proceed under the National/Liberal Government; if so, will he provide a timeframe for the relocation?

Mr Lingard: Relocation of the Redcliffe Area Office is included in the Department's Office Accommodation Strategic Three Year Plan.

The project will be given high priority on the 1996/97 departmental Office Accommodation Program.

182. Health Funding

Mr NUNN asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to an article by Nick Richardson in The Bulletin magazine of 26 March 1996 which states that, "There is a likelihood that State Governments will face added burdens in the areas of health and education"—

What advice has he so far received from the incoming Federal Government or his Federal counterpart about likely Commonwealth funding for health in Queensland?

Mr Horan: The Commonwealth Minister, the Honourable Dr Michael Wooldridge and I will be meeting in the near future to discuss issues of Commonwealth funding for health in Queensland.

The Queensland Government supports the Federal Government's aim of removing the duplication of health administration between the Commonwealth and State levels. This can only result in more efficient health services to the benefit of patients.

In my meeting with the Federal Minister I shall be emphasising the importance of continued Commonwealth funding for delivery of health services here in Queensland. I shall also be issuing an invitation to Dr Wooldridge to visit Queensland to see first hand the difficulties of delivering health services in our State, especially in remote areas such as the Cape and Torres Strait.

197. Fish Ladders

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Natural Resources—

With reference to complaints from professional fishermen regarding weirs on coastal rivers affecting fish numbers—

Will he consider an investigation into means of improving operating efficiency of existing fish ladders before approving any further weirs on coastal rivers?

Mr Hobbs: In recent years the Department has been aware of limitations of some older fishways on existing weirs, particularly those on coastal streams. Significant advances have occurred in the design of fishways in the past 10 years. The Department is keeping abreast of these changes and is currently focused on upgrading key existing fishways and incorporating the latest technology in new fishways.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**8. South East Freeway Noise Barrier, Holland Park West**

Ms SPENCE asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

Will he outline the reasons for the delay in building the planned noise barrier fences along the South East Freeway at Holland Park West?

Mr Johnson: A busway is proposed along the section of the South East Freeway in question.

The exact form and location of that busway is being finalised in the planning phase.

The proposal will then be subject to public consultation before detailed design is completed.

Changes to the location and height of the noise barrier fences will be required if the busway is constructed along the planned alignment.

It would be a waste of public funds if noise barriers were to be erected now and then taken down, adjusted in height and relocated shortly afterwards as a result of the busway construction.

Officers of the Main Roads, Metropolitan District (South) have undertaken to brief all affected MLA's of the situation at regular intervals and to recommence public consultation for the noise barrier fences in conjunction with public consultation for the busway.

12. Cairns-Forsyth Rail Service

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

What consideration will be given to reinstating the Cairns to Forsyth train, locally known as the last Great Train Ride which carried many hundreds of tourists, including overseas visitors, and also provided an essential freight, food and communication service to small towns such as Almaden and to outback residents between Mareeba and Mt Surprise?

Mr Johnson: The combined passenger/freight train service known as the 'Last Great Train Ride' from Cairns to Forsyth (450km) was withdrawn from service in April 1995 and replaced with a Q-Link door-to-door truck delivery service from Cairns and a tourist rail motor service (the Savannahlander) operating over the last 121km between Mt Surprise and Forsyth.

The reinstatement of the Last Great Train Ride will require significant planning and consultation. It is over a year since any maintenance has been performed on 228km of track between Mareeba and Almaden and Almaden and Mt Surprise. This work and the standard to which it is upgraded needs to be determined as a priority. In addition, there is also strong local support in some areas for the benefits brought about by the Savannahlander, which has been a positive catalyst for tourism expansion in the region, to be preserved. One consideration that I can give is that full consultation with local communities will be an integral part of the format and timing of the reintroduced service from Cairns.

To facilitate the consideration of concerns of all relevant stakeholders a full review of how best to reinstate the Last Great Train Ride needs to be achieved. The important point is that all parties are consulted and the service is planned and implemented to achieve its maximum potential for the benefit of the whole region. I will be having discussions with representatives from my Department and Queensland Rail in the near future to determine the most appropriate process to reintroduce this service.

13. Pacific Highway

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

With reference to Her Excellency the Governor's Speech at the Opening of Parliament, which says that his Government is putting a priority on the upgrading of the Pacific Highway—

- (1) Will he outline the upgrading program this Government is undertaking for the Pacific Highway?
- (2) Will he detail (a) the work to be done, (b) the sections to be widened, (c) the number of lanes in those new sections and (d) the timeframe as well as the projected budget and costs, particularly in relation to the area north of the Logan River?

Mr Johnson: As announced by the Premier on Monday 15th April 1996, this Government has approved a 4630 million package of works to upgrade the Pacific Highway between Logan Motorway and the Pappas Way over the Nerang River. With interchanges at Nerang Broadbeach Road and Pappas Way.

Based on current traffic predictions this new motorway will meet South East Queensland's transport needs well into the 21st century.

Now Part 2 of the question requests details of the works to be performed. Relevant details are shown in the table below :

Section	Logan Motorway-Smith Street Motorway
Works/No. of Lanes	Upgrade to eight lanes, with connections to Beenleigh-Redland Bay Road and Logan Motorway interchange works
	Construct adjacent service road network
Estimated Cost	\$570M
Timeframe	December 1996
	65% of service road network complete
	March 1999
	0% of Motorway open to traffic
	Major crossings of Coomera and Logan Rivers constructed
	75% of service road network complete

June 2000
Eight-lane Motorway complete
Service road network in place

Section

Smith Street Motorway-Pappas Way, Nerang

Works/No. of Lanes

Replace three sets of traffic signals at Nerang—Broadbeach Road (2) and Pappas Way with grade-separated interchanges

Estimated Cost \$14M

Upgrade to six lanes

Estimated Cost \$46M

Timeframe

June 1998

Interchanges constructed and operational

June 2000

Six-lane Motorway complete

Total Estimated Cost \$630M

Other works under construction on the Pacific highway include :

Six laning of a 5km section north of Beenleigh-Redland Bay Road by December 1996.

Four laning of the Reedy Creek—Stewart Road section at Tugun by December 1996 at a cost of \$42 million.

A section north of the Logan River to Gateway Motorway will be the subject of a separate Cabinet decision later mid year, following extensive planning and evaluation of proposals to incorporate busways/HOV transit lanes in the overall eight-lane corridor to improve public transport. The cost of these works will be made available following consideration of Cabinet.

Other works planned to improve the Brisbane-Gold Coast corridor include :

upgrading to six lanes between Nerang and Tugun as traffic demands warrant.

a four lane Tugun Bypass to the New South Wales border with planning scheduled to commence in 1996/1997 as part of a tripartite arrangement involving the Federal, New South Wales and Queensland Governments.

The substantial program of works I have outlined above clearly reflects the high priority my government has placed on upgrading the Pacific Highway to world class motorway standard to meet the needs of industry and the community in this rapidly developing area of Queensland.

14. Deception Bay Road

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

- (1) As a consequence of this Government's decision to abandon the Capital Works Acceleration Program, will the extension of the double laning of Deception Bay Road be shelved?

- (2) Is he aware of widespread concern in Deception Bay among those who are keen to see Deception Bay Road made safer, and to see the removal of bottlenecks on this road?
- (3) When will the work now commence?

Mr Johnson:

The accelerated program of works has not been abandoned, and in fact tenders for construction of four lanes on Deception Bay Road between Lipscombe Road and Bay Avenue closed on 9 April 1996.

Construction will proceed within the usual timeframe and I expect works will commence on site in May 1996.

Please note that the 3.88km section from Lipscombe Road to the Bruce Highway was never part of the accelerated program. It is currently scheduled in the Roads Implementation Program (RIP) in the years 1997/98 to 1999/2000.

17. Gunalda Range Development, Maryborough

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

Is the Coalition Government going to ensure that the Gunalda Range development, south of Maryborough, will go ahead as per the planning schedule set in place by the previous Government?

Mr Johnson: The Gunalda Range is approximately thirty kilometres north of Gympie and three kilometres north of the village of Gunalda.

On the southern ascent to the range, the Bruce Highway is a narrow road with steep grades, and tight curves which allow limited visibility for oncoming traffic. On the north side of the range through Glenwood, the highway was upgraded on a deviation in 1991.

The length of the southern ascent to the range is approximately 3.5kms long, with current traffic flows in the vicinity of 4,200 vehicles per day.

The Gunalda Range project was included in Queensland's 95/96—98/99 National Highway System Forward Strategy Report, with construction proposed in 1997/98.

On-site investigations were undertaken by senior officers of the Federal and State Departments of Transport in August 1995, and the traffic congestion and safety problems on this section of the Pacific Highway were evident.

Some preliminary planning has been carried out, with preliminary estimates for this work in the vicinity of \$12M-\$14M. However, extensive community consultation and an environmental impact assessment must now be undertaken as part of developing the project proposal (or concept plan) for this work, for the Federal Minister's consideration.

The former Federal Labor Minister for Transport approved the engagement of a consultant to finalise this concept plan and Maunsells was commissioned by Queensland Transport in February 1996.

It is expected that, as part of the planning study process, the consultant will shortly be calling for input from local residents, particularly those landowners who may be impacted by various alignments considered.

Any impacts on cultural heritage, local flora, fauna and noise levels also will be addressed in this planning study.

Provided no contentious issues arise as a result of the consultative/environmental processes, the concept plan should be finalised by end of August 1996.

Detailed design would then proceed and, subject to available funds and approval of the Federal Minister, construction of the Guralda Range project would be on track to commence in 1997/98, in accordance with the current planning schedule.

21. Gateway Motorway Noise Barrier, Bracken Ridge

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

Will funding be made available for the construction of noise barriers at the Bracken Ridge end of the newly completed works on the Gateway Motorway upgrading between Deagon deviation and Gympie Arterial Road?

Mr Johnson: Queensland Transport's "Interim Guidelines and Technical Notes for Road Traffic Noise Amelioration" (1 July 1992) has been the basis from which road traffic noise levels on declared roads (state and federal) are measured and assessed for consideration for noise amelioration. This document was developed in accordance with the various relevant Australian Standards, Acquisition of Land Act, Transport Infrastructure (Roads) Act, NAASRA (National Association of Australian State Road Authorities), and United Kingdom Department of Transport Guidelines.

A noise study was carried out for the project by an independent consultant. In order for noise amelioration to be considered, the noise level has to be equal or greater than 68 dB(A) and with an increase of 3 dB(A) after construction.

These parameters have not been met in this instance.

In summary, the results of the noise study are as follows:-

On average, the threshold level of 68dB(A) will not be reached for approximately 18 years.

There is a negligible change in traffic noise levels as a direct result of the upgrading. For the majority of the works the new traffic lanes are further away from the houses.

On request from Local Members, additional landscaping has been provided on the southern side of the Gateway Motorway in the vicinity of the Bracken Ridge Road ramps and between Bald Hills Creek and Wyampa Road. This landscaping will provide some visual relief from the traffic.

As the warrant for noise amelioration has not been met, no funds have been made available for noise amelioration on this project.

23. Beenleigh Rail Line Noise

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

With reference to concerns expressed by residents of Sunnybank, Runcorn, Kuraby and Coopers Plains about the impact of additional noise from over 50 extra train movements along the Beenleigh rail line as a result of the re-introduction of the Gold Coast rail service—

- (1) What are the current noise guidelines that apply to suburban rail corridors in Queensland?
- (2) Will he request Queensland Rail to immediately undertake noise testing measures at affected sites along the abovementioned stretch of the Beenleigh Rail Line?
- (3) Will he make the results of such noise testing publicly available and immediately brief Members of Parliament whose electorates are affected by this issue?

Mr Johnson:

(1) Queensland Rail has developed guidelines for railway corridor noise which contain set criteria for management of noise in the short term and which also set long term goals. These long term goals are also applied where new railway lines are constructed.

These criteria are as follows:

CRITERIA INTERIM LONG TERM

L_{Aeq} (24hour) 70 60

L_{Amax} 95 85

(2) Queensland Rail is conscious that noise is an issue for many residents adjacent to rail corridor.

To deal with local issues, Queensland Rail has set up a Noise Working Group to investigate and review specific complaints associated with rail corridor noise.

Residents with concern can telephone QR on (07) 3235 5555.

(3) The matter of management of noise throughout the Queensland Rail system is a significant issue and is being dealt with progressively by Queensland Rail.

An example of Queensland Rail's commitment to noise reduction is in the current \$110 million contract to purchase 40 new diesel locomotives, Queensland Rail has paid an additional \$4 million for the locomotive supplier to research and implement ways of reducing the locomotive noise emissions to meet QR's long term criteria.

Key areas listed for early attention are the routes between Yeerongpilly and Fisherman Islands and work to manage noise issues on this line is currently under way.

27. Whyte Island, Diesel Refuelling Depot

Mr BURNS asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

With reference to the Government's stated opposition to the diesel refuelling depot on Whyte Island and the threat that it could pose to the wetlands of Moreton Bay—

- (1) Will the promises made by local Liberal and National Party spokespersons that the fuel depot will not be allowed to remain and be removed, be kept?
- (2) As his timing of the keeping of these local promises will be watched with interest, will he set a date for commencement of this task?

Mr Johnson:

The Whyte Island Provisioning Facility has been constructed by QR at a location which permits the fuelling of diesel locomotives with minimum impact on the residents living adjacent to the rail corridor which leads from the Port of Brisbane to QR's network throughout Queensland.

Specifically, locating the fuelling facility at the Port will eliminate the need for additional movements of locomotives from the Port back to a fuelling facility and return to the Port to pick up another train.

The facility has been constructed to meet and exceed the very stringent environmental standards set in Australian Standard AS1940 the Storage of Flammables and Combustibles.

The Government has reviewed the issues surrounding the construction of this facility and believe that in spite of the legacy of Labor mismanagement of the site, we can still find the optimal location for this facility. The costs of relocation will be significant, and it is unfortunate that Labor left the location as a virtual fait accompli for the next administration to clean up. The present government can give no timetable on when works will be undertaken at Whyte Island.

28. Speed Cameras

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

- (1) When will speed cameras be introduced into Queensland?
- (2) Will there be a moratorium during the phasing in period where offending motorists will be warned but no penalty applied; if so, for what period of time would a moratorium apply?

Mr Johnson: The Queensland Government is considering the introduction of speed cameras as one element of the Speed Management Strategy for Queensland. The key elements of the strategy are:

- improving the consistency and credibility of speed limits;
- improving enforcement management including the limited use of speed cameras; and
- expanding public education targeting speeding as dangerous.

The Land Transport and Safety Division of Queensland Transport has outlined to me the significant road safety benefits to be achieved with the appropriate use of speed cameras and extensive research has been carried out to determine the best approach to their management. Queensland Transport's view has also been supported by the findings of the Travelsafe Committee.

At this stage, I have asked the Department to continue their work with colleagues in Queensland Police Service in researching suitable systems and technology and I am keen to conduct a demonstration of various systems in June 1996 as part of our consultation with the community. However, the Government is yet to consider these proposals in detail and no decisions have been made.

Any introduction of speed cameras will be accompanied by strict operational policies and controls to ensure they are used as a road safety tool and not as a revenue raiser. These will include:

- use limited to roads which have undergone a speed zoning review;
- operations to be highly visible and deterrent based;
- site selection on the basis of proven road safety problems; and
- allocation of revenue from speed camera offences to running costs of speed camera program and other road safety programs.

The proposal also includes a moratorium period for up to three months in which motorists exceeding the speed limit will be issued with a warning notice rather than an infringement notice except where the speed limit is being exceeded by more than 30 km/h.

I am confident that with appropriate controls and management as described, speed cameras can play a very useful role in improvements to speed management in Queensland.

The Labor Party appears to relish reminding me before the public of my alleged previous remarks on speed cameras, but then forgetting to say that I was repeatedly misquoted on the subject. I am pleased about one thing though, and that is that the Labor Party timed their attacks very well, so that it appeared to the public that I had ordered speed cameras secretly installed just before the Easter break. They were not, but it appeared to the public from the Labor Party campaign that they were—and as a result Queensland had the lowest Easter road toll ever recorded.

29. Roads Implementation Program

Mr ELDER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

- (1) What changes has he made to the Roads Implementation Program 1995-96 and 1996-67 and its addendum which have previously been tabled in this House?
- (2) Will he give an assurance that he will continue the open and accountable practice undertaken by the past Government in regularly tabling the Roads Implementation Program and any changes in the form of addenda?

Mr Johnson: With the exception of the recently announced Pacific Highway Upgrading, where this Government has recently approved a substantially increased program of works than that which would have been provided under a Labor Government, my Government has publicly

undertaken to honour the road funding commitments which were detailed in the Roads Implementation Program and Addendum.

To date, the only other variations effected to the Roads Implementation Program and Addendum are those which were approved by Mr Elder prior to the change of Government. Consistent with current guidelines, these, and any subsequent variations approved by me will be incorporated in the 1996/97 Roads Implementation Program, and will be reported in the Annual Report to Parliament for 1995/96.

In the second part of the question reference is made to regular tabling of the Roads Implementation Strategy. The Roads Implementation Program was tabled in Parliament for the first time on 23 October 1995, and the Addendum on 31 January 1996. Two tablings in six years does not constitute "regular" in my vocabulary, however I take the question as read, and the answer is yes, I will be tabling the Roads Implementation Program.

I am frankly amazed that as a former Minister for Transport he does not know anyway, that the Minister for Transport is required to publish Roads Implementation Programs anyway. Naturally I will act in accordance with the Transport Infrastructure Act, to have these documents tabled and printed.

31. Queensland Rail

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

- (1) How many reviews are currently being conducted within Queensland Rail?
- (2) Will he provide the details of each review and inform the House how he intends to deal with the results and recommendations of such reviews?
- (3) Will he undertake to provide the House with the results of each such review as it is presented to him and inform the House of any action he is going to take?

Mr Johnson:

(1) Two externally driven reviews are currently under way (or about to commence) within Queensland Rail. These include:

- an independent audit of safety, track maintenance, and security; and
- the independent Queensland Commission of Audit into the overall financial position of the State.

In addition many aspects of Queensland Rail activity are being examined internally as part of its ongoing reform program and this will continue.

(2) The objective of each review is listed below:

Independent audit of safety, track maintenance, and security—This review is being undertaken by Queensland Transport's rail Safety Accreditation Unit and will ascertain the current safety performance levels state-wide and recommend improvements where appropriate to allow prioritisation of effort and maximised safety benefit.

Independent Queensland Commission of Audit—This whole-of-government review is being progressed under the stewardship of the Treasury department and will include:

- an assessment of the State's current and projected financial position;
- a review of the State's asset base, debt, unfunded liabilities and contingent liabilities;
- an assessment of the condition of Queensland's public, social and economic infrastructure;
- measures to improve the efficiency and accountability of the public sector.

Decisions on the on the results and recommendations of these reviews cannot be made until such results and recommendations become available.

(3) Again decisions on the on the results and recommendations of these reviews cannot be made until such results and recommendations become available.

36. Queensland Cement and Lime; Coral Dredging, Moreton Bay

Mr BURNS asked the Minister for Environment—

Is he aware that the Liberal Leader, Mrs Sheldon, told the residents of Bayside areas that she supported the early end to coral dredging by Queensland Cement and Lime in Moreton Bay and as this promise of an earlier than 1998 end to the destruction of coral under leases granted many years ago is an important issue for the Bay, its fisheries, birdlife and general well-being—

- (1) Will he advise when Mrs Sheldon's early timetable will be announced?
- (2) Has the Government undertaken any consultation with Queensland Cement and Lime and its workforce prior to or after Mrs Sheldon's promise?
- (3) What was the date or dates of these consultations and what was the result?
- (4) As there are grave concerns by farmers and residents in the Gladstone area in relation to the threat to water supplies by the proposed Queensland Cement and Lime operations, has the Government addressed these concerns?

Mr Littleproud:

(1) This Government is keen to see the earliest practical end to coral dredging in Moreton Bay by Queensland Cement Limited (QCL). The key determinant is the timing of the new cement facility at Gladstone, which will take over from the production now in Brisbane. This Government is prepared to facilitate the early end to dredging by supporting QCL with the current \$200 million expansion of its Gladstone plant. This facilitation includes assistance with some of the rail infrastructure for the transport of limestone to the Gladstone plant. Work on this rail infrastructure is progressing for planned completion in time for the completion of the Gladstone plant's expansion in early 1998.

(2) Senior officers of Queensland Treasury met with QCL executives to consider the issues in detail and in particular to see what avenues might be available to accelerate the cessation of mining of dead coral from Moreton Bay. This included consideration of the costs associated with any suitable alternative limestone sources. There has also been ongoing consultation between the company and relevant authorities in relation to the leases and licences.

(3) These discussions took place during April. The outcome is a clear understanding that while the Government seeks the earliest possible cessation of coral dredging, the available information shows that this cannot be realistically achieved any sooner than QCL's current planned completion date in early 1998.

(4) Yes. Studies accepted by the then Government in early 1996 have shown that increasing the rate of mining at the East End Mine would not significantly affect water sources in the area.

In particular any drawdown of water will only occur in the limestone deposit being mined. Few farm water sources draw water directly from this resource, and QCL are required to supply make-up water to properties that may be affected.

Surface water is not expected to be affected in any deleterious way provided the procedures in place to manage sediment are maintained and adapted as required to changing mine boundaries.

38. Western Bypass

Mr FOURAS asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

With reference to the long standing proposal for a Western Bypass—

- (1) Is planning under way for the construction of the Western Bypass; if so, what is the proposed timetable for this project?
- (2) If there is no plan by the current Government for a Western Bypass both in the short and long term, will he make an unequivocal statement to this effect to allay the fears of property owners in the vicinity of the proposed Western Bypass?

Mr Johnson: There is no planning under way for the construction of a Western Bypass. Therefore there is also no proposed timetable for such a project. Firstly let me say I am not aware of any plan showing the route of a Western Bypass that could be upsetting property owners. Although if there is an alleged plan, upsetting property owners, I would be grateful if the Member for Ashgrove gave me a copy. I am aware of the South East Queensland Regional Planning Advisory Group's final report, released in early 1994 by the former Government, recommended that the need for a Western Bypass between Ipswich (Warrego Highway) and the Bruce Highway be fully investigated.

This Government has not approved of a study into a Western Brisbane Bypass. A decision on whether or not to proceed with such a study will be made after the release of the Integrated Regional Transport Plan. If an investigation into a Western Brisbane Bypass is approved by the Government it will be

undertaken with extensive community consultation. Such a study would include examination for the need for a Western Brisbane Bypass, and if needed, determine options for possible routes. I would then authorise my Department to determine a preferred route and proceed with an Impact Assessment Study.

42. Kirwan Police Station

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing—

With reference to his decision to operate Kirwan Police Station on a 24 hour per day, seven days per week basis—

- (1) What resources by way of personnel and vehicles will be required to give effect to that decision?
- (2) Are those resources to come from existing allocations or do they represent additional funds for the Townsville District?
- (3) If they are to come from existing allocations, which sector of police business will be deprived of those resources?
- (4) If they represent additional funds, what is the amount that has been allocated for 1995-96 and 1996-97?

Mr Cooper:

- (1) Five additional police will be allocated to staff the station on a 24 hour a day basis with one member in the station. No additional vehicles are required.
- (2) The resources will be allocated from the Townsville Station with two police already re-allocated.
- (3) No section of police business will be deprived of resources due to the release of police staff through civilianisation of the Townsville Communications Room.
- (4) No additional funds have been allocated.

43. Banyo Railway Station

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

With reference to the redevelopment of Banyo Railway Station—

- (1) What is the planned completion date for the upgrade of the station buildings?
- (2) What facilities will be provided in the new building?
- (3) What new facilities will be provided outside the building and on the platform?
- (4) Will security cameras be installed?
- (5) Will an additional shelter be provided on the inbound platform?
- (6) What is the cost of the redevelopment?

Mr Johnson:

- (1) The planned completion date for all upgrade works at Banyo station is the end of October 1996.

(2) The facilities that will be provided in the building are:

- modern air conditioned office for staff providing better overall vision of the platform
- separate area with tea making facilities
- a staff toilet
- new public toilets accessible to disabled

(3) The facilities that will be provided outside are:

- more cover/shelter and seating for passengers
- public telephone
- drinking fountain
- increased security surveillance
- emergency phone

(4) Additional security camera will be installed at the station.

(5) An additional shelter on the inbound platform will be built when the new station is complete.

(6) The estimated cost of the redevelopment is \$275,000.

45. Agricultural Plastic

Mrs BIRD asked the Minister for Environment—

With reference to approximately 6,000 tonnes of agricultural plastic which is used in the Bowen horticultural industry annually and as disposal of this plastic has created health and environmental problems, and although the Goss Government set up an inquiry committee of all stakeholders, the former Opposition Spokesperson (Mr Slack) was very critical that a solution had not been forthcoming—

- (1) What will the Queensland Coalition do about an immediate resolution to this problem?
- (2) Will he allow farmers to continue burning plastic on their properties to the detriment of the health of local people, especially at Merinda; if not, how will he ensure safe disposal of agricultural plastic?
- (3) Will he provide financial support to farmers and local authorities to pursue alternative options for mulching?

Mr Littleproud:

(1) Bowen Shire Council has estimated that approximately 1700 tonnes of plastic mulch is used in small crops production in the Bowen area each year.

The Department of Environment's Working Group will continue to investigate alternatives to agricultural plastic and the disposal options of such material. Disposal of the material is a worldwide problem which many agencies are attempting to resolve. This Group has the support of the Bundaberg Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association, the Queensland Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association and the Bowen District Growers' Association. All of these groups have encouraged farmers not to burn used agricultural plastic on the farm.

(2) Under s. 238 of the Environmental Protection Act 1994, a person who carries out an agricultural activity complies with the general environmental duty established under the Act if the persons uses "current and appropriate" practices.

The Working Group mentioned above does not believe that open burning of used agricultural plastic is "current and appropriate practice". However, the Working Group is examining the position of growers who are remote from nearby residents and for whom agreed alternative disposal methods may be uneconomic. The Bowen horticultural industry does not support open burning.

The Working Group has identified and investigated the following short-term and long-term options for the management or replacement of agricultural film:

- (a) baling to reduce the volume of material, and hence improve transport efficiency to disposal sites and recyclers;
- (b) use as supplementary fuel although difficulties with soil contamination may cause air pollution of its own;
- (c) the possibility of cleaning plastics to a standard suitable for recycling;
- (d) disposal at Collinsville Mine. This disposal option was arranged by Bowen Shire Council. Most farmers have not taken advantage of this arrangement due to the transport costs; and
- (e) alternative materials to replace plastic film such as biodegradable plastic, treated paper, plastic coated paper, hydromulched paper, compost, shredded organic waste and sugar cane trash.

(3) The Department of Environment does not currently administer any financial assistance programs to pursue alternative options to mulching. However, the Department, in conjunction with the Publisher's National Environment Bureau provided a Bowen farmer with a grant of \$23,000 toward research into the use of newsprint mulch as a substitute for plastic.

In 1994, a \$46,000 grant was awarded to Bowen Shire Council for a study to develop a compost mulch as an alternative to agricultural plastic under the then Department of Environment and Heritage Composting Grant Scheme.

57. Tinana Bus Service

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

With reference to the introduction of a bus service in the Maryborough suburb of Tinana that was first due to commence operation in September 1995, then early 1996 including March and now May—

As I and the citizens of Tinana are sick of this back-peddalling, will he reassure the citizens of Tinana that this service will be operational by the end of April 1996 as scheduled by the previous Minister for Transport?

Mr Johnson: A service contract for the provision of bus services in Maryborough was finalised on 12 April 1996. I fully sympathise with the

Member for Maryborough when he says that the good citizens of Tinana and indeed himself are tired of the back-peddalling that occurred since September 1995 and even long long before that as well under the Labor administration. Mr Dollin correctly says in his question that the previous Labor Minister announced that the service would be completed by September 1995. I for one at any rate, was not at all surprised to find that no such thing happened.

I would point out to the Member for Maryborough that since a coalition government came to office a relatively short period of six weeks saw the bus service provided, which the Labor Party failed to achieve in six years of its administration. Naturally the good citizens of Tinana were sick of the Labor back-peddalling as Mr Dollin put it—but I did not think he would have admitted that he too found the delay irritating.

The contract, which has been awarded to Maryborough Hervey Bay Bus Service, requires the operator to raise the level of service to a prescribed minimum over a five year period.

With regard to Tinana, the operator proposes to initially provide a midday service in May 1996 with further services to be implemented in 1997, 1998 and 1999 to meet the contract requirements.

I trust the foregoing clarifies the present position regarding the provision of services in Tinana.

58. Brisbane-Gold Coast Transport Routes

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

Over the last 10 years what studies have been undertaken by the Transport Department (now Main Roads) into a new link route from Brisbane to the Gold Coast—

- (1) Will he table the routes that have been investigated?
- (2) Is any route currently under consideration?

Mr Johnson:

Studies undertaken by Queensland Transport are:

Eastern Corridor Planning Study.

South Coast Motorway, Northern Section, Impact Assessment Study.

South Coast Motorway, Southern Section, Impact Assessment Study.

Department of Housing, Local Government and Planning commissioned the:

Eastern Corridor Land Use and Transportation Management Study.

(1) There were many alternative routes considered in the Eastern Corridor Studies, which are detailed in the study reports. These led to the selection of a route on which the South Coast Motorway Impact Assessment Studies were undertaken.

(2) There is no route currently under consideration north of the Logan River.

As all these documents were made publicly available by the Labor Government, I do not propose to table them now.

59. Taragoola-Monto Rail Line

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

With reference to past proposals to close rural rail lines, will he clarify his intentions on the retention of country rail lines, in particular the Taragoola to Monto line, given its potential for increased use by new ventures in the Monto region?

Mr Johnson: Queensland Rail periodically undertakes reviews of all rural branch lines so that it can tailor its level of services to customers' demand. A decision to rationalise services is only undertaken after considering any alternatives and a process of extensive community consultation, unlike the same process that was the case under Labor.

Although Queensland Rail has a commercial charter, in some cases it is required to perform services which are economically unjustifiable. In these cases a Community Service Payment is available to offset the deficit.

With respect to the branch line between Taragoola and Monto, the discovery of ilmenite in the region can only bolster the long term survival of this line.

I am strongly in favour of retaining rail services to remote locations, even though the lines may not pay their way in direct revenues in the short run. The fact that a rail line is not economic in the immediate future does not mean that that will always be the case. There are also substantial benefits to a small town from the railways workers spending in the local economy. To remove rail services would have to be the very last thing I represented.

60. Morayfield Road, Upgrading

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

With reference to the proposed upgrading of Morayfield Road between Gaffield Street and the highway exit at Burpengary to four lanes—

- (1) Have the consultants appointed by the Department of Transport completed their community consultations?
- (2) When will the outcome of the consultations be made available to the local community?
- (3) When will the upgrading commence?
- (4) What is the timeframe for the completion of the upgrading?

Mr Johnson: Yes, consultations with all stakeholders have recently been completed and a draft report is due to be received by the Department in April 1996 for consideration.

When received the report will be reviewed and, if accepted, the recommended option will be displayed to the public before the end of June 1996.

The upgrading of Morayfield Road from Gaffield Street to the Bruce Highway was not in the current five year State Roads Implementation Program.

On current population growth rates this upgrading will need to be constructed in five to ten years.

61. Fisherman Islands, Port Road

Mr BURNS asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

With reference to the proposed new Port Road through Hemmant to the Port of Brisbane on Fisherman Islands—

- (1) When does the Government expect to make a final decision on this road which threatens the future of many Hemmant residents?
- (2) As the proposals for this road includes proposals for the Pritchard Road intersection which threatens what has become a sensitive wildlife area, will he ensure that the views of the bayside environmental network and residents of the Northpoint Estate and Wynnum Nth areas are fully considered by his department through personal consultations, and where necessary public meetings?
- (3) Will he ensure that the design of this intersection is finalised in such a way that large transport vehicles, especially container trucks, are excluded from quiet residential areas and restrict access to local vehicles only?

Mr Johnson:

(1) The Government expects to make a final decision on the future of the Port Road by the end of 1996 after necessary steps have been taken viz;

1. Final Report on the Port of Brisbane Road Impact Assessment Study is completed by consultants in May 1996.
2. Further consultation with Brisbane City Council and State Government Departments who have maintained ongoing interest in the planning investigation—July 1996.
3. Formulation of agreed position among all parties—September 1996.
4. Submission to Government by October 1996.

(2) The impacts identified by Wynnum North residents and groups have been considered by the consultants for the study. Subsequently, an alternative interchange layout at Pritchard Street is being considered as an option, to further minimise requirements on vegetated swampland. Further consultation on this option will be undertaken.

(3) Main Roads in conjunction with Brisbane City Council is closely monitoring the movement of articulated vehicles to determine an efficient method to reduce the attractiveness of the Pritchard Street route. However, any further restrictions to Pritchard Street intersection may affect emergency vehicles and normal service vehicles for the area.

62. Deferral of Government Projects

Mr NUNN asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts—

- (1) What projects did she include in the list of Government funding commitments, the implementation or continuation of which could be permanently curtailed, scaled back or deferred, which was requested by her by 16 March 1996?
- (2) What is the cost of each project?

- (3) How many person hours of work were involved in each project?

Mrs Sheldon:

(1) The Government has made it clear that it intends to review all of the previous Government's funding commitments arising from the annual Budget context, post Budget election commitments, the accelerated capital program and the Mid-Year Review of the Budget. Such a review is a legitimate action for a new Government to take in order to assess the initiatives and projects against the new Government's priorities and strategic direction and to provide capacity for the implementation of high priority Coalition commitments. This task is also essential because the commitments put in place by the previous Government are not sustainable from an overall funding perspective.

The initiatives and projects under review are documented and described in recent Budget Papers and subsequent announcements by the previous Government. Those projects initiated by the previous Government have continued under the various contractual arrangements.

(2) & (3) As noted in (1), the costs and other details such as employment effects of projects and initiatives were documented by the previous Government and can be sourced from those documents.

66. Deferral of Government Projects

Mrs BIRD asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry—

- (1) What projects did he include in the list of Government funding commitments, the implementation or continuation of which could be permanently curtailed, scaled back or deferred, which was requested by the Treasurer by 16 March 1996?
- (2) What is the cost of each project?
- (3) How many person hours of work were involved in each project?

Mr Davidson:

(1) The Government has made it clear that it intends to review all of the previous Government's funding commitments arising from the annual Budget context, post Budget election commitments, the accelerated capital program and the Mid-Year Review of the Budget. Such a review is a legitimate action for a new Government to take in order to assess the initiatives and projects against the new Government's priorities and strategic direction and to provide capacity for the implementation of high priority Coalition commitments. This task is also essential because the commitments put in place by the previous Government are not sustainable from an overall funding perspective.

The initiatives and projects under review are documented and described in recent Budget Papers and subsequent announcements by the previous Government. Those projects initiated by the previous Government have continued under the various contractual arrangements.

(2) & (3) As noted in (1), the costs and other details such as employment effects of projects and initiatives were documented by the previous Government and can be sourced from those documents.

68. Deferral of Government Projects

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing—

- (1) What projects did he include in the list of Government funding commitments, the implementation or continuation of which could be permanently curtailed, scaled back or deferred, which was requested by the Treasurer by 16 March 1996?
- (2) What is the cost of each project?
- (3) How many person hours of work were involved in each project?

Mr Connor:

(1) The Government has made it clear that it intends to review all of the previous Government's funding commitments arising from the annual Budget context, post Budget election commitments, the accelerated capital program and the Mid-Year Review of the Budget. Such a review is a legitimate action for a new Government to take in order to assess the initiatives and projects against the new Government's priorities and strategic direction and to provide capacity for the implementation of high priority Coalition commitments. This task is also essential because the commitments put in place by the previous Government are not sustainable from an overall funding perspective.

The initiatives and projects under review are documented and described in recent Budget Papers and subsequent announcements by the previous Government. Those projects initiated by the previous Government have continued under the various contractual arrangements.

(2) & (3) As noted in (1), the costs and other details such as employment effects of projects and initiatives were documented by the previous Government and can be sourced from those documents.

69. Deferral of Government Projects

Mr FOLEY asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice—

- (1) What projects did he include in the list of Government funding commitments, the implementation or continuation of which could be permanently curtailed, scaled back or deferred, which was requested by the Treasurer by 16 March 1996?
- (2) What is the cost of each project?
- (3) How many person hours of work were involved in each project?

Mr Beanland:

(1) The Government has made it clear that it intends to review all of the previous Government's funding

commitments arising from the annual Budget context, post Budget election commitments, the accelerated capital program and the Mid-Year Review of the Budget. Such a review is a legitimate action for a new Government to take in order to assess the initiatives and projects against the new Government's priorities and strategic direction and to provide capacity for the implementation of high priority Coalition commitments. This task is also essential because the commitments put in place by the previous Government are not sustainable from an overall funding perspective.

The initiatives and projects under review are documented and described in recent Budget Papers and subsequent announcements by the previous Government. Those projects initiated by the previous Government have continued under the various contractual arrangements.

(2) & (3) As noted in (1), the costs and other details such as employment effects of projects and initiatives were documented by the previous Government and can be sourced from those documents.

71. Deferral of Government Projects

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing—

- (1) What projects did he include in the list of Government funding commitments, the implementation or continuation of which could be permanently curtailed, scaled back or deferred, which was requested by the Treasurer by 16 March 1996?
- (2) What is the cost of each project?
- (3) How many person hours of work were involved in each project?

Mr Cooper:

(1) The Government has made it clear that it intends to review all of the previous Government's funding commitments arising from the annual Budget context, post Budget election commitments, the accelerated capital program and the Mid-Year Review of the Budget. Such a review is a legitimate action for a new Government to take in order to assess the initiatives and projects against the new Government's priorities and strategic direction and to provide capacity for the implementation of high priority Coalition commitments. This task is also essential because the commitments put in place by the previous Government are not sustainable from an overall funding perspective.

The initiatives and projects under review are documented and described in recent Budget Papers and subsequent announcements by the previous Government. Those projects initiated by the previous Government have continued under the various contractual arrangements.

(2) & (3) As noted in (1), the costs and other details such as employment effects of projects and initiatives were documented by the previous Government and can be sourced from those documents.

72. Deferral of Government Projects

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Mines and Energy—

- (1) What projects did he include in the list of Government funding commitments, the implementation or continuation of which could be permanently curtailed, scaled back or deferred, which was requested by the Treasurer by 16 March 1996?
- (2) What is the cost of each project?
- (3) How many person hours of work were involved in each project?

Mr Gilmore:

(1) A number of projects were flagged where Government did have discretion to halt expenditure. These initiatives include:

- Extractive Industries Unit
- National Grid Management Council (NGMC)
- Energy Policy Package
- National Greenhouse Response Strategy
- ANZMEC
- Native Title
- Gas Reform Task Force.

I have implemented a review of the demand side efficiency initiatives in particular the rebate schemes implemented by the Goss Government. Many of these schemes have now been confirmed to be gimmicky and expensive to administer. I recently issued a press release, withdrawing a number of rebate schemes, but also to give continuing support to the Solar Hot Water grant scheme and the Remote Area Power Systems (RAPS) scheme. The initiatives withdrawn are:

- Hot Water Energy Efficiency
- Domestic Lighting Efficiency
- Commercial Lighting Efficiency
- Commercial Solar Film

The Solar Hot Water grant scheme is being maintained as part of the Government's policy of ensuring a viable renewable energy industry.

The RAPS scheme, which encouraged home owners in remote areas of Queensland to incorporate renewable energy technology into stand-alone power systems is to evolve into a new, more progressive program, with the existing project ceasing on 30 June 1996.

Subject to budget considerations, it is my intention that from 1996-97 onwards my Department will implement coalition energy policy initiatives which include the boosting of solar hot water systems on off-peak electricity, a broad-based community education program, and an extensive research and development program which will focus on the development of more efficient appliances, renewable energy technology and insulation.

(2) Our current review indicates the Government will save approximately \$3.0M from the rebate schemes in 1995-96.

(3) The Office of Energy Management administers the demand side efficiency initiatives and currently employs twenty (20) full time staff.

73. Deferral of Government Projects

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) What projects did he include in the list of Government funding commitments, the implementation or continuation of which could be permanently curtailed, scaled back or deferred, which was requested by the Treasurer by 16 March 1996?
- (2) What is the cost of each project?
- (3) How many person hours of work were involved in each project?

Mr Quinn:

(1) The Government has made it clear that it intends to review all of the previous Government's funding commitments arising from the annual Budget context, post Budget election commitments, the accelerated capital program and the Mid-Year Review of the Budget.

Such a review is a legitimate action for a new Government to take in order to assess the initiatives and projects against the new Government's priorities and strategic direction and to provide capacity for the implementation of high priority Coalition commitments. This task is also essential because the commitments put in place by the previous Government are not sustainable from an overall funding perspective.

The initiatives and projects under review are documented and described in recent Budget Papers and subsequent announcements by the previous Government. Those projects initiated by the previous Government have continued under the various contractual arrangements.

(2) & (3) As noted in (1), the costs and other details such as employment effects of projects and initiatives were documented by the previous Government and can be sourced from those documents.

75. Bardon Shopping Centre

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

With reference to the commitment of the Deputy Premier to the Bardon Chamber of Commerce prior to July 1995 Election to remove the trucks from Bardon Shopping Centre —

- (1) What action has been initiated to fulfil this election promise?
- (2) What studies have been undertaken to assess the environmental and social impact of the measures?
- (3) What timeframe is anticipated?

Mr Johnson: The Hon Deputy Premier and Treasurer, Ms Joan Sheldon advises that your reference to the Deputy Premier was not herself but possibly the former Deputy Premier, Mr Burns. There was no election promise by the current Government to remove trucks from the Bardon Shopping Centre, however that should not be construed as meaning that I oppose the move in principle ; indeed I favour

minimal impact of heavy vehicles on urban residents, whenever possible.

The Western Arterial which runs through the Bardon Shopping Centre is a State-controlled road and part of its function as an arterial road is to carry trucks. There are no specific plans to divert these trucks to other routes, however, the impacts in Bardon and other areas of Brisbane from heavy commercial traffic is recognised.

The Department of Main Roads has just completed a report into freight movements in South East Queensland and the draft final report is being reviewed by stakeholders. This report contains 45 specific recommendations for the better management of freight movement in South East Queensland. I look forward to receiving this report about mid 1996, and deciding on actions that should be implemented.

77. Mr M. Shearer; Palm Beach Police Station

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing—

- (1) Will a Police Station be built at Palm Beach?
- (2) Will he be accepting the offer of Gold Coast developer, Max Shearer to build a Police Station at Palm Beach to Police department specifications?
- (3) What discussions have taken place between him and Max Shearer on this deal?

Mr Cooper:

1. A Police Station will be built to serve the Palm Beach area in line with the Coalition's pre-1995 State Election public promise.
2. The Queensland Police Service is discussing Mr Shearer's offer with him and also assessing other possible options.
3. While still in Opposition, I had a discussion with Mr Shearer about his offer and, as a result, the QPS is undertaking an assessment. No deals have been done.

78. Nudgee Electorate, School Facilities

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the 'Building Better Schools' program—

- (1) Which schools in the Nudgee electorate will receive improved facilities under this program?
- (2) What is the timetable for completion of these improvements?
- (3) What is the expected or allocated cost of these improvements?

Mr Quinn:

- (1) All schools in the Nudgee electorate will receive improved facilities under this program.
- (2) & (3) Banyo State High School, Boondall State School, Boondall State Preschool and Zillmere State School are scheduled for an upgrade of school security in 1995-96. Geebung State School, Geebung State Preschool, Geebung Special School, Northgate State School, Northgate State Preschool, Nudgee State School and Nudgee State Preschool

are scheduled for an upgrade of school security in 1996-97. The cost of these upgrades will not be determined until such a time as these schools have had their site audits completed.

With respect to other projects scheduled under the Building Better Schools Program, it is anticipated that:

minor maintenance work worth approximately \$5,000 will be completed at Boondall State School, during 1995-96;

the provision of an additional 70m² of covered play area, at an estimated cost of \$20,000 and the refurbishment of nine classrooms, at the Geebung State School, will occur in the 1997-98 and 1998-99 financial years, respectively;

the provision of an additional 35m² of covered play area, at an estimated cost of \$10,000 and the refurbishment of five classrooms, at the Northgate State School, will occur in the 1996-97 and 1998-99 financial years, respectively;

minor maintenance work, worth \$5,500 will be completed at Nudgee State School, during 1995-96, with the refurbishment of ten classrooms to occur during 1998-99; and minor maintenance work, worth \$6,500 will be completed at Zillmere State School, during 1995-96, with the refurbishment of six classrooms to occur during 1997-98;

It is my understanding that the Nudgee Preschool has already benefited from this Program, having had disabled access ramps, worth \$16,700, installed earlier this year.

With respect to costs for classroom refurbishments, the schools listed will not have their client briefs prepared until 1996-97 and 1997-98 and until this time no costs will be available.

80. Townsville Police Academy

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing—

With reference to his announced intention to establish a police academy in Townsville—

- (1) What is the anticipated (a) capital cost and (b) expected annual recurrent cost of the academy?
- (2) When does he anticipate the academy will produce its first graduates?
- (3) How many graduates will be produced per annum?
- (4) Will he give a commitment that all graduates of the Townsville academy will be allocated to police districts serving North Queensland, ie roughly the area north of Sarina and west to Mount Isa?

Mr Cooper:

- (1) Planning for the new North Queensland Academy has just commenced and costings are not yet available. An interim facility is proposed to commence operations in leased premises in Townsville later this year.

Subject to the finalisation of a number of contractual arrangements, it is estimated that:

- (a) the start up and first year costs of the interim facility will be about \$3.5 million
 - (b) the recurrent annual costs thereafter will be about \$2 million.
- (2) The interim facility should commence operations in October 1996 subject to the finalisation of leasing and other contractual arrangements. The first recruits should therefore graduate in approximately April 1997.
- (3) About 80 graduates will be produced each year in two intakes of 40.
- (4) It is highly likely that the initial allocation of all the North Queensland Academy graduates will be to training centres in the three northern Police Regions. It is also highly likely that most officers will remain in North Queensland for some considerable time upon the completion of their training but, as is the case with all police officers, they will be required to serve in any location in the State at the discretion of the Commissioner.

81. National Standard Support Facility Program

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport—

With reference to his reported rejection of the proposed aquatic centre for the Townsville State High School under the National Standard Support Facility Program—

- (1) What were the reasons for the rejection of the proposal?
- (2) How many of the reported 150 applicant schools were successful?
- (3) What is the distribution of successful applications by Education Department region in terms of number and value?
- (4) What is the value of the successful applications under the NSSF Program?
- (5) What was (a) the value of the highest grant and (b) the value of the smallest grant?

Mr Veivers:

(1) Firstly I must point out to the Honourable Member that I did not reject the proposed aquatic centre for Townsville State High School. It was his Government, the former Labour Government, that ignored the proposal.

The Townsville State High School did not submit an application for funding under the 1996 National Standard Sport Facility Program (NSSFP). As a school facility it would have been ineligible as per the previous Government's guidelines.

The Townsville State High School submitted an initial proposal to the former Department of Tourism, Sport and Youth for funding under the Community Recreation Centres Program (CRCP) which was received on 5 February 1996.

The CRCP was administered by the independent Advisory Council chaired by Mr Clem Jones AO who reported directly to the former Deputy Premier and Minister for Tourism, Sport and Youth.

My understanding is that there were no formal application or assessment processes for this Program. Organisations, schools and Councils contacted Clem Jones directly regarding possible availability of funding under this Program.

The Townsville State High School proposal was forwarded to the Advisory Council as advised in correspondence to the Principal dated 14 February 1996. However, I understand that the Council did not discuss the feasibility of this particular project with representatives from the School.

(2) I am not aware of 150 school applications for funding under the CRCP. Copies provided by Clem Jones to departmental officers would suggest that only 40 formal school applications were received.

(3) The Member for Townsville should note that the development of school facilities suitable for community use is only one aspect of the previous Government's CRCP. Seven of the ten projects supported are not school based. The projects funded are from seven of the eleven Education Department Regions:

Two projects totalling \$750,000 were funded in the Darling Downs Region

Two projects totalling \$1,500,000 were funded in the Wide Bay Region

Two projects totalling \$500,000 were funded in the Peninsula Region

One project totalling \$400,000 was funded in the South Coast Region

One project totalling \$800,000 was funded in the Metropolitan West Region

One project totalling \$800,000 was funded in the Metropolitan East Region

One project totalling \$500,000 was funded in the Northern-West Region

Of these ten projects there are three school projects located in the following Education Department regions:

One project totalling \$125,000 in the Wide Bay Region

One project totalling \$250,000 in the Peninsula Region

One project totalling \$400,000 in the Darling Downs Region

I will reiterate that School facilities were not eligible under the National Standard Sport Facilities Scheme.

(4) \$9.072 million was approved for funding under the NSSFP for the 1996-97 financial year.

(5) The largest grant under the NSSFP was \$1.5 million to the Cairns City Council for an indoor facility and the lowest grant under the NSSFP was \$100,000 to the Macleay Island Bowls Club for extensions to the Club house.

82. University Funding

Mr LIVINGSTONE asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the need for additional higher education places in Queensland and the development of new university campuses—

- (1) Will he guarantee the provision of capital assistance from the Queensland Government to the following institutions (a) \$11.75m to the University of Queensland for its new Ipswich campus, (b) \$11.75m to Griffith University for its new Logan campus, (c) \$2.5m to James Cook University for its Cairns campus, (d) \$1m to Central Queensland University for its Gladstone campus, (e) \$0.5m to the University of Southern Queensland for its Hervey Bay campus and (f) \$2.5m to the Sunshine Coast University College for the expansion of its Sippy Downs campus?
- (2) Will he confirm the provision of \$10m for site acquisition for the new campuses of the University of Queensland and Griffith University at Ipswich and Logan City respectively?

Mr Quinn: (1) & (2) In the context of its 1995-96 Budget Statement, the Commonwealth Government announced a commitment to provide an additional 4,200 commencing higher education places in Queensland universities over the period 1996-98.

This commitment will represent a total of 11,464 additional university places by the year 2001, when this growth reaches steady state.

The estimated cost for providing accommodation for this large growth component is \$137 million, of which the State Government made a commitment to fund \$30 million. This money is to be allocated to developing regional campuses at Cairns, Gladstone, Hervey Bay and the Sunshine Coast, and to new campus developments planned for Logan City and Ipswich. The remainder of the funds are supposed to be provided from Commonwealth higher education funding sources.

In a recent statement to the House I made mention of the fact that Commonwealth Government funding cuts may place in jeopardy the commitment of the Commonwealth to growth places and the associated capital funding for Queensland.

I have spoken recently with the Commonwealth Minister for Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs, to put the case for maintaining the commitment of the Commonwealth to funding growth and the provision of the necessary capital.

As Queensland universities are historically not well provided with capital infrastructure, compared to similar institutions in other states; and because all of these institutions are engaged in significant new campus developments in response to both the population explosion in this state, and the need to improve provision of campuses in regional centres, a failure to provide money for the capital funding program will seriously jeopardise the capacity of these institutions to deliver services of an adequate standard. For this reason, I have given a public guarantee that the State Government will meet its commitment to provide \$30 million for higher education capital development, providing the funding commitment of the Commonwealth is maintained.

If the long standing claims of young Queenslanders to a fair chance in higher education count for

anything, then the money promised to the campuses, and new campus sites, as mentioned, should be secure.

84. Mr P. Galwey

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Mines and Energy—

With reference to his statement to this Parliament on 2 April regarding the implementation program for the Moura Inquiry recommendations—

- (1) Is the person who will lead the implementation unit the same Mr Galwey who was the author of the Coalition's Energy Policy at the 1995 State election?
- (2) What financial payment will Mr Galwey receive and under what conditions did he accept this position?
- (3) Why has he brought Mr Galwey in to perform this task when the previous coordinator had the support of the Queensland Mining Council, the Queensland Government and the trade unions involved?
- (4) Is the appointment of Mr Galwey simply another "job for the boys"?

Mr Gilmore:

- (1) No
- (2) Mr Galwey is being paid in accordance with the Instructions and Procedures for Remuneration Arrangements for part-time Chairs and Members of Government Boards, Committees and Statutory Authorities. Specifically he is being paid at the E1 category (Investigative and review powers with influence on a specific aspect of Government policy or a particular industry) which allows for \$210 per meeting for the Chair and \$170 for a Member with special assignment payment of \$180 and \$150 respectively. Secretarial services are being provided by the Department.
- (3) Mr Galwey has a high professional standing in the community. As a former CEO of the QEC, he has been the leader of one of the State's major industries, and is experienced in dealing with industry, unions and the community. In such a position, he has been inherently concerned with matters of safety. The implementation process is open and accountable. It should be seen to be independent of those under review, and there should be no actual or perceived conflict of interest. As Mr Galwey is not a member of the Department, his appointment is important in this regard.
- (4) No.

85. Deferral of Government Projects

Mr ELDER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

- (1) What projects did he include in the list of all Government funding commitments, the implementation or continuation of which could be permanently curtailed, scaled back or deferred, which was requested by the Treasurer by 16 March?

- (2) What is the cost of each project and how many person hours of work were involved in each project?

Mr Johnson: The initiatives and projects of the Department has had to be considerably altered from those of the previous government. The Department will naturally be undertaking a more efficient portfolio of projects, more in line with community requirements and with more focus on value for money than the previous administration. Recent Budget papers detail these projects.

May I add though, that I am not able to see why the Opposition should be going individually to each and every Minister with essentially the same question.

89. Behavioural Disorders in Children

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to successive Queensland Governments that have failed to recognise that Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and other neurological or behavioural problems which affect the capacity of students to learn are disorders which may be caused by a medical problem and contributing to the current attitude is the lack of community awareness and acceptance by decision-makers that behaviour problems in many children are chronic disorders which demand specialist support and services —

- (1) Does the Coalition Government believe that the behavioural disorders or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD) and Conduct Disorder (CD) should be recognised as disabilities: if so, will the Government put in place support structures to determine more effective strategies for those working with children who have these disabilities?

Mr Quinn: The Department of Education recognises Attention Deficit Disorder as a medical condition. Provision is made to meet the educational needs of children diagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), with or without hyperactivity.

The Department recognises that students who are diagnosed with Attention deficit Disorder and/or neurological and behavioural problems, often experience learning problems. The needs of these students and the difficulties they experience are addressed in the current policy documents:-

Managing Behaviour in a Supportive School Environment; and

Educational provision for Students with Learning Difficulties and Learning Disabilities.

A wide range of specialists are employed presently within the Department to support children with ADD and other learning difficulties. These specialists also provide support and assistance to parents and children.

Advising visiting teachers (behaviour management), and guidance officers trained in counselling and behaviour management, work in schools with staff to

provide programs that assist children with behavioural difficulties.

Management of Young Children programs in preschools provide early intervention for children before they attend school. These programs are also conducted by specialist staff who work in cooperation with parents and teachers.

In some secondary schools, programs such as the Alternate Learning for Adolescents (ALFA) are run to help adolescents at risk.

All primary and secondary schools have the services of support teachers (learning difficulties). Remedial/resource teachers also provide support for students with learning difficulties.

In a 1995 interdepartmental committee, represented by the Departments of Health, Family and Community Services, Education and the Corrective Services Commission, met to address the issue of coordinating service provision for children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. This committee produced a draft information paper on the topic of the ADHD detailing the service provisions of each department.

90. Bribie Island Road

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

With reference to newspaper reports that the Government will not honour its pledge to upgrade the Bribie Island Road to four lane standard —

- (1) Is he aware of claims that this supposedly "unauthorised local policy" was also enunciated by then Opposition leader and now Premier, Rob Borbidge?
- (2) Does he believe that the failure of his party's candidate at the election is sufficient reason to jettison an election pledge?

Mr Johnson: In the recent review of the five year Roads Implementation Program, careful consideration was given to including works to upgrade the remaining two-lane sections of the Caboolture-Bribie Island Road to four lanes. Due to the need to direct funds to projects that are of higher priority, it has not been possible to include such works.

Although it has not been possible to upgrade the entire road to a four-lane standard at this time, the Department has included \$3 million in the program for providing additional overtaking lanes between the Bruce Highway and Pumicestone Passage. These lanes, in conjunction with the existing four-lane sections, will provide a reasonable level of service in the interim.

With regard to newspaper reports (impact of logging on Bribie Island on traffic conditions on Bribie Island Road), the contractor who is harvesting the trees will remove 17 loads of wood chip and five loads of sawn logs per day. This will result in 22 trips in each direction per day. Given the contractor using four trucks to carry chip and the cycle time to Fishermans Island, there can be only one chip truck in each direction on the Caboolture-Bribie Island Road,

which is a distance of 20 kilometres, at any given time. This additional traffic will not result in an appreciable diminution in operating conditions on the road, which currently carried 12,000 vehicles per day, 700 of which are commercial. The 44 additional trips to the current 12,000 is relatively insignificant.

Part (2) of the question indicates that the Member for Caboolture incorrectly assumes electorates are punished or rewarded for returning government candidates. Apart from being demonstrably wrong, it is based on the assumption that such 'pork barrelling' works anyway. If intensive road funding in an electorate assisted the government candidate, then Molly Robson, John Budd, as well as several others, and indeed the Australian Labor Party government, would still be in office.

97. Deferral of Government Projects

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister For Sport—

- (1) What projects in the sports portfolio did he include in the list of all government funding commitments, the implementation or continuation of which could be permanently curtailed, scaled back or deferred, which was requested by the Treasurer by 16 March 1996?
- (2) What is the cost of each project?
- (3) How many person hours of work were involved in this project?

Mr Veivers:

(1) The Government has made it clear that it intends to review all of the previous Government's funding commitments arising from the annual Budget context, post Budget election commitments, the accelerated capital program and the Mid-Year Review of the Budget. Such a review is a legitimate action for a new Government to take in order to assess the initiatives and projects against the new Government's priorities and strategic direction and to provide capacity for the implementation of high priority Coalition commitments. This task is also essential because the commitments put in place by the previous Government are not sustainable from an overall funding perspective.

The initiatives and projects under review are documented and described in recent Budget Papers and subsequent announcements by the previous Government. Those projects initiated by the previous Government have continued under the various contractual arrangements

(2) & (3) As noted in (1), the costs and other details such as employment effects of projects and initiatives were documented by the previous Government and can be sourced from those documents.

99. Wellington Point State School

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the increased school enrolments and therefore much needed new classroom facilities approved for Wellington Point State School—

- (1) When will the new modular classrooms be provided for the school?
- (2) When will work commence on the construction of the new permanent four classroom block?
- (3) When will this block be available for use?
- (4) What is the estimated cost of the block?
- (5) When will work commence on the replacement toilet block which is now presently closed?
- (6) When will this facility be available for use?
- (7) What is the estimated cost of this facility?

Mr Quinn:

- (1) No new modular classrooms will be provided
- (2) The construction of a new permanent four classroom block has been included on the 1996/97 Draft Capital Works Program.
- (3) It is anticipated that this building will be available for occupancy at the commencement of semester 2, 1997.
- (4) The estimated cost of the new permanent four classroom block is \$410,000
- (5) A project brief has been prepared for the provision of a replacement amenities block. The Department of Works and Housing have been requested to prepare contract documentation for this project.
- (6) It is proposed that the amenities block will be available for use at the commencement of the 1997 school year.
- (7) The estimated cost of this project is \$340,000.

100. Hockey Centre, Colmslie

Mr W. K. GOSS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport—

With reference to the proposed State Hockey Centre at Colmslie, a world class facility which would not only be of great use to the development of Queensland's hockey teams at both a senior and junior level, but would also be invaluable as a training base in the lead up to the 2000 Olympics in Sydney and as the facility has the potential to deliver substantial economic benefits to South East Queensland—

- (1) Will he advise the House of the progress towards its construction which was to receive a \$4.8m grant from the previous Labor Government?
- (2) Particularly in light of the growing international success of Australian hockey teams, especially the women's team, will he please inform the House of the level of commitment of his Government to the Centre?

Mr Veivers:

(1) & (2) I am delighted to inform the Parliament that the State Hockey Centre at Colmslie was officially opened on Saturday 20 April 1996 and hosted its first international tournament on Thursday 18 April 1996.

The Government's total commitment to the Centre is \$5,250,000. The previous Government had committed \$4,800,000 to the project.

Cost escalations and the failure of the State Hockey Centre Association Inc to secure loans it had anticipated from its bank left a significant shortfall in available funds to complete the Centre as planned.

To ensure that a usable facility could be completed in time to host the first international tournament, some difficult decisions had to be taken.

It was decided to focus on completing the playing facilities and delete at this stage a number of items, the primary one being the construction of the associated hockey club house. The construction of the club house however still remains part of the Association's long term plans.

I therefore approved the allocation of an additional \$450,000 from the National Standard Sport Facilities Program to ensure the Centre could be completed on time to host the forthcoming international hockey events.

103. Juvenile Detention

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice—

With reference to a juvenile crime wave occurring in Townsville and Thuringowa and concerns by residents at the apparent inability of the police to do anything about it, and in particular residents of the Upper Ross who are concerned at the activities of an 11-year-old girl said to be responsible for more than 100 thefts in the last two months, and to an article in the *Townsville Sun* of 10 April 1996 in which the Member for Mundingburra is quoted as saying "we have to let the Attorney-General implement changes to the Juvenile Justice Act in whatever form that may be" and in the same article quotes the "Minister's assistant" as saying that "the police had the power to put criminals away if they had enough evidence and if the girl was breaking-in with such frequency, she would almost always be in custody"—

- (1) Do the police have the power under the Juvenile Justice Act to arrest repeat juvenile offenders or is the Member for Mundingburra correct in his assertion that police can do nothing until changes are made to the Act?
- (2) If the community must wait until changes are made to the legislation before any relief can be expected, what changes does he contemplate making and when will that occur?
- (3) If, on the other hand, police do have the power to "put criminals away", is he aware of any reasons why the 11-year-old constant offender is not almost always in custody?

Mr Beanland:

(1) Police have a limited power of arrest under the Juvenile Justice Act 1992. Division 3 ("Arrest") of Part 2 of that Act sets out the conditions restricting the power of arrest. In effect, that power may generally be exercised in respect of offences which carry a penalty of life imprisonment. In addition, a police officer may carry out an arrest if he or she believes on reasonable grounds that an arrest is necessary to prevent a further offence being committed or evidence being destroyed or concealed. Further, a police officer may arrest a child if he or she believes, again on reasonable grounds,

that the alleged offender is unlikely to comply with an attendance notice or a summons to appear before the court. It is important to note in the context of this question that it is a matter of discretion which is vested in all police officers to decide whether to arrest an alleged offender or not in particular circumstances.

(2) It is proposed to amend the Juvenile Justice Act to give police a general power of arrest for any indictable offence which, if committed by an adult, would be punishable by 14 years imprisonment or more, for example, armed robbery. These changes are planned to be made by the middle of this year.

(3) See (1) and (2).

104. Public Works, Townsville

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing—

With reference to reports that his Government has withdrawn from participation in the Better Cities Initiative—

- (1) Will he explain what plans, if any, he has to complete works in progress in the South Townsville area?
- (2) Does he have any proposals to rejuvenate the Townsville Inner City area in terms of redevelopment for residential purposes?

Mr Connor:

(1) My Department has two demonstration projects on adjoining sites in the south Townsville area consisting of:

- (a) 16 seniors' units at Barlow Street, and
- (b) 7 family houses at Morehead Street.

I am advised that the builder to whom the single building contract for both schemes was awarded has now withdrawn and the projects will shortly be re-tendered.

(2) There are no immediate proposals in the Townsville inner city area. Should a significant need for public housing in this locality be demonstrated, and should appropriate development opportunities arise, I would be happy to consider them in the context of the many competing demands upon public housing funding.

105. Mr D. McTaggart

Ms BLIGH asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts—

With reference to the appointment of Mr Doug McTaggart to the position of Acting Under Treasurer—

- (1) Does Mr McTaggart continue to have any appointment or responsibilities (academic, research or administrative) with Bond University; if so, what is the nature of and time commitment involved in these responsibilities?
- (2) Is Mr McTaggart appointed on a full-time basis?
- (3) What remuneration package is Mr McTaggart receiving?
- (4) When will the position of Under Treasurer be advertised?

Mrs Sheldon:

- (1) No.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Dr McTaggart is receiving remuneration normally applicable to this position.
- (4) The position was first advertised in the week of 21 April 1996.

106. Pacific Highway

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

With reference to the Pacific Highway, Gold Coast and to page 1 of the *Courier-Mail* of 16 April 1996 where he and Premier Borbidge said "The work would be completed within four years, leaving motorists a world class motorway with a 110km/h speed limit, capable of meeting traffic demands for 30 years"—

As this is contrary to previous traffic studies, will he provide details of all the studies and information that support his statements?

Mr Johnson: The statement about the Pacific Highway having a travel demand capacity for 30 years reflects the Government's policy to reduce reliance on private motor vehicle transport, implement public transport alternatives and extend the flow on an upgraded Pacific Highway.

Very preliminary studies suggest a highway capacity life of this magnitude could be achieved by providing a combination of general traffic lanes, transit lanes, busways and the extended rail service to the Gold Coast. In addition, the upgrading of local arterials and service roads will divert local traffic away from the highway and in turn extend the demand capacity of an upgraded Pacific Highway.

Further studies are now in hand for the Pacific Highway. I will consider the release of the traffic projections when the information comes to hand.

107. Education Review

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to his announcement that he will review Languages Other Than English, the school uniform allowance, the Freedom of Information regulation affecting OP scores and student results from the Year 2 "net" and Year 6 test, the structure of the head office and regional offices of his department, Workplace Health and Safety, social justice education, especially gender equity, and the establishment of elite schools—

In each case (a) who will conduct the review, (b) what are the terms of reference of the review, (c) when is the review scheduled to be concluded, (d) when will submissions be called from interested parties and the public and (e) what consultation will take place with the education community and the public?

Mr Quinn:

Languages Other Than English

It is my intention to have the compulsory nature of foreign language study in lower primary school

reviewed. This review will be carried out by the Department.

I am yet to be advised of time lines.

School Uniform Allowance

There is no review, as such, planned for the School Uniform Allowance. However, as is usual, it is intended that all programs administered by the Department of Education will be examined within the context of its budget deliberations.

Freedom of Information Regulation Affecting OP Scores and other Student results

No formal review of Freedom of Information regulations affecting OP scores and other student results has been announced. However, I am taking on board opinions from both sides of the argument with respect to this matter.

Again no time line has been set.

Structure of the Department of Education

The structure of the Department of Education has been reviewed by Mr Kevin Donnelly of the Collins Hill Group. The report of this review has been received by the Department and is being considered.

Workplace Health and Safety and Social Justice Education

No review of Workplace Health and Safety, or Social Justice education has been announced.

Establishment of Elite Schools

In the case of elite schools, I have agreed only to listen to any proposals that may be put forward.

108. Logan Motorway

Mr ELDER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

- (1) What plans or proposals do either of his departments have for the upgrading of the Logan Motorway?
- (2) Will he table any relevant timetables, costings or traffic flow projections?
- (3) In particular, what are his intentions in relation to the duplication of the eastern section of the Logan Motorway?
- (4) Will he table any information within his departments relating to increased traffic flows on the Logan Motorway as a result of his eight-laning of the Pacific Highway south of the Logan Motorway?

Mr Johnson: (1) The Logan Motorway is being upgraded currently as part of the Southern Brisbane Bypass project. Duplication of the Logan Motorway is being undertaken from the intersection of the Gateway Motorway extension with the Logan Motorway westwards to the Ipswich Motorway. Planning for future duplication of the Logan Motorway eastwards to the Pacific Highway is being progressed. Excess earthworks materials from the Gateway Motorway extension contract will be placed as embankment material for the future eastwards duplication of the Logan Motorway.

(2) The overall Southern Brisbane Bypass project is due for completion in mid 1997. The Logan Motorway duplication portion of the overall project is

expected to be completed by the end of 1996. The overall project budget is \$156 million.

(3) Timing for the duplication of the eastern section of the Logan Motorway has not been determined. Planning is being progressed to maximise the use of excess embankment material from other projects.

(4) As advised in response to Question on Notice No 280 (copy attached), the only available Pacific Highway eight laning traffic projections are for the Logan River and Coomera River crossings for the years 2006 and 2011.

More details of projected traffic volumes on the Logan Motorway to Nerang section of the Pacific Highway and the Logan Motorway, will become available as part of the Impact Management Plan, and following decision on the Pacific Highway upgrading north of the Logan Motorway.

110. Long Service Leave Fund

Mr BEATTIE asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts—

With reference to her criticism of the Goss Government for not providing a fund to meet accruing liabilities in respect of long service leave—

- (1) Did the previous National Party Government have such a fund?
- (2) Did the Coalition Government that was in power until 1983 have such a fund?
- (3) Does any other Government in Australia have such a fund?
- (4) Is she aware of how many Governments anywhere have such a fund?

Mrs Sheldon:

(1) The issue is not one about previous National-Liberal Governments but about the fact that the Borbidge-Sheldon Government is committed to addressing the failures of the Goss Government. As I have indicated previously, our Government is committed to make it compulsory for all Budget sector agencies to establish a provision to meet accruing long service leave obligations.

(2) See (1) above.

(3) No other Governments in Australia have set up a fund to meet accruing liabilities for the Budget sector, although such a fund has been set up for the use of off-Budget agencies in New South Wales.

(4) Whether Governments anywhere have such a fund is not really the issue. The issue is what is sound practice for the management of emerging liabilities such as long service leave, rather than what everyone else is doing. For example, there are no other Governments in Australia, and probably elsewhere, which fully fund superannuation liabilities in the way Queensland has done for many years.

111. National Park, Mount Archer

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Environment—

With reference to the proposed gazettal of Mt Archer as a National Park—

- (1) What area of Mt Archer is currently designated as a National Park?

(2) What area is currently being considered for gazettal as a National Park?

(3) When will this gazettal occur?

(4) What area of Mt Archer is currently designated as a Resources Reserve?

(5) What negotiations are taking place with regard to this being converted into a National Park?

(6) When is this reserve likely to become a National Park?

Mr Littleproud:

1. Mount Archer National Park covers an area of 2270 ha. It was gazetted in 1994 and was formerly Environmental Park 1050.

2. An additional 1320 ha of land has been made available from Timber Reserve No. 46 and is currently being considered for gazettal as national park.

3. The extension is being submitted for final approval and the gazettal is expected in the near future.

4. None of Mt Archer is currently designated as Resources Reserve, but 638 ha from Timber Reserve No. 46 is being considered for gazettal as Resources Reserve on the same time frame as the proposed extension to the national park.

5. There is mining exploration on the proposed Resources Reserve. If future exploration programs do not find resources of significance then the area may be considered for addition to the national park.

6. As this consideration is dependant on future exploration assessments, no time frame has been set for this matter.

112. Make Shade Program

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the previous Labor Government's \$10m Make Shade Program—a program initiated to reduce the incidence of skin cancer by providing shaded play areas in pre-schools and primary schools—

Will this Coalition Government commit to this program and provide schools in the Maryborough electorate with suitably covered play areas?

Mr Quinn: All state primary schools, with deficiencies of suitable covered area, will be provided with new shade structures to the level of their entitlement under the Building Better Schools Program.

It is also intended that the Program will make available to schools a minimum number of 20 shade trees for planting.

The Department currently expects that schools within the Maryborough electorate, with an entitlement to additional covered area, will receive new shade structures within the first two years of this Program.

114. Central Queensland University, Gladstone Campus

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Education—

Will he confirm his continued support for the University of Central Queensland (Gladstone Campus) and funding to at least the level of the previous Government as capital funding commitments of \$1m are essential to ensure continuing growth of this dynamic Campus?

Mr Quinn: In the context of its 1995-96 Budget Statement, the Commonwealth Government announced a commitment to provide an additional 4,200 commencing higher education places in Queensland universities over the period 1996-98.

This commitment will represent a total of 11,464 additional university places by the year 2001, when this growth reaches steady state.

The estimated cost for providing accommodation for this large growth component is \$137 million, of which the State Government made a commitment to fund \$30 million. This money is to be allocated to developing regional campuses at Cairns, Gladstone, Hervey Bay and the Sunshine Coast, and to new campus developments planned for Logan City and Ipswich. The remainder of the funds are supposed to be provided from Commonwealth higher education funding sources.

In a recent statement to the House I made mention of the fact that Commonwealth Government funding cuts may place in jeopardy the commitment of the Commonwealth to growth places and the associated capital funding for Queensland.

I have spoken recently with the Commonwealth Minister for Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs, to put the case for maintaining the commitment of the Commonwealth to funding growth and the provision of the necessary capital.

As Queensland universities are historically not well provided with capital infrastructure, compared to similar institutions in other states; and because all of these institutions are engaged in significant new campus developments in response to both the population explosion in this state, and the need to improve provision of campuses in regional centres, a failure to provide money for the capital funding program will seriously jeopardise the capacity of these institutions to deliver services of an adequate standard. For this reason, I have given a public guarantee that the State Government will meet its commitment to provide \$30 million for higher education capital development, providing the funding commitment of the Commonwealth is maintained.

If the long standing claims of young Queenslanders to a fair chance in higher education count for anything, then the \$1 million promised to the Gladstone campus of Central Queensland University should be secure.

115. Sunshine Motorway

Mr HAMILL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

With reference to the Sunshine Motorway—

- (1) What is the cost of the redundancy packages for the 50 former employees of the Motorway Company made redundant by this Government?

- (2) What was the cost of the removal/demolition of the toll plazas and their equipment?
- (3) What additional new construction has been approved for the motorway?
- (4) What is the cost of these new works?
- (5) What further enhancements are projected for the road as a result of the increased traffic volumes resulting from the removal of the tolls?
- (6) What is the cost and timing of these further enhancements?
- (7) What is the annual cost of maintenance for the motorway?
- (8) What is the source of funds for the redundancy payments, toll plaza demolition and removal, new works, annual maintenance and proposed enhancements of the road?

Mr Johnson:

- (1) The Government will offer an ex-gratia assistance package to the former 47 employees of the Motorway Company.

This package includes: retraining assistance, job applications skills training, counselling, preferential consideration for vacancies as well as compensation for the relatively short lead time accompanying the decision to remove tolls.

The total cost of this assistance is around \$75,000.

- (2) Removal of the toll plaza canopy and concrete barriers and restoration of the concrete roadway and asphalt surfacing will total \$300,000. Provision of a temporary U-turn facility at the Maroochy River Toll Plaza site will cost approximately \$150,000, giving a total cost of some \$450,000.

- (3) & (4) There has been no additional new construction approved to date.

- (5) Further enhancements to the Motorway that will be required are as follows:

Four laning from the Mooloolaba Road Interchange to the Maroochy Road Interchange.

Construction of a half interchange at Pacific Paradise.

- (6) The four laning from the Mooloolaba Road Interchange to Maroochy Road Interchange would have been required in the next few years even with the tolls. Removal of the tolls will bring this forward. The exact timing will depend on traffic data currently being collected and network modelling.

Whether or not four laning is required between Maroochy Road and the Pacific Paradise Interchange will depend on network negotiations with Maroochy Shire Council currently being explored under the Sunshine Coast Transportation Study (SCoTS). However, if it was required as a result of normal growth in traffic volumes it is estimated to cost some \$40M (including duplication of the Maroochy River Bridge).

- (7) The annual cost of Routine Maintenance on the Sunshine Motorway is currently \$450,000.

The average annual cost of Programmed Maintenance (resurfacing) is \$1M. This figure varies slightly depending on surface deterioration.

(8) The cost of the Government's ex-gratia assistance package will be met from Consolidated Revenue (refer to Treasury for advice).

In relation to the toll plaza removal, road enhancements and maintenance, advice from Treasury will be required to provide a more detailed response.

116. Transport Oriented Development, Fitzgibbon

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing—

- (1) Will the Transport Oriented Development at Fitzgibbon proceed?
- (2) Is this development to proceed along the same lines as planned by the previous Government?
- (3) What public consultation will take place if the development is to proceed?

Mr Connor:

(1) The State is reviewing many projects including the important Fitzgibbon Transit Oriented Development. I am conscious of many local concerns about the type of development that may occur and the other potential benefits and effects of the proposal. This land has an area of over 100 hectares and is in a growth corridor of Brisbane. It is of strategic importance and I will therefore be taking a very serious approach to the proposal.

(2) The manner in which development is handled if the State proceeds and the objectives of the development will, of course, be important considerations that I will be conscious of as I review the project.

(3) This Government will continue to consult on important new projects. The consultation to be undertaken if the Fitzgibbon Transit Oriented Development is to proceed will be determined when the nature of the project is known and will provide opportunities for all who are affected to view and comment on proposals.

118. Ms T. Gambaro; Houghton Highway

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

With reference to a promise made by the Liberal candidate for the Federal seat of Petrie, now the Member, Ms Theresa Gambaro MP, that she would widen the Houghton Highway servicing the Redcliffe electorate—

- (1) Has Ms Gambaro contacted him on this matter; if so, will there be joint Federal/State funding for the project?
- (2) If she hasn't contacted him, will he be meeting with Ms Gambaro to ascertain how this bridge widening will be carried out?

Mr Johnson:

(1) No, Ms Gambaro and I have not met to discuss the widening of the Houghton Highway.

(2) If Ms Gambaro wishes to contact me about the widening of the Houghton Highway, I would be willing to listen to her views on this matter. However,

in relation to this issue, there are no funds allocated on the current Department of Main Roads 5 year Roads Implementation Program as there are, at this stage, higher priority projects.

121. Mr G. Bradley

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts—

When did she tell Gerard Bradley he would no longer be required as Under Treasurer?

Mrs Sheldon: Mr Bradley and I held discussions on several occasions about the time of the change of Government. He was advised during one of those meetings.

Mr Bradley was offered a position as Director-General of another Department. Both this Government and the previous Government have assigned chief executives between Departments. Mr Bradley was told that he would in no way be disadvantaged.

He was further informed that it would be in his interest if he broadened his experience from a central agency to a line Department providing services to the public. Mr Bradley did not want to move from a central agency. He was then informed of two alternative senior positions for which he had appropriate qualifications, which offered increased remuneration.

Unfortunately, these negotiations broke down.

122. Proserpine/Whitsunday Airport

Mrs BIRD asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry—

With reference to Queensland Tourism—

- (1) What financial incentives will he be making to boost tourist numbers into the Whitsundays through the Proserpine/Whitsunday airport?
- (2) What action will he take to progress local moves to upgrade the airport to international standard and classification to international status?

Mr Davidson:

(1) There has been no need to make any financial incentives available to airlines to encourage them to commence services to the Proserpine/Whitsunday airport. Several international airlines are interested in operating charter flights to Proserpine airport.

I understand the Whitsunday Shire Council is investigating using a currently vacant building at the airport for customs, quarantine and immigration, should any of these charter airlines commence operations to Proserpine.

No request has been received from the Shire Council for financial assistance for this upgrade.

The Whitsunday Visitors and Convention Bureau (WVCB) currently receive an annual grant of \$100,000 from the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation (QTTC).

In addition to its funding as a Regional Tourism Association, the WVCB also receives up to \$75,000

through the QTTC's Convention and Incentives Program. These additional funds are available on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

(2) Several international airlines are interested in operating charter flights to Proserpine airport. They are proposing to operate Boeing 737s. The existing runway and operational facilities will not need to be upgraded to handle this type of aircraft.

When there is some certainty that larger aircraft will be scheduled to operate to the airport, and if the operational facilities at the airport are perceived to be unsuitable for larger aircraft, discussions will take place with the owner of the airport to develop a schedule for the upgrading of the airport to 767 standard. Some work has already been undertaken by the airport owner in regard to the requirements and cost of upgrading the airport to 767 standard.

For the charter flights to eventuate, the national passenger processing committee will have to approve the upgraded customs, quarantine and immigration facilities and the airport will then be classified as an international charter airport.

There is no suggestion from any international airline that scheduled services will be operated to Proserpine airport.

123. State Bank

Mrs EDMOND asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts—

With reference to a statement by the Member for Keppel on 24 September 1991 that said "we desperately need another mechanism to deal with tough times and a state bank looks the obvious answer" and in view of her own attitudes against a state bank—

- (1) What stance does she now take?
- (2) Is it (a) the National Party position, (b) her own position or (c) is she undecided?

Mrs Sheldon:

(1) You refer to the decision by the former Labor Government to restructure the QIDC as a bank under the Commonwealth Banking Act, and to my opposition, both to the structure chosen and to efforts by the then Treasurer to disguise the new structure of the QIDC.

(2)(b) My stance remains the same.

124. Ashgrove State School; Oakleigh State School; Newmarket State School

Mr FOURAS asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the "Building Better Schools" program—

- (1) Will the proposed refurbishment of Ashgrove State School, Oakleigh State School and Newmarket State School be undertaken?
- (2) If these projects are to proceed, what is the projected timetable for their completion?
- (3) What is the projected cost of these school refurbishments?

Mr Quinn:

(1) Yes

(2) It is anticipated that date of completion for the construction work to be carried out on the Ashgrove State School will be 31 October 1996. Furthermore, a security audit will be conducted at the school this month, with a view to completing the security upgrade by 31 July 1996.

The classroom upgrade work to be carried out on the Oakleigh State School will be physically completed in 1996-97. At this point in time the actual construction period has not been scheduled. The upgrade of school security will be undertaken with the same project timelines as Ashgrove State School.

The construction periods for work at the Newmarket State School has not yet been identified. However, the upgrade of security is programmed to occur in 1998-99.

(3) Cost estimates for construction work at the Oakleigh and Newmarket State Schools have not been ascertained, whilst the cost of construction at the Ashgrove State School is expected to be \$550,000. Similarly, until security audits have been undertaken at these schools, it is not possible to project accurately the cost of security upgrades.

125. Memorandum of Understanding between Police Union and Coalition

Mr NUNN asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice—

When did he first learn of the existence of a Memorandum of Understanding or draft Memorandum of Understanding to be signed by Mr Borbidge, Mr Cooper and the Police Union?

Mr Beanland: I first learnt of the existence of a Memorandum of Understanding or draft Memorandum from media reports sometime in February 1996.

126. Mr R. Grenning

Mr MILLINER asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister For Racing—

- (1) Does he have a senior adviser on his staff named Russell Grenning?
- (2) Is he the same person who worked in the Department of Transport?
- (3) If so, what is his salary and under what conditions is he currently employed?

Mr Cooper:

1. Yes

2. Yes

3. All Ministerial Staff are employed under exactly the same salary and conditions provisions as their relevant predecessors in the former Minister's Office.

128. Craddock Street Housing Redevelopment

Ms SPENCE asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing—

With reference to the Craddock Street Housing redevelopment—

- (1) When will Stage 1 of the rebuilding commence?
- (2) How many dwellings are planned for the site?
- (3) What is the estimated cost of the project?
- (4) How many person hours of employment will this project provide?

Mr Connor:

- (1) Stage 1 of the redevelopment will commence mid-June 1996.
- (2) A total of forty-two (42) units of accommodation is planned for the site. It is proposed that fourteen (14) units of accommodation be included in Stage 1 (10 apartments and 4 detached houses) and twenty-eight (28) units of accommodation (12 apartments, 4 attached houses and 12 seniors' units) be included in Stage 2.
- (3) The estimated cost of the project is four million dollars (\$4M).
- (4) Approximately 95,000 person hours will be dedicated to this project.

129. Housing Department Rental Homes, Zillmere

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing—

With reference to Department of Housing rental homes at 39, 43 and 47 Coxen Street, Zillmere and senior's units at 24 Rowell Street, Zillmere—

- (1) When will these homes and units be available for occupancy by tenants?
- (2) Does his department intend to refurbish or demolish any of these homes or units?
- (3) If so, what is the intention and expected completion date for each individual property?

Mr Connor:

(1) The three departmental houses at 39, 43 and 47 Coxen Street are to be sold for removal from the site forthwith. Detailed design work will commence concurrently to develop proposals for new public housing which best addresses the wait times in the Zillmere area. It is most likely the replacement housing proposed for these sites will be included in the 1997/98 Capital Works Program. My Department is seeking further technical advice on this matter which should be to hand within 5 to 10 days. If it is economically viable, these units will be repaired to enable early re-occupancy. More extensive refurbishment will then be programmed, probably to occur in 1996/97

(2) Refer to question (1).

(3) I have outlined the intention for the future of each of these properties, and general timing for the Coxen Street sites. Depending on the technical advice received, the Rowell Street units may be reoccupied during June, following some essential repairs and maintenance.

131. Narangba Industrial Estate

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry—

With reference to the Narangba Industrial Estate—

What is the current position regarding the completion of the Development Control Plan for the estate?

Mr Davidson:

(1) As the Member for Kallangur is no doubt aware the Development Control Plan has been prepared by a consultant for the Caboolture Shire Council and my Department.

(2) The Department has recently received the final draft of the Development Control Plan which has been referred to Caboolture Shire Council for assessment. Council is expected to give its endorsement by mid May 1996 provided it does not require significant amendments.

(3) After Council endorsement is obtained, the plan will be placed on public exhibition for comment as required by the relevant provisions of the Local Government (Planning and Environment) Act.

(4) The Department of Local Government and Planning is currently coordinating the whole of Government response to the draft document.

(5) It is hoped that gazettal of the Development Control Plan will occur towards the end of this year, and will then form part of the Town Planning Scheme for Caboolture Shire.

132. Coplicks Bridge, Tallebudgera

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

- (1) Is he aware that growth in population and hence increase in volume of traffic in the Tallebudgera area has made the one lane Coplicks Bridge on Connection Road inadequate and dangerous?
- (2) Will he acknowledge the safety of school children who need to cross the one-lane bridge to access the local Tallebudgera School is seriously at risk?
- (3) Will he direct his department to fast-track the upgrade of Coplicks Bridge?

Mr Johnson:

(1) Traffic volumes on Tallebudgera Connection Road are currently about 4600 vehicles per day in the vicinity of Coplicks Bridge, and as such the two-lane roadway is adequate from a capacity viewpoint. However, because of the tight curves on the approaches to the bridge, and the constrained sight distances, the project has been included in the Roads Implementation Program to commence in 1997/98 financial year.

(2) Provision for pedestrians is being made in the design of the project, and particularly in regard to the access needs for school children attending the Tallebudgera School.

(3) In view of the concerns expressed by the local community, I am considering an acceleration of the project with a view to completing it in 1997/98 financial year.

133. School Truancy, Inala Electorate

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the ongoing problems of truancy and non-attendance at schools of children aged 10-14 years in my electorate—

Will he consider convening a meeting of all interested parties including himself, the Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Racing and the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care as soon as practicable?

Mr Quinn: I am currently considering options for addressing truancy, non-attendance on a range of other behaviour issues, as a part of this Government's commitment to assisting schools with the management of behaviour through alternative programs.

Options being considered presently include recommendations for increased cooperation with other departments.

It is likely, that in the future, there will be closer collaboration with other relevant departments to find more, effective, ways of dealing with difficult behaviour.

134. Mr F. Jackson; Mr S. Johnson; Ms W. Armstrong

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Premier—

- (a) What salary and package is he paying to Mr Frank Jackson and Mr Stephen Johnson?
- (b) What is the basis of Wendy Armstrong's appointment to an unadvertised senior public service position within the Premier's portfolio?

Mr Borbidge:

(a) Mr Frank Jackson receives a salary at the level of SES 2, pay point 4, which is less than that which was paid to his counterpart in Mr Goss' office, Mr Denis Atkins, who received a salary within the SES 3 range.

Mr Steven Johnston receives a salary at the level of SES 3, pay point 2, which is less than that paid to Mr Craig Emerson, who it is understood performed the same type of duties in Mr Goss' office, who received a salary within the CEO 2 range.

Mr Johnston and Mr Jackson are provided with a motor vehicle.

(b) The basis of Wendy Armstrong's appointment in the Premier's portfolio is section 10E(2) of the Public Service Management and Employment Act 1988.

135. Logan River, Sandmining

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Environment—

With reference to the decisions by his department to approve sandmining applications in the Logan River by Logan River Sands, and Barkala, and consideration of a further application by Broadpark for approval to mine sand over the same reach of the Logan River—

- (1) On what basis were the two companies granted approval for sandmining?
- (2) What procedures have been put in place to monitor the sandmining, to ensure that the river is not badly affected and that erosion of the river's banks does not occur?

(3) Did he consider the strong concerns and objections of the residents of Bethania, Loganholme, Edens Landing, Tanah Merah and Eagleby, whose quality of life will be impacted by noise and dust from the sandmining operation, and the movement of trucks in suburban streets, and barges on the Logan and Albert Rivers?

(4) Was consideration given to the potential dangers to school children crossing Drews Road on their way to Loganholme State School; if so, what measures will be put in place to ensure the safety of those children on Drews Road which will be used by heavy double-dog trucks carrying sand?

(5) What consideration was given to the impact on fishing and on prawn farms on the lower reaches of the Logan River?

Mr Littleproud:

(1) The companies were granted permission under Section 67 of the Harbours Act 1955 to remove material for extractive purposes from the Logan River.

(2) The dredging is subject to a number of permit conditions governing where dredging can occur and which requires the permittee to undertake monitoring of the impact of dredging.

(3) The dredging permit restricts operating hours and dredging operations are subject to Department of Transport safety requirements for river operations. The Environment Protection Act 1994 applies with regard to air pollution such as dust and fumes and can be used should these become a problem. The management of noise is presently controlled under the Noise Abatement Act 1978 which provides the necessary legislative basis for controlling any site based nuisance noise issues. The management and approval of land-based operations is a matter for local government. Both the Logan and Gold Coast City Councils raised no objection to the dredging permit applications.

(4) Land based traffic considerations are issues for local government or the Department of Transport, and neither objected to the issue of the dredging permit in the river.

(5) The dredging operations will require a licence under the Environmental Protection Act 1994 and hence water quality is addressed under that licence. With adequate water quality controls there should be no impact on these down stream industries.

136. Appointment of Judges

Mr PURCELL asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice—

With reference to his promise prior to the 1995 election that a Coalition Government would appoint 5 extra judges to the Supreme or District Courts—

- (1) When will those five judicial appointments be completed?
- (2) Will he give an assurance that acting appointments are not to be counted as part of the five judicial appointments promised?

Mr Beanland:

(1) I am currently giving consideration to the number of judges required to sit on the Supreme and District Courts for the efficient functioning of those courts. The appointment of a new judge incurs large direct and indirect costs, and requires additional infrastructure which must also be accommodated. I am also undertaking a review of the Criminal Code which will have an impact on court workloads. Following consideration of all the issues the matter of appointment of further Judges will be considered.

(2) I am looking at a number of options for the more efficient conduct of the court system, and the appointment of new permanent judges. No matter how many permanent judges are appointed there will always be a need to appoint acting judges from time to time.

137. Contemporary Music Artists

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts—

With reference to the Federal Government's proposed Contemporary Music Export Fund—

(1) Will she provide matching funds to ensure that Queensland contemporary music artists are not 'overlooked' in grant allocations?

(2) Will she give an undertaking to Queensland contemporary music artists that they will be afforded equal treatment to those involved in all other art forms?

Mrs Sheldon:

(1) A commitment has been made to support the Music Industry Development Assistance Scheme. The Scheme, being funded by State and Federal Government, will assist Queensland artists, independent labels, managers and producers in the development of better product, promotion and marketing—locally, nationally and internationally, allowing Queensland export opportunities to be maximised.

Through the Office of Arts and Cultural Development, the State Government's commitment to this Program in the 1996/97 financial year is \$25,000. This investment will be ear-marked for Queensland projects.

(2) The funds committed for the Music Industry Development Assistance Scheme compliment existing programs catering to the needs of the contemporary popular music industry in Queensland.

The 1997 Arts Grant Program identifies contemporary popular music in its guidelines as a priority area for development. Operational funding to QMUSIC in 1996 provides a resource and development agency in Queensland focussing specifically on the contemporary popular music arena. I expect that QMUSIC will be seeking continued funding in 1997.

Through the work being undertaken by the Office of Business and Industry in association with the Office of Arts and Cultural Development, the specific needs of the contemporary popular music industry are being addressed, helping the industry initiate viable and sustainable solutions to its ongoing development.

138. Mr G. Bradley

Mr LIVINGSTONE asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts—

When did she notify the Premier that Gerard Bradley would not be required as Under Treasurer?

Mrs Sheldon: Mr Bradley and I had several discussions about the time of the change of Government. The Premier was advised of my intentions at or about that time of those talks.

Mr Bradley was offered a position as Director-General of another Department. Both this Government and the previous Government have assigned chief executives between Departments. Mr Bradley was told that he would in no way be disadvantaged.

He was further informed that it would be in his interest if he broadened his experience from a central agency to a line Department providing services to the public. Mr Bradley did not want to move from a central agency. He was then informed of two alternative senior positions for which he had appropriate qualifications, which offered increased remuneration.

Unfortunately, these negotiations broke down.

139. Rural Fire Brigades

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister For Sport—

With reference to Rural Fire Brigades—

(1) How many rural Fire Brigades are there in Queensland?

(2) What was the annual Budget for Rural Fires in 1989-1990

(3) What was the Budget in 1995-1996?

(4) How many new appliances were provided by the Government in 1988-89?

(5) How many such appliances were provided in 1989-90?

(6) How many such appliances were provided in 1995-96?

(7) How many appliances does he expect to provide for in 1996-97?

(8) What is the expected Budget for Rural Fires in 1996-97?

Mr Veivers:

(1) There are 1,607 registered Rural Fire Brigades in Queensland.

(2) The annual budget for the Rural Fire Board for FY 89/90 was \$2.55m.

(3) The approved expenditure budget for the Rural Fire Division for FY 95/96 is \$7.924m.

(4) No new appliances were provided in FY 88/89, however 9 used vehicles were refurbished and delivered to Brigades.

(5) No new appliances were provided in FY 89/90, however 19 used vehicles were refurbished and delivered to Brigades.

(6) 65 new appliances will be provided in FY 95/96.

(7) Current planning is for 44 appliances to be provided in FY 96/97.

(8) The proposed budget for FY 96/97 is \$7.262m.

141. Housing Department Rental Homes, Rasmussen

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing—

With reference to residents in departmental rental housing in Geoffrey Court, Rasmussen who, for at least the last seven years, have complained of unpleasant odours emanating from the adjacent sewerage pump station and to a letter addressed to me and dated 19 March 1996, from the Director, Engineering Services, Thuringowa City Council which stated "It is acknowledged that the odour (which is more commonly known as hydrogen sulphide) emanating from the pump station caused by the decomposition of raw sewerage is highly unpleasant and is considered a high priority matter" and despite endeavours by the Council and officers of the Department of Housing, the problem still exists—

- (1) In view of the health risks and the impact on the quality of life of residents, will he give instructions for the immediate transfer of tenants from the four houses most affected?
- (2) Will he give instructions that the four houses are to be left vacant until the problem is resolved?
- (3) Will he order his department to step up its efforts, in cooperation with Thuringowa Council, to remedy the situation?

Mr Connor: I am greatly concerned by the lack of action of the Thuringowa Council to correct the problem with the sewerage pump station located in proximity to Geoffrey Court, Rasmussen.

- (1) Accordingly, I will ask the Mayor of the Thuringowa Council for details of the problem with the pumping station and to provide information of what corrective measures are to be taken and a time frame for completion.
- (2) I will also be writing to the Department of Health and the Department of Environment seeking their urgent advice on whether this presents health risks.
- (3) Responses to those letters and advice from the Mayor of the Thuringowa Council will determine the course of action to be pursued.

142. Services for Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders, Townsville

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care—

With reference to a 12-point plan designed to assist indigenous people in Townsville to gain appropriate health, welfare and employment services to combat alcohol abuse and related homelessness that was developed during 1995 with its implementation being agreed by the State and Commonwealth Governments ATSIC, The Townsville City Council and leaders of the Townsville Aboriginal and Islander

Community and, in particular, the role of the State Government with the Department of Family Services as lead agency was considered crucial to the implementation of the 12-point plan in respect to the integration of actions covering departments other than Family Services—

- (1) As the success of the plan depends on full cooperation between a number of departments, have steps been taken in his department to ensure there is a coordinated approach to the implementation of the 12-point plan and will he assure the people of Townsville that the various departments who are crucial to the success of the program are working together to ensure real integration of planning and service delivery?
- (2) When will Local Law 51 be approved by the Minister for Local Government and Planning?
- (3) Has the Government prepared the necessary legislation to make the selling of methylated spirits for human consumption illegal?
- (4) What action has occurred to implement this 12 point plan?
- (5) When will work start on the proposed diversionary centre for Townsville?
- (6) Has Queensland Health provided specific detoxification programs for alcohol-damaged homeless people living in Townsville parks?
- (7) Has Queensland Health provided the two medical outreach workers to the parks people and assisted in seeking accommodation for indigenous people on discharge from hospital?
- (8) Has the Government assisted the local community to implement a night patrol system in Townsville parks?
- (9) Has the Queensland Department of Corrective Services commenced their program to assist indigenous people back to their own communities after release from prison?

Mr Lingard:

1. Implementation of the plan is the responsibility of the Townsville Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reference Committee and is being coordinated by the chairperson Ms Jenny Prior. The Regional Office of the Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs and other State and Commonwealth agencies are involved. I expect full cooperation between all Departments involved in finding solutions to the problems of homeless people residing in the parks.

2. Local Law 51 was approved by the Minister for Local Government and Planning on 17th April, 1996. Ms Jenny Prior, Townsville Regional Chairperson, and Mr Alec Illin, Regional Manager North Queensland of the Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs of my Department, recently met with the Mayor of Townsville, Councillor Tony Mooney, to discuss the implementation of Local Law 51.

3. Legislation in respect of human consumption of methylated spirits is not now contemplated. The Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs of my Department, (OATSIA), is conducting ongoing negotiations with store owners in an effort to

minimise, if not eradicate, the sale of methylated spirits for human consumption.

4. I am currently reviewing the approach to the problems of Townsville park dwellers, and the implementation of the 12 point plan will be considered in that context.

5. I am currently considering the options for the construction of the Townsville Diversionary Centre and will make an announcement in the near future.

6.&7. The Department of Health has received a new initiatives funding submission from the Townsville Health District relating to implementation of both proposals. This submission forms part of that portfolio's Public Drunkenness program, and the funding for both proposals will be considered in the context of the 1996/97 Budget.

8. No formal assistance has been requested from the Townsville local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community to establish the Night Patrol, however negotiations will continue through the reference group meetings. A representative from my Department is in attendance at each of these meetings.

9. Yes. The Queensland Corrective Services Commission (QCSC) has an established policy with regard to assisting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners with travel arrangements following release from prison. Prior to release, arrangements are made with the prisoner for his/her return to either the place of arrest or to their own community. Air travel can be approved in cases where the prisoner is from a remote community not easily accessible by road. The QCSC is also operating a Return Home Program in Mt Isa and Cairns for offenders who appear in court and are acquitted or fined or released on a Community Based Order. The program will commence operation in Townsville shortly.

143. Power Supply, Daintree Region

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Mines and Energy—

- (1) What advice has been relied on by the Queensland Government in their decision to supply reticulated power to the Daintree/Cape Tribulation coastline and will he table such advice?
- (2) What is the overall cost of each of the various options for mains power reticulation into the Daintree region?
- (3) What is the capital cost per customer and what is the contribution per customer for each option?
- (4) What is the annual community service obligation payment to the Far North Queensland Electricity Board for each option?
- (5) If the Government proposes a major subsidy in the Daintree area, how does it propose to maintain and fund equity across the State?
- (6) How does the Government intend to finance the initial major capital outlay and ongoing costs required to fund this scheme?

- (7) How does the outlay required for the consumer subsidy for reticulated power compare to the HRAPS/DRAPS once-only rebate and is he prepared to table a cost benefit analysis of this?
- (8) Does the Government intend to conduct an Environmental Impact Study; if so, what are its (a) terms of reference and (b) process of community consultation and review and does the Government intend to abide by the EIS findings?
- (9) Is the Government aware of the biological values of the area and how does it intend to fulfil its obligation to maintain these values with the installation of reticulated power?
- (10) What measures does the Government intend to take to avoid any detrimental impacts to the visual amenity or natural wilderness qualities of the region?
- (11) What will the effect of the future provision of power north of the Daintree River have on existing and projected power supply for the region?
- (12) What will the effect of the installation of reticulated power be upon the tourist industry which currently generates approximately \$100m annually within the region?
- (13) How will the Government ensure that the installation of reticulated power does not seriously compromise Australia's obligations under the World Heritage Convention?

Mr Gilmore:

- (1) The provision of reticulated electricity supply in the Daintree will be considered as part of this Government's strategic plan to provide electricity to remote Queenslanders. With respect to the Daintree, this Government will take advice from all relevant Departments and agencies, including the Departments for Environment, Mines and Energy and Tourism and the Far North Queensland Electricity Corporation. The Government has also taken advice from the families of the Daintree who overwhelmingly want environmentally responsible grid electricity.
- (2) The overall cost of each option is sensitive to the number of Daintree property owners who request connection to the grid. The Far North Queensland Electricity Corporation has advised that indicative figures for grid connection in the Forest Creek, Cape Kimberley and Cow Bay areas range from \$5.4 million to \$11.7 million, and are dependent on the optimal mix of construction methods employed.
- (3) The capital cost per customer varies from \$24,000 to \$46,000 depending on the methods of transmission line adopted and the number of customers able to take advantage of the reticulated electricity supply.
- (4) The community service obligation of the electricity supply to the Daintree is dependent on the type of construction of the transmission and distribution systems, the number of customers in the area, and the electricity needs of the customers. The FNQEC has advised that provision of electricity of the Daintree can be completed without the need for

ongoing community service obligations if the community contribute adequate capital contributions.

(5) I propose to treat the people of the Daintree in the same manner as other remote communities in Queensland, such as those of the Cape York Peninsula. The Government may make Community Service Obligations payments in line with existing remote communities as established by the former Government.

(6) The provision of electricity for the Daintree by the Far North Queensland Electricity Corporation would be self financed by the electricity industry and would not require any additional debt burden on the State of Queensland through the raising of additional loans.

(7) The Government does not propose a major subsidy for the provision of electricity to the Daintree residents. The major comparison that can be drawn between the provision of grid electricity and the HRAPS and DRAPS programs is that the latter does not include significant costs that must be met by the Daintree residents, for example the ongoing fuel and maintenance costs, and equipment replacement costs for batteries and generator sets. I do not intend to table information of a commercial nature provided by the FNQEC in Parliament.

(8) The Government will ensure that the Far North Queensland Electricity Corporation conducts an Environmental Impact Study. The terms of reference of such studies will be in accord with all relevant Acts and will require substantial public consultation. I will ensure that all the activities conducted in the delivery of electricity to the Daintree will meet the requirements of the Environmental Impact Study.

(9) The Government is fully aware of the biological values of the area through the work of its own agencies and consultants. These values will be protected through the development of sensitive and sensible construction programs and the ongoing monitoring of the wilderness areas in the Daintree.

(10) The Government will ensure that the Environmental Impact Study and subsequent construction activities identify potential detrimental impacts to the visual amenity and natural wilderness qualities of the region and that approved plans are developed and implemented to alleviate these concerns.

(11) The provision of reticulated power north of the Daintree will mean that these communities will consume more electricity than currently used as they enjoy the same benefits of a world competitive electricity supply that all other Queenslanders have access to. It will mean that individual residents will no longer be treated as second class citizens and will not need to supply their electricity from inefficient and expensive diesel generators.

(12) The provision of electricity to the Daintree community will be carried out in a way that ensures the continued prosperity of the unique tourism elements of the Daintree region.

(13) The Government intends to ensure that the installation of reticulated power supply does not seriously compromise the obligations under the World Heritage Convention by undertaking an

Environmental Impact Study and ensuring approved plans are developed and implemented to alleviate any concerns raised in the study. Additionally continued monitoring of the Heritage listed area will be undertaken by the responsible Queensland and Commonwealth agencies.

144. Compulsory Third-party Insurance Premiums

Mr HOLLIS asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts—

With reference to the impost of a \$66.50 increase in Compulsory Third Party Insurance premiums and as insurance companies have been claiming for some time that they are making a loss in this area of insurance—

- (1) If third party insurance is running at a loss, will she explain why insurance companies have continually touted for this business?
- (2) Did she inquire into the profitability of insurance companies handling this insurance?
- (3) Why does she refuse to release the Actuaries Report on Third Party Insurance?

Mrs Sheldon:

(1) CTP insurance is "long tail" liability business and those companies writing the risk are not in it for the short term.

The governing legislation places minimum market share requirements on all insurers which necessitates marketing activity to gain and maintain the required share of the business. Insurers' marketing activity is also placing due regard to the basic insurance principle of spread of risk.

(2) The CTP scheme is underwritten by the private insurance industry. Those insurers carrying the risk are entitled to a reasonable level of profit given their capital exposure.

In terms of the Motor Accident Insurance Act 1994 the Government has a responsibility to set the premium rates but this requirement is well formulated to ensure an independent and fair process is followed.

Essentially the process entails the Motor Accident Insurance Commission operating independently of Government in—

taking submissions on premiums from insurers and organisations representing motorists;

arranging an analysis of the Queensland scheme by independent qualified actuaries; and

making a recommendation to Government of premium rates that will ensure a fully funded system is maintained.

It is not a simple matter of inquiring into the profitability of the insurance companies but rather a detailed examination of claim lodgement trends and settlement costs. On this claims experience the skill and judgement of the actuaries in predicting future developments and costs forms the basis for determining the appropriate premium level.

(3) The actuarial reports contain commercially sensitive information particularly of the major CTP insurers Suncorp and FAI which makes it inappropriate for tabling in this House. This is the third independent actuarial analysis of the scheme and both the previous analyses were not tabled by the previous Government for the same reason.

Premiums need to rise because of changes in the claims experience and the level has been determined following a process very much independent of Government and without influence from the insurance industry or other stakeholders on the Motor Accident Insurance Commission.

145. Pacific Highway

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

With reference to the decision to upgrade the Pacific Highway between the Logan Motorway and the Smith Street Motorway—

- (1) Will he provide departmental estimates of current daily traffic volumes and predicted traffic volumes for the years 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016, 2021 and 2026 for each of the following sections of the South East Freeway/Pacific Highway (a) Brisbane CBD to Ipswich Road, (b) Ipswich Road to Klumpp Road/Mains Road, (c) Klumpp Road/Mains Road to Gateway Motorway, (d) Gateway Motorway to Watland Street, (e) Watland Street to Loganlea Road, (f) Loganlea Road to Beenleigh-Redland Bay Road, (g) Beenleigh-Redland Bay Road to Logan Motorway, (h) Logan Motorway to Logan River, (i) Logan River to Albert River, (j) Albert River to Pimpama River, (k) Pimpama River to Coomera River, (l) Coomera River to Gold Coast Highway, (m) Gold Coast Highway to Smith Street Motorway, (n) Smith Street Motorway to Nerang Broadbeach Road, (o) Nerang Broadbeach Road to Reedy Creek Road, (p) Reedy Creek Road to Stewart Road and (q) Stewart Road to Terranora Creek?
- (2) Will he supply any other predicted traffic volume models for the above listed sections of highway and associated on and off ramps prepared by his department?

Mr Johnson:

(1) The 1995 daily traffic volumes, averaged over the sections you specified are (a) 129,000 between Brisbane CBD and Ipswich Road, (b) 112,000 between Ipswich Road and Klumpp Road/Mains Road, (c) 67,000 between Klumpp Road/Mains Road and Gateway Motorway, (d) 100,000 between Gateway Motorway and Watland Street, (e) 87,000 between Watland Street and Loganlea Road, (f) 84,000 between Loganlea Road to Beenleigh-Redland Bay Road, (g) 75,000 between Beenleigh-Redland Bay Road and Logan Motorway, (h) 75,000 between Logan Motorway to Logan River, (i) 59,000 between Logan River and Albert River, (j) 48,000 between Albert River to Pimpama River, (k) 52,000 between Pimpama River and Coomera River, (l) 48,500 between Coomera River and Gold Coast Highway, (m) 68,000 between Gold Coast Highway

and Smith Street Motorway, (n) 49,000 between Smith Street Motorway and Nerang-Broadbeach Road, (o) 44,000 between Nerang-Broadbeach Road and Reedy Creek Road, (p) 34,500 between Reedy Creek Road and Stewart Road and (q) 25,000 between Stewart Road and Terranora Creek.

The only available traffic projections at this time are for the Logan and Coomera River crossings and for the years 2006 and 2011. The projections suggest daily volumes of 111,000 and 130,000 at the Logan River crossing in years 2006 and 2011 respectively, and 123,000 and 164,000 at the Coomera River crossing in years 2006 and 2011 respectively.

(2) Details of projected traffic volumes on the Logan Motorway to Nerang section of the Pacific Highway will become publicly available as part of the Impact Management Plan process. I will consider the release and timing of traffic projections on other sections of the Pacific Highway when the information comes to hand.

146. Mackay Community Helicopter Service

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport—

With reference to the Government commitment to provide \$1.5m funding to the Rockhampton Community Based Helicopter Service and the announcement by Her Excellency the Governor Leneen Forde of an increase in recurrent funding to Community Helicopter providers—

- (1) Is the Mackay Community Helicopter Service to receive the same level of funding; if so, when will this happen?
- (2) To what extent will recurrent funding be increased?
- (3) If not, why is the Mackay community being expected to provide greater financial support than that expected of the Rockhampton community?

Mr Veivers:

(1) Funds of \$300,000 per annum were provided in February 1996 together with an additional \$100,000 from the Motor Accident Insurance Commission (MAIC) for the first year of operation to the Rockhampton Community Based Helicopter Service. The same level of funding has been included in the 1995/96 budget for the Mackay Community Helicopter Service.

This funding will be provided as soon as the financial viability of the proposed operation has been verified through an examination of its business plan, which was received by my Department on 3 April 1996, and once they have signed a service agreement with the Department of Emergency Services. The Service Agreement deals with operational, medical and reporting requirements and is similar to the agreement recently signed with the Rockhampton Community Based Helicopter Service. The financial business plan and service agreement approach is designed to provide certainty of service delivery and operating standards for the benefit of the public as well as an assured level of funding support from the Government.

(2) The question of the level of any increase in recurrent funding is currently being considered by the Department of Emergency Services in consultation with officers of the Treasury and other stakeholders including the community helicopter providers. My Department is preparing a draft Cabinet submission for my consideration dealing with the proposed level of increased funding subject to budget considerations for the forthcoming financial year.

(3) This question has been addressed in my reply to Mr Mulherin's first point (1).

The Government remains committed to continuing close consultation and liaison with the organising committee of the Mackay Community Based Helicopter Service, health services and Local Government in the region in order to progress this important initiative.

147.Orchid Beach Airstrip, Fraser Island

Mr NUNN asked the Minister for Environment—

With reference to press reports stating that he has expressed support for re-opening the Orchid Beach airstrip on Fraser Island—

- (1) Is the airstrip land now part of the Great Sandy National Park?
- (2) Is he aware that illegal landings are already occurring on the airstrip?
- (3) Is he aware that in the event of an accident occurring on the airstrip, the State could be liable for injury or damage caused to any person as a result?
- (4) Does he intend to allow the airstrip to operate in the National Park or does he intend to excise the airstrip from the National Park?
- (5) In either case, who will be responsible for the ongoing costs of maintenance and insurance of the airstrip?

Mr Littleproud:

(1) Yes, the land on which the airstrip is situated is now part of Great Sandy National Park.

(2) I have been advised of reports of illegal landings occurring on the airstrip. Department of Environment staff on Fraser Island have sought to investigate these reports but have not been able to confirm the reports nor obtain any details of aircraft which may have landed on the closed airstrip.

(3) I am aware that as a landowner, under common law, the State may be subject to litigation arising from use of the airstrip irrespective of the fact that the airstrip is currently closed and marked as closed in accordance with Civil Aviation Safety Authority guidelines, and notwithstanding that any such pilot would not have landowner approval to land on the airstrip.

(4 & 5) There is provision within the Nature Conservation Act to allow for a functional airstrip to exist on a national park. These provisions can enable an airstrip to be operated and managed by private individuals or organisations under a lease and deed

of agreement arrangement. No final determinations have been made on this matter.

148.Sandgate Ambulance Station

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport—

Is there to be a reduction in staff numbers at the Sandgate Ambulance Station; if so, how many and what is the reason behind this decision?

Mr Veivers: The QAS Greater Brisbane Region has recently completed, with the assistance of the University of Queensland, Department of Social and Preventative Medicine, a comprehensive analysis of workload and demand throughout the Region. This analysis has demonstrated a clear requirement to restructure the way services are delivered in the Region to better meet the needs and expectations of the community with respect to the delivery of high quality, efficient and effective ambulance services. Following extensive consultation with staff, union and community representatives the Region is planning the establishment of two separate Operational Units to deliver emergency services and non-urgent/routine services respectively.

To facilitate this restructure the Region will be redistributing existing resources in order to match resource levels to the community's demand for service. Under this proposal the resource profile at Sandgate Ambulance Station is to be adjusted from the current staff of 20 to a staff establishment of 17. This level of staffing will maintain 24 hour emergency response cover to this community, in addition to providing a patient transport vehicle and two clinic vehicles to meet the demand for non-urgent services in this area.

The redistribution of resources and establishment of a Patient Transport Service business unit will reduce demand on emergency units within the Sandgate area allowing for the redeployment of some staff to a proposed QAS facility in the Pine Rivers Shire which will further enhance coverage to the area.

The recent study also identified the need in the medium term to relocate the existing Sandgate Station several kilometres west to a more central location within its catchment area. This need will be addressed in the five year capital works program for the Region.

149.Police Resources, Lytton Electorate

Mr BURNS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing—

With reference to the Liberal-National Party Coalition Government promise of more police on the beat, yet the perception in Wynnum, Manly and Lota is that whilst there appears to be more police at the new police station, police are hard to contact and less visible in the suburbs and to local complaints that (a) an open fire that was lit and burned on The Esplanade from 8pm to 3am without any police patrol seeing or acting on the drunken yobbs around the illegal fire, (b) phone calls regarding thefts are met with police demands that those who have had

property stolen visit the police station to complain "as we don't take complaints over the phone", (c) calls to the station in the evening unanswered and (d) conversations with police are made public—

- (1) Will he supply details of police numbers at Wynnum Station, giving details of various ranks and responsibilities of officers, both approved strength and actual strength?
- (2) Are all rosters fully manned?
- (3) When will Wynnum/Manly receive extra police promised?
- (4) What are the Water Police numbers in Lytton?
- (5) When will Water Police numbers be increased?
- (6) Given the scandalous publication of untrue, defamatory material in the *Wynnum Herald* of 17 April 1994 (page 2) alleging a man in a green Sigma (giving the registration number) was following boys and the subsequent retraction, will he end the use of police files and material by reporters?

Mr Cooper:

(a) No complaints were received in relation to an alleged open fire on The Esplanade. The police have received no evidence to substantiate this incident occurred.

(b) Police officers at Wynnum never demand complainants to visit the station to complain. Depending on the circumstances existing at the time the offence is reported—type of offence; seriousness of offence; possibility of evidence being obtained at the scene; workload on police—some offences are not attended to by a police officer, but complainants are asked to attend the police station. In all incidents where there is a possibility of any evidence being obtained at the scene, police attend the scene. In instances of minor offences, e.g., minor stealing offences, complainants are asked to attend the police station at their convenience to allow police officers to attend to other more urgent tasks.

It is Queensland Police Service policy within the Wynnum Police District not to take any complaints from people over the telephone. This is to allow officers to gain evidence from the victim that may not be able to be gained over the telephone.

(c) Wynnum Police Station is staffed by at least one police officer at ALL TIMES. On some occasions, this officer being the only one present, is required to attend to the numerous tasks of the station supervisor, e.g., counter duties, telephone inquiries, watchhouse duties, or station security. During these times, one of the three incoming telephones may not be answered. These duties would involve short time periods and if the caller were to telephone the police station again would more than likely be answered.

All members of the public are constantly reminded of the fact that the Wynnum Police Station is staffed on a 24 hours basis, however, if unable to get through then telephone 000 in an emergency.

(d) The honourable member may be speaking about an article which appeared in the *Wynnum Herald* about his daughter and himself. This article was written when the other party in this incident spoke

directly to a reporter from the *Wynnum Herald* and not to any police officers from the Wynnum Police Station.

(1) As at 22 April 1996, the Queensland Police Service staffing module strength for the Wynnum Police Station is 30 police officers consisting of one Senior Sergeant; four Sergeants; six Senior constables and 19 Constables.

The actual strength of Wynnum Police Station as at 29 April 1996 is 28 police officers consisting of one Senior Sergeant; five Sergeants; six Senior Constables and 16 Constables. Another Senior Constable has been transferred to Wynnum Police Station and will take up duties in the very near future.

The Senior Sergeant is the Officer in Charge of the station and is an Administrator and Supervisor.

The Sergeants are Duty Sergeants who are first line Supervisors/Advisers and includes being the Watchhouse Keeper. One of the Sergeants is the District Community Liaison Officer.

The Senior Constables and Constables are General Duties Police.

(2) The Wynnum Police Station is staffed on a 24 hour basis and rosters are drawn to have sufficient staff on each shift.

(3) The staffing model strength for the Wynnum Police Division is 30, the actual strength is 28 which is two down. As vacancies are filled, Wynnum will be at full strength.

As the numbers of service members of the Queensland Police Service are increased, they will be placed in areas in the state with the greater needs. There is no date set for extra police being placed in the Wynnum Division.

(4) The suburb of Lytton falls within the boundaries of the Wynnum Police District. The Queensland Police Service staffing module strength for the Wynnum District Water Police is four police officers consisting of one Sergeant; two Senior constables and one Constable. This is also the present allocation of police officers to this establishment.

(5) The staff strength of the Wynnum District Water Police was increased from two police officers to four police officers in December 1994. It is unknown when staff numbers within the Wynnum District Water Police will be increased again. If a need is identified, action will be taken to meet that need.

(6) The article in the *Wynnum Herald* on 17 April 1996 relates to a complaint, whereby a person driving the vehicle described, followed a young boy. The young boy gave the police the registered number of the vehicle, which was needed to ascertain the owners of the vehicle. Upon further investigation, the registration number given was found to be incorrect. The owners of the vehicle, nominated to police, have been spoken to and once advised of the seriousness of the offence, understood the reasons for the urgent need to locate the vehicle.

The *Wynnum Herald* has paid for new registration plates for these people. This matter occurred due to the incorrect information being supplied to the Queensland Police Service, a fact that will occur from time to time.

It must be remembered that, at the time, the matter was serious and police utilised all available resources to ascertain the identity of the offender.

150. Control of Locusts; Protection of National Parks

Mr De LACY asked the Minister for Environment—

- (1) Is he aware of any likely requirement for the control of locust populations in parts of western Queensland in the coming months?
- (2) Is he aware of the methods which will be employed to control such locust populations?
- (3) What insecticides or pesticides is he aware are likely to be used in such control measures?
- (4) Will he give an undertaking that no aerial spraying of such substances will occur over any National Park?
- (5) What measures has he put in place to ensure the protection of the integrity of National Parks in this regard?

Mr Littleproud:

(1, 2 & 3) The Australian Plague Locust Commission and the Department of Natural Resources monitor and control known infestations of Australian Plague Locust and the Spur-throated Locust.

Aerial spraying is the common form of control using an organophosphate, usually Fenitrothian.

(4 & 5) To date spraying against locusts on western national parks has not occurred and it is not anticipated such action would be necessary. However, the Department would continue to cooperate with neighbours in managing boundary areas of the parks.

151. Electricity Supply

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Mines and Energy—

With reference to the Government's recent call for bids for the supply of 600 MW of new electricity generating capacity—

- (1) Is the Government committed to the implementation of the Queensland Greenhouse Response Strategy?
- (2) What does he understand to be the principles of least cost energy planning?
- (3) Does he support, and will the Government apply, the principles of least cost energy planning in the assessment of the forthcoming bids; if so, what measures is the Government taking to ensure that least cost planning forms the basis of decision making affecting the bidding process for the future supply of electricity?
- (4) In this round of bids, will the Government consider bids to reduce the overall energy demand of the State through demand side management or conservation measures as part of a strategy for meeting future supply needs?

- (5) Will he provide a copy of the tender documents showing the criteria upon which the assessment of this round of bids are based?
- (6) Who will be primarily responsible for the assessment of the bids and what role, if any, will be played by each of Austa, Powerlink and the QTSC respectively in the assessment of the bids?

Mr Gilmore:

(1) The Government is committed to the principles and objectives behind the Queensland Greenhouse Response Strategy. The implementation of this strategy is currently being reviewed to find the most effective and practical solutions to meet the challenge of achieving the greenhouse gas emission targets for 2000 and 2010.

(2) The basic principle of least cost energy planning is to minimise the cost of energy to customers while taking into account Government obligations in terms of environmental, social and economic policy.

(3) These principles will be applied in the assessment of forthcoming bids associated with the capacity requirements for 1999 and 2000. The Government has established an independent Tender Assessment Panel to ensure that the evaluation methodology is designed to select the best value project(s) for Queensland.

(4) Both demand side management and conservation measures will be treated on an equal basis as all other energy project types, and will be required to meet the same selection criteria in order to be considered. This is consistent with the Government's "no regrets" policy in relation to alternative energy and energy conservation projects.

(5) The tender documents can be obtained from the 16th Floor of 61 Mary Street on the completion of a confidentiality agreement and payment of \$100.

(6) The Tender Assessment Panel will be responsible for the assessment of bids. This Panel is chaired by an independent person and comprises a senior representative from each QTSC, the Department of Mines and Energy, and Queensland Treasury. The Panel will also be supported by independent legal, technical and economic advisers. A probity auditor will oversee the development and execution of the bidding process to ensure that the process is open with minimal barriers to all capable bidders, and that all bidders receive equitable treatment.

AUSTA Electric will be one of the many possible bidders for the opportunity to provide additional capacity for 1999/2000. AUSTA's bid will be assessed on the same basis as any other bid, and will receive no advantage or favour throughout the competitive bidding process. AUSTA will play no part in the evaluation of bids.

Powerlink will provide information to bidders relating to such items as connection charges, metering requirements and technical standards. Again, this corporation will play no role in the actual evaluation of bids.

QTSC as a representative on the Tender Assessment Panel and issuer of the "Invitation

to Bid" will be involved in the evaluation of bids. QTSC will provide advice to the Panel on process and methodology of bid evaluation. However, it will be the Panel (supported by its independent advisers) that will be responsible for the evaluation of bids.

152. Crisis Housing

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing—

With reference to affordable short-term crisis housing—

- (1) What is the current position regarding the provision of housing to the community sector for use as affordable short-term crisis housing?
- (2) What action has he taken to ensure that adequate recurrent funding is provided to the community sector to provide short-term crisis housing in Queensland?
- (3) Will he specifically detail any additional funding and support to the Pine Rivers and Caboolture areas for short-term crisis housing?

Mr Connor:

(1) The Government provides substantial support for both long and short term housing to the community sector. In addition to the Commonwealth Specific Crisis Accommodation Program (CAP), Queensland funds and supports short term housing through the community rent scheme. C.A.P. funds non-profit community based organisations and local authorities for the purchase, construction and lease of accommodation for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, in crisis and in need of transitional support in the move towards independent living.

In Queensland, C.A.P. presently funds the lease of 73 units of private accommodation for community organisations and also provides 596 units of accommodation owned by my department and leased to community organisations.

(2) The supported accommodation assistance program (SAAP), which is administered by the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care (DFY&CC), is responsible for providing recurrent funds to resource community organisations to enable them to manage short term crisis accommodation. S.A.A.P. complements C.A.P, which provides capital funds for the purchase and construction of properties and recurrent funds for ongoing rent subsidies for the lease of privately owned accommodation. In addition, the government provides recurrent funding through the community rent scheme (CRS) to provide assistance to people on the public housing waiting list with an immediate housing need. CRS has recently been expanded to include assistance for survivors of domestic violence.

(3) Allocation of assistance under C.A.P. is determined through an annual funding round. Applications for assistance in the current funding round have been received from the Pine Rivers and Caboolture areas and these are being considered in the context of a submission to be considered for

joint approval by myself and the Commonwealth Housing Minister. Currently, Government is supporting five privately leased dwellings and 30 dwellings owned by the department in the Redcliffe area which are leased to community organisations to enable them to provide short-term crisis accommodation.

153. Dialysis Equipment, Maryborough Base Hospital

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the fact that approximately 80 people of the Wide Bay Burnett region have to travel to either Nambour, Toowoomba or Brisbane to access a kidney dialysis machine at great discomfort and expense—

Will he consider establishing such a facility at Maryborough Base Hospital which is very central to the region being 1 hour travel from Bundaberg, 1 hour from Gympie, about 1 and a half hours from Gayndah and Biggenden and 25 minutes from Childers and Hervey Bay?

Mr Horan: A four chair renal unit is presently being established at the Bundaberg Hospital and is due for completion in May 1996. A nephrologist has been appointed. The Bundaberg renal unit will complement the regional renal unit which is being constructed as part of the new Hervey Bay Hospital. This new Hospital is due for completion in April 1997.

These two units will provide local renal services to people from the surrounding communities and health districts, including Maryborough. These units will further complement the Borbidge Government's commitment to the people of Maryborough: this commitment includes the \$9.5 million stage two redevelopment of the Maryborough Hospital. The construction of this stage is due to commence in early 1997. Following redevelopment, the Maryborough Hospital will be in a position to provide a broader range of specialist services, including a regional acute rehabilitation service. The redevelopment as a whole will rationalise the hospital: inpatient areas will be consolidated; intensive care, coronary care and high dependency post-operative patients will be collocated; operating theatre suites, rehabilitation facilities, and education, pharmacy, and dental areas will be improved. Stage two works will be centred on the main block and associated areas.

154. SEQ 2001 Project

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Local Government and Planning—

Does the government remain committed to the South East Queensland 2001 regional planning project?

Mrs McCauley: Since becoming Minister, I have visited the Far North Queensland and Wide Bay regions and received favourable reports from Councils and other groups involved in regional planning projects there. I have also received representations from Councils and community groups supporting the continuation of other existing regional planning projects. These representations

have included letters from the South East Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils (SEQROC) and other Sub-ROCs in South East Queensland strongly supporting the continuation of the SEQ 2001 Project.

The Government has endorsed the continuation of the existing regional planning projects, including SEQ 2001, and the role of my Department in promoting and supporting regional planning coordination generally.

The continuation of existing regional planning projects or the establishment of new ones will however, be subject to appropriate principles to ensure the achievement of the Government's objectives in relation to Local Government autonomy, local economic development and ecologically sustainable development.

Over the next three months, with the assistance of the regional planning advisory committees themselves, I will be examining the terms of reference, membership and work programs of the existing regional planning projects, including SEQ 2001, to ensure that they accord with these principles.

As you are all aware, South East Queensland is experiencing rapid growth and is, in fact, the fastest growing metropolitan area in Australia. The Government intends to continue to encourage this rapid economic and population growth but this will be balanced by the need to achieve sustainability and to provide infrastructure and services for the growing population. The SEQ 2001 Project provides a forum in which the three spheres of Government and community groups can work together to address these issues in a cooperative manner.

Because of the significant transport issues facing South East Queensland and the need for the three spheres of Government to work together to tackle these, Cabinet has agreed that the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, the Hon. Vaughan Johnson, will become a member of the SEQ 2001 South East Queensland Regional Coordination Committee (RCC).

I intend to call a meeting of the RCC shortly so that it can continue its important work.

155. Brisbane Festival and Brisbane Biennial; Woodford Folk Festival

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts—

With reference to her announcement of increased State Government backing for the new Brisbane Festival and the Brisbane Biennial International Music Festival—

Will she also provide increased State Government backing for the Woodford Folk Festival which is arguably the largest Arts/cultural event in Australia?

Mrs Sheldon: The Queensland Folk Federation has received significant levels of funding over the past four years with \$638,035 provided through the Queensland Office of Arts and Cultural Development. Of these funds, \$461,035 has been allocated under the Cultural Facilities Program

towards land purchase/redevelopment at Woodford and \$177,000 through the Arts Grant Program. This level of funding is substantial and recognises the Festival's significant growth and the need for the establishment of a new Festival site.

The role of the Festival in the ongoing development of contemporary folk music and the contribution of the Festival to the health of the Queensland cultural and economic environment is recognised. I expect that a submission for continued operational funding will be made in the forthcoming round of funding under the Arts Grant Program. This application will receive proper consideration through the established assessment process. In relation to considering additional backing for the Festival, at this stage no application for funding has been submitted for consideration by the Festival.

157. Noise Barriers, South East Freeway

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

With reference to the noise amelioration barriers planned for that stretch of the South East Freeway from Princess Alexandra Hospital to the Stanley Street Exit by the Labor Government—

- (1) Will the noise barriers be constructed or not?
- (2) Has he made any decision regarding the concerns of local residents about height and placement of these noise barriers; if so, what has he decided?
- (3) When will the noise barrier project begin and when will it be completed?

Mr Johnson: (1) and (3) The noise barriers will be constructed but are currently deferred pending resolution of issues associated with the proposed busways and possible upgrading of the Freeway.

(2) Additional noise readings and checks of previous noise readings are completed and the original design has been amended to accommodate many of the issues raised during the public consultation in early February 1996.

The amendments are as follows:-

- (a) The gap in the barriers between Abingdon and Lockhart Streets will be closed with a 2.0 metre high barrier.
- (b) Barriers will be provided opposite Reid Street in order that the Departmental criterion level will be met.
- (c) The proposed barriers in the vicinity of Abingdon Street have been increased to 3 metres in height.
- (d) The proposed barriers in the vicinity of Morrisey Street has been extended as far as possible towards Ipswich Road.

158. Police Resources, Mount Morgan

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing—

With reference to the July 1995 State Election campaign, the National Party's candidate for Fitzroy promised that a Coalition Government would re-establish police numbers in Mount Morgan from four to six—

Is he prepared to honour the commitment given by the National Party candidate or was the promise a cynical attempt to win votes?

Mr Cooper: Cabinet has already approved, in principle, a Coalition electoral undertaking that the sworn strength of the Queensland Police Service be increased to 9100 by the year 2005. This will necessitate the creation of 2780 new police officer positions compared to the extra 1420 promised by the former Government.

In the context of its deliberation over the 1996/7 Budget, the Government is now considering the number of additional positions to be created over the next three years. When that process is complete, the Commissioner of Police will determine the allocation of the additional police to specific branches and localities, not me. I have no intention of interfering in the making of an operational decision by the Commissioner.

At that stage, however, I will be glad to provide all Honourable Members with advice regarding the extent to which police numbers will increase in areas within their electorates.

159. Speed Limit, Bruce Highway

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

As boredom and fatigue are important factors in road accidents, particularly on long, featureless sections of highways, and with reference to the success of present trial sections on the Landsborough and Bruce Highways—

Will he give priority to increasing the speed limit to 110kph on many such sections, particularly the section of the Bruce Highway between the Fred Haigh Dam and Benaraby, usually referred to as the "Gin Gin/Miriam Vale Horror Stretch"?

Mr Johnson: Driver fatigue is becoming increasingly recognised as a road safety problem and it is believed that about one third of all road crashes involve fatigue as a contributing factor. Fatigue related crashes contribute about 4% to the Queensland road toll and cost the community some \$40 million per year.

To reduce the incidence of driver fatigue through education and engineering solutions, radio advertising and roadside billboard signs are used to increase community awareness of the effects of driver fatigue and to advise drivers to take rest stops when driving long distances.

During "high risk" times such as holiday periods, additional emphasis is given to the education of motorists and the provision of rest stops through the "Driver Reviver" program.

Road-based engineering solutions that are effective in reducing fatigue related crashes include the provision of adequate rest stops, better road signing and the use of fatigue alerting devices such as audible edge lines and rumble strips.

Evaluation of a special anti fatigue program undertaken in Central Queensland indicates that audible edge lines, in particular, are very effective in

reducing fatigue related crashes. The benefit cost ratio for the Central Queensland fatigue countermeasure program is about 4:1 in the first year and approaching 20:1 over the life of the treatment.

Recognising fatigue related problems on the Bruce Highway, Queensland Transport is progressively implementing fatigue countermeasures at strategic locations. Audible edge lines, rest areas, fatigue and billboard signs are being used on the section of the highway between Gin Gin and Benaraby.

Contrary to the belief of some people, increasing the driving speed is not effective in combating the driver fatigue problem. Higher speeds would however increase the severity outcome of a crash. 110 km/h zones should only be introduced on roads which are built to a certain standard which would ensure safety.

As part of the development of an overall speed management strategy for Queensland a series of 110 km/h zones have been undergoing trial throughout the State.

The evaluation of the trial use of 110 km/h speed limit in Queensland is continuing, and the results will be considered in the overall speed management strategy which will address the future speed limits, including 110 km/h, in Queensland. This evaluation should be completed by June 1996.

The present 110 km/h speed limit zones will be expanded where appropriate as part of the implementation of the Speed Management Strategy.

BRUCE HIGHWAY (GIN GIN-BENARABY)

The section of the Bruce Highway from Fred Haigh dam (19 km north of Gin Gin) to Benaraby is 124 kilometres long, with an open speed limit of 100 km/h.

In a five year period between 1991 and 1995, there were 32 fatigue related crashes on this section of the Bruce Highway between Gin Gin and Benaraby.

Because of the relatively poor alignment and other constraints such as visibility and the number of accesses, it is considered that the section between the Fred Haigh Dam and Bororen may not meet the criteria for establishing a 110km/hr zone.

Several sections of this road have been treated with audible edge lines in the last two years.

Nearly 10km of the road is programmed for upgrading in the next four (4) years including realignment, widening and overtaking lanes. These are

- Fairbairn Flats (2.6 km in 1996/97/98).
- North of Granite Creek (1.2 km in 1997/98/99).
- Fairbairn Flats to Barivelo (5.7 km in 1997/98/99).
- House Creek Crossing (at Miriam Vale in 1999/2000).

A project to upgrade a 4.2 km section northwards from Bororen is currently under way.

As these works are completed, it would be appropriate to reconsider the case for increasing the speed limit in accordance with the evaluation criteria and experience.

160. Powerlink; South East Queensland Electricity Corporation

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Mines and Energy—

With reference to the Powerlink workshops at Northgate, Brisbane and the South East Queensland Electricity Corporation facilities at Blinzinck Road, Banyo and Bilsen Road, Geebung—

- (1) What is the current number of employees employed in the categories of permanent, temporary and casual in each of the award streams (eg professional, managerial, technical and administrative) in each of these establishments respectively?
- (2) What is the projected number of employees to be employed in these categories over the next three years in each of these establishments?
- (3) What is the reason for any proposed increase or decrease in employee numbers?
- (4) How many people are engaged on a 'labour only' contract basis to each of these establishments and in what capacity?

Mr Gilmore:

- (1) The current number of employees employed in each of these establishments by category is as follows:

Powerlink Northgate

	PROFNL/MANGRL	TECH	ADMIN	TOTAL
PERMANENT	27	115	33	175
TEMPORARY	0	1	0	1
CASUAL	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	27	116	33	176

SEQEB Banyo

	PROFNL/MANGRL	TECHN	ADMIN	TOTAL
PERMANENT	24	205	67	296
TEMPORARY	1	8	1	10
CASUAL	0	0	3	3
LABOUR ONLY	0	8	1	9
TOTAL	25	221	72	318

SEQEB Geebung

	PROFNL/MANGRL	TECHN	ADMIN	TOTAL
PERMANENT	1	54	18	73
TEMPORARY	0	1	1	2
CASUAL	0	0	5	5
LABOUR ONLY	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	1	55	24	80

(Apprentices not included in SEQEB Geebung staffing)

- (2) The projected number of employees to be employed in these categories over the next three years in each of these categories are as follows:

Northgate

1998/99

	PROFNL/MANGRL	TECHN	ADMIN	TOTAL
PERMANENT	150	228	106	484
TEMPORARY	2	0	1	3
CASUAL	1	0.5	0.5	2
TOTAL	153	228.5	107.5	489

The projections for Powerlink employee numbers do not include any outcomes from the QTSC Rationalisation Project as the business cases for these initiatives have not been approved at this time.

SEQEB Banyo

1998/99

	PROFNL/MANGRL	TECHN	ADMIN	TOTAL
PERMANENT	24	218	65	307
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0
CASUAL	0	0	0	0
LABOUR ONLY	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	24	218	65	307

SEQEB Geebung

1998/99

	PROFNL/MANGRL	TECHN	ADMIN	TOTAL
PERMANENT	1	53	18	71
TEMPORARY	0	1	1	2
CASUAL	0	0	5	5
LABOUR ONLY	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	1	54	24	78

(Apprentices not included in SEQEB Geebung staffing)

- (3) In relation to Powerlink Northgate staff numbers, the increase in numbers over the three year period is due for the most part to the planned relocation of Powerlink staff from Mary Street, Brisbane to Northgate in approximately October 1997.

SEQEB Banyo has forecast an increase of 11 staff to 1999, based on an expected increase in its customer base and growth in its activities without significantly increasing staff numbers. SEQEB Geebung is planning a 3% general reduction in staff numbers to 1999, based on a strategy of productivity improvements. SEQEB advises that its projections are subject to its success in expanding its customer base.

- (4) Powerlink has no "labour only" contractors at Northgate.

SEQEB Banyo currently employs nine "labour only" contractors, as detailed below.

8 Technical Staff—Completion Date

2 Warehouse Operators—Pulse implementation/ peak workload—May/June 1996

2 Warehouse Operators—Pulse implementation/ recruitment—26 April 1996

1 Distribution Driver—Workers' Compensation— 10 May 1996

2 Electrical Fitters—Recruitment period—16 April-10 May 1996

1 Mechanical Fitter—Peak workload—26 April 1996

1 Administrative Staff—Completion Date

1 General Secretarial (Agency)—26 April 1996

161. Performance Management Dividend

Mr BEATTIE asked the Premier—

With reference to his department—

- (1) What savings options have been offered by his Department in order to achieve the Government's budget policy of a 1 percent "across the board" efficiency dividend?
- (2) Which of his savings options have been adopted by the Government?
- (3) What is the specific dollar value of each of these options?

- (4) What new initiatives in his portfolio have been announced by the Coalition Government since 19 February 1996?
- (5) What is the estimated full year cost of each of these initiatives and what is the source of funding for each initiative—Consolidated Revenue, Trust and Special Funds or borrowings?
- (6) When will each of these new initiatives be implemented, or in the case of capital projects, when will the project commence and what is its estimated date of completion and its costs?

Mr Borbidge:

(1) In order to fund election commitments, the Coalition proposed introducing a 1 percent efficiency dividend on the Consolidated Fund published expenditure forward estimates. However, in view of the scale of the previous Government's election promises and other post Budget expenditure initiatives it has been necessary to institute a review of expenditure commitments across all departments and agencies. The findings of this review will be taken into consideration in developing the State Budget for 1996-97.

Further, the Commission of Audit currently is examining the state of Queensland's finances. The Commission is due to report by the end of June. The Commission's report will provide valuable input into the preparation of the 1996-97 State Budget. In the course of preparing the Budget, all relevant funding sources will be considered, including any efficiency dividend that may be considered desirable and necessary.

(2) Refer to one above.

(3) Refer to one above.

(4) Ministers have foreshadowed a number of initiatives since the Coalition came to office. The precise scope of these, their implementation plans, and funding details, will be finalised as part of the Budget process.

(5) Full details of new initiatives announced by the Coalition will be provided in the 1996-97 State Budget.

(6) Refer to 5 above.

162. Performance Management Dividend

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care—

With reference to his department—

- (1) What savings options have been offered by his Department in order to achieve the Government's budget policy of a 1 percent "across the board" efficiency dividend?
- (2) Which of his savings options have been adopted by the Government?
- (3) What is the specific dollar value of each of these options?
- (4) What new initiatives in his portfolio have been announced by the Coalition Government since 19 February 1996?

- (5) What is the estimated full year cost of each of these initiatives and what is the source of funding for each initiative—Consolidated Revenue, Trust and Special Funds or borrowings?
- (6) When will each of these new initiatives be implemented, or in the case of capital projects, when will the project commence and what is its estimated date of completion and its costs?

Mr Lingard:

(1) In order to fund election commitments, the coalition proposed introducing an 1 percent efficiency dividend on the Consolidated Fund published expenditure forward estimates. However, in view of the scale of the previous Government's election promises and other post Budget expenditure initiatives it has been necessary to institute a review of expenditure commitments across all departments and agencies. The findings of this review will be taken into consideration in developing the State Budget for 1996-97. Further, the Commission of Audit currently is examining the state of Queensland's finances. The Commission is due to report by the end of June. The Commission's report will provide valuable input into the preparation of the 1996-97 State Budget. In the course of preparing the Budget, all relevant funding sources will be considered, including any efficiency dividend that may be considered desirable and necessary.

(2) Refer to one above.

(3) Refer to one above.

(4) My ministerial colleagues and I have foreshadowed a number of initiatives since the Coalition came to office. The precise scope of these, their implementation plans, and funding details, will be finalised as part of the Budget process.

(5) Full details of new initiatives announced by the Coalition will be provided in the 1996-97 State Budget.

(6) Refer to 5 above.

163. Performance Management Dividend

Mr HAMILL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts—

With reference to her department—

- (1) What savings options have been offered by her Department in order to achieve the Government's budget policy of a 1 percent "across the board" efficiency dividend?
- (2) Which of her savings options have been adopted by the Government?
- (3) What is the specific dollar value of each of these options?
- (4) What new initiatives in her portfolio have been announced by the Coalition Government since 19 February 1996?
- (5) What is the estimated full year cost of each of these initiatives and what is the source of funding for each initiative—Consolidated Revenue, Trust and Special Funds or borrowings?

- (6) When will each of these new initiatives be implemented, or in the case of capital projects, when will the project commence and what is its estimated date of completion and its costs?

Mrs Sheldon:

(1) In order to fund election commitments, the Coalition proposed introducing a 1 percent efficiency dividend on the Consolidated Fund published expenditure forward estimates.

However, in view of the scale of the previous Government's election promises and other post Budget expenditure initiatives it has been necessary to institute a review of expenditure commitments across all departments and agencies. The findings of this review will be taken into consideration in developing the State Budget for 1996-97.

Further, the Commission of Audit currently is examining the state of Queensland's finances. The Commission is due to report by the end of June. The Commission's report will provide valuable input into the preparation of the 1996-97 State Budget. In the course of preparing the Budget, all relevant funding sources will be considered, including any efficiency dividend that may be considered desirable and necessary.

(2) Refer to one above.

(3) Refer to one above.

(4) Ministers have foreshadowed a number of initiatives since the Coalition came to office. The precise scope of these, their implementation plans, and funding details, will be finalised as part of the Budget process.

(5) Full details of new initiatives announced by the Coalition will be provided in the 1996-97 State Budget.

(6) Refer to 5 above.

164. Performance Management Dividend

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing—

With reference to his department—

- (1) What savings options have been offered by his Department in order to achieve the Government's budget policy of a 1 percent "across the board" efficiency dividend?
- (2) Which of his savings options have been adopted by the Government?
- (3) What is the specific dollar value of each of these options?
- (4) What new initiatives in his portfolio have been announced by the Coalition Government since 19 February 1996?
- (5) What is the estimated full year cost of each of these initiatives and what is the source of funding for each initiative—Consolidated Revenue, Trust and Special Funds or borrowings?
- (6) When will each of these new initiatives be implemented, or in the case of capital projects, when will the project commence and what is its estimated date of completion and its costs?

Mr Connor:

(1) In order to fund election commitments, the Coalition proposed introducing a 1 percent efficiency dividend on the Consolidated Fund published expenditure forward estimates. However, in view of the scale of the previous Government's election promises and other post Budget expenditure initiatives, it has been necessary to institute a review of expenditure commitments across all departments and agencies. The findings of this review will be taken into consideration in developing the State Budget for 1996/97. Further, the Commission of Audit currently is examining the state of Queensland's finances. The Commission is due to report by the end of June. The Commission's report will provide valuable input into the preparation of the 1996-97 State Budget. In the course of preparing the Budget, all relevant funding sources will be considered, including any efficiency dividend that may be considered desirable and necessary.

(2) Refer to (1) above.

(3) Refer to (1) above.

(4) The Honourable Member would be aware that Ministers have foreshadowed a number of initiatives since the Coalition came to office. The precise scope of these, their implementation plans and funding details, will be finalised as part of the Budget process.

(5) Full details of new initiatives announced by the Coalition will be provided in the 1996-97 State Budget.

(6) Refer to (5) above.

165. Performance Management Dividend

Mr MACKENROTH asked the Minister for Local Government and Planning—

With reference to her department—

- (1) What savings options have been offered by her Department in order to achieve the Government's budget policy of a 1 percent "across the board" efficiency dividend?
- (2) Which of her savings options have been adopted by the Government?
- (3) What is the specific dollar value of each of these options?
- (4) What new initiatives in her portfolio have been announced by the Coalition Government since 19 February 1996?
- (5) What is the estimated full year cost of each of these initiatives and what is the source of funding for each initiative—Consolidated Revenue, Trust and Special Funds or borrowings?
- (6) When will each of these new initiatives be implemented, or in the case of capital projects, when will the project commence and what is its estimated date of completion and its costs?

Mrs McCauley: In order to fund election commitments, the Coalition proposed introducing a 1 percent efficiency dividend on the Consolidated Fund published expenditure forward estimates.

However, in view of the scale of the previous Government's election promises and other post 1995/96 Budget expenditure initiatives, it has been necessary to institute a review of expenditure commitments across all departments and agencies. The findings of this review are to be taken into consideration in developing the State Budget for 1996/97.

Further, the Commission of Audit is currently examining the state of Queensland's finances. The Commission is due to report by the end of June. The Commission's report will provide valuable input into the preparation of the 1996/97 State Budget. In the course of preparing the Budget, all relevant funding sources will be considered, including any efficiency dividend that may be considered desirable and necessary.

See (1) above.

See (1) above.

A number of initiatives have been foreshadowed since my appointment as Minister for Local Government and Planning. The precise scope of these, their implementation plans and funding details, will be finalised as part of the Budget process.

Full details of initiatives referred to in (4) above will be provided in the 1996/97 State Budget.

See (5) above.

166. Performance Management Dividend

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport—

With reference to his department—

- (1) What savings options have been offered by his Department in order to achieve the Government's budget policy of a 1 percent "across the board" efficiency dividend?
- (2) Which of his savings options have been adopted by the Government?
- (3) What is the specific dollar value of each of these options?
- (4) What new initiatives in his portfolio have been announced by the Coalition Government since 19 February 1996?
- (5) What is the estimated full year cost of each of these initiatives and what is the source of funding for each initiative—Consolidated Revenue, Trust and Special Funds or borrowings?
- (6) When will each of these new initiatives be implemented, or in the case of capital projects, when will the project commence and what is its estimated date of completion and its costs?

Mr Veivers:

(1) In order to fund election commitments, the Coalition proposed introducing an 1 percent efficiency dividend on the Consolidated Fund published expenditure forward estimates. However, in view of the scale of the previous Government's election promises and other post Budget expenditure initiatives it has been necessary to

institute a review of expenditure commitments across all departments and agencies. The findings of this review will be taken into consideration in developing the State Budget for 1996-97.

Further, the Commission of Audit currently is examining the state of Queensland's finances. The Commission is due to report by the end of June. The Commission's report will provide valuable input into the preparation of the 1996-97 State Budget. In the course of preparing the Budget, all relevant funding sources will be considered, including any efficiency dividend that may be considered desirable and necessary.

(2) Refer to (1) above.

(3) Refer to (1) above.

(4) Ministers have foreshadowed a number of initiatives since the Coalition came to office. The precise scope of these, their implementation plans, and funding details, will be finalised as part of the Budget process.

(5) Full details of new initiatives announced by the Coalition will be provided in the 1996-97 State Budget.

(6) Refer to (5) above.

167. Performance Management Dividend

Ms SPENCE asked the Minister for Economic Development and Trade and Minister Assisting the Premier—

With reference to his department—

- (1) What savings options have been offered by his Department in order to achieve the Government's budget policy of a 1 percent "across the board" efficiency dividend?
- (2) Which of his savings options have been adopted by the Government?
- (3) What is the specific dollar value of each of these options?
- (4) What new initiatives in his portfolio have been announced by the Coalition Government since 19 February 1996?
- (5) What is the estimated full year cost of each of these initiatives and what is the source of funding for each initiative—Consolidated Revenue, Trust and Special Funds or borrowings?
- (6) When will each of these new initiatives be implemented, or in the case of capital projects, when will the project commence and what is its estimated date of completion and its costs?

Mr Slack:

(1) In order to fund election commitments, the Coalition proposed introducing an 1 percent efficiency dividend on the Consolidated Fund published expenditure forward estimates. However, in view of the scale of the previous Government's election promises and other post Budget expenditure initiatives it has been necessary to institute a review of expenditure commitments across all departments and agencies. The findings of this

review will be taken into consideration in developing the State Budget for 1996-97.

Further, the Commission of Audit currently is examining the state of Queensland's finances. The Commission is due to report by the end of June. The Commission's report will provide valuable input into the preparation of the 1996-97 State Budget. In the course of preparing the Budget, all relevant funding sources will be considered, including any efficiency dividend that may be considered desirable and necessary.

(2) Refer to the above.

(3) Refer to the above.

(4) Ministers have foreshadowed a number of initiatives since the Coalition came to office. The precise scope of these, their implementation plans, and funding details, will be finalised as part of the Budget process.

(5) Full details of the new initiatives announced by the Coalition will be provided in the 1996-97 State Budget.

(6) Refer to 5 above.

168. Performance Management Dividend

Mr FOLEY asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice—

With reference to his department—

- (1) What savings options have been offered by his Department in order to achieve the Government's budget policy of a 1 percent "across the board" efficiency dividend?
- (2) Which of his savings options have been adopted by the Government?
- (3) What is the specific dollar value of each of these options?
- (4) What new initiatives in his portfolio have been announced by the Coalition Government since 19 February 1996?
- (5) What is the estimated full year cost of each of these initiatives and what is the source of funding for each initiative—Consolidated Revenue, Trust and Special Funds or borrowings?
- (6) When will each of these new initiatives be implemented, or in the case of capital projects, when will the project commence and what is its estimated date of completion and its costs?

Mr Beanland:

(1) In order to fund election commitments, the Coalition proposed introducing a 1 percent efficiency dividend on the Consolidated Fund published expenditure forward estimates. However, in view of the scale of the previous Government's election promises and other post Budget expenditure initiatives it has been necessary to institute a review of expenditure commitments across all departments and agencies. The findings of this review will be taken into consideration in developing the State Budget for 1996-97. Further, the Commission of Audit currently is examining the state

of Queensland's finances. The Commission is due to report by the end of June. The Commission's report will provide valuable input into the preparation of the 1996-97 State Budget. In the course of preparing the Budget, all relevant funding sources will be considered, including any efficiency dividend that may be considered desirable and necessary.

(2) Refer to one above.

(3) Refer to one above.

(4) Ministers have foreshadowed a number of initiatives since the Coalition came to office. The precise scope of these, their implementation plans, and funding details, will be finalised as part of the Budget process.

(5) Full details of new initiatives announced by the Coalition will be provided in the 1996-97 State Budget.

(6) Refer to 5 above.

171. Performance Management Dividend

Mrs EDMOND asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to his department—

- (1) What savings options have been offered by his Department in order to achieve the Government's budget policy of a 1 percent "across the board" efficiency dividend?
- (2) Which of his savings options have been adopted by the Government?
- (3) What is the specific dollar value of each of these options?
- (4) What new initiatives in his portfolio have been announced by the Coalition Government since 19 February 1996?
- (5) What is the estimated full year cost of each of these initiatives and what is the source of funding for each initiative—Consolidated Revenue, Trust and Special Funds or borrowings?
- (6) When will each of these new initiatives be implemented, or in the case of capital projects, when will the project commence and what is its estimated date of completion and its costs?

Mr Horan:

(1) In order to fund election commitments, the Coalition proposed introducing a 1 percent efficiency dividend on the Consolidated Fund published expenditure forward estimates. However, in view of the scale of the previous Government's election promises and other post Budget expenditure initiatives it has been necessary to institute a review of expenditure commitments across all departments and agencies. The findings of this review will be taken into consideration in developing the State Budget for 1996-97.

Further, the Commission of Audit currently is examining the state of Queensland's finances. The Commission is due to report by the end of June. The Commission's report will provide valuable input into the preparation of the 1996-97 State Budget. In the course of preparing the Budget, all relevant funding

sources will be considered, including any efficiency dividend that may be considered desirable and necessary.

(2) Refer to 1 above.

(3) Refer to 1 above.

(4) I have foreshadowed a number of initiatives since the Coalition came to office. The precise scope of these, their implementation plans, and funding details, will be finalised as part of the Budget process.

To do otherwise would be to adopt the practice of the Goss Government, and in particular Ministers Elder and Beattie, which has seen the overcommitment of the hospital rebuilding program by \$1.2 billion. This overcommitment has now been demonstrated by an independent assessment of the previous Government's 10 Year Hospital Rebuilding Program.

In preparing their assessment, the assessors utilised actual expenditures listed on the Queensland Government Financial Management System database. As a result, they were able to demonstrate, inter alia, that the forecasted final costs of the Program, net of Coalition commitments, are approximately \$3.04 billion, as opposed to the Cabinet approved allocation of \$1.725. Further, a significant number of additional projects were added to the Program for which no Cabinet approval or endorsement was given.

Implicit in the convention of collective ministerial responsibility under the Westminster system is that each Minister should not announce a major new policy without previous Cabinet consent. This principle has been breached, clearly and repeatedly, in the overcommitment of the Hospital Rebuilding Program. \$1.2 billion of public works were announced by Labor's Health Ministers beyond such consent. Cabinet consent, even though within the privilege of Cabinet, ensures some measure of public accountability, through the oversight of the central agencies (such as Treasury), and by ensuring that each portfolios demands are balanced against the general good.

Ministers are also responsible to Parliament individually for the administration of the Departments. The management of the Capital Works Program under Labor was one characterised by direct political involvement in management process. The relationship between the Ministerial Office and the Capital Works Branch was direct, frequently circumventing the involvement of the Director-General and other responsible officers of the Department. This is why the audit could find, as it did, that the previous Director of Capital Works has always maintained that he approved unauthorised consultancies with the concurrence of successive Ministers.

Implicit in your question is that I should continue to act like these Ministers, Messrs Elder and Beattie: that is, to conduct the financial management of Queensland Health in the media and public fora. This is hardly surprising given that you were a Member of the Government which so disregarded the conventions of Westminster and the basic rules of

financial probity. Conversely, and for my part, the new initiatives of this Government will be approved, announced, and implemented at those times and in those places that good Government and respect for the people require.

(5) Full details of new initiatives announced by the Coalition will be provided in the 1996-97 State Budget.

(6) Refer to 5 above.

172. Performance Management Dividend

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing—

With reference to his department—

- (1) What savings options have been offered by his Department in order to achieve the Government's budget policy of a 1 percent "across the board" efficiency dividend?
- (2) Which of his savings options have been adopted by the Government?
- (3) What is the specific dollar value of each of these options?
- (4) What new initiatives in his portfolio have been announced by the Coalition Government since 19 February 1996?
- (5) What is the estimated full year cost of each of these initiatives and what is the source of funding for each initiative—Consolidated Revenue, Trust and Special Funds or borrowings?
- (6) When will each of these new initiatives be implemented, or in the case of capital projects, when will the project commence and what is its estimated date of completion and its costs?

Mr Cooper:

(1) In order to fund election commitments, the Coalition proposed introducing a 1 percent efficiency dividend on the Consolidated Fund published expenditure forward estimates. However, in view of the scale of the previous Government's election promises and other post Budget expenditure initiatives it has been necessary to institute a review of expenditure commitments across all departments and agencies. The findings of this review will be taken into consideration in developing the State Budget for 1996-97. Further, the Commission of Audit currently is examining the state of Queensland's finances. The Commission is due to report by the end of June. The Commission's report will provide valuable input into the preparation of the 1996-97 State Budget. In the course of preparing the Budget, all relevant funding sources will be considered, including any efficiency dividend that may be considered desirable and necessary.

(2) Refer to one above

(3) Refer to one above

(4) Ministers have foreshadowed a number of initiatives since the Coalition came to office. The precise scope of these, their implementation plans, and funding details, will be finalised as part of the Budget process.

(5) Full details of new initiatives announced by the Coalition will be provided in the 1996-97 State Budget.

(6) Refer to 5 above.

173. Performance Management Dividend

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment—

With reference to his department—

- (1) What savings options have been offered by his Department in order to achieve the Government's budget policy of a 1 percent "across the board" efficiency dividend?
- (2) Which of his savings options have been adopted by the Government?
- (3) What is the specific dollar value of each of these options?
- (4) What new initiatives in his portfolio have been announced by the Coalition Government since 19 February 1996?
- (5) What is the estimated full year cost of each of these initiatives and what is the source of funding for each initiative—Consolidated Revenue, Trust and Special Funds or borrowings?
- (6) When will each of these new initiatives be implemented, or in the case of capital projects, when will the project commence and what is its estimated date of completion and its costs?

Mr Littleproud:

(1) In order to fund election commitments, the Coalition proposed introducing a 1 percent efficiency dividend on the Consolidated Fund published expenditure forward estimates. However, in view of the scale of the previous Government's election promises and other post Budget expenditure initiatives, it has been necessary to institute a review of expenditure commitments across all departments and agencies. The findings of this review will be taken into consideration in developing the State Budget for 1996-97. Further, the Commission of Audit currently is examining the state of Queensland's finances. The Commission is due to report by the end of June. The Commission's report will provide valuable input into the preparation of the 1996-97 State Budget. In the course of preparing the Budget, all relevant funding sources will be considered, including any efficiency dividend that may be considered desirable and necessary.

(2) Refer to (1) above.

(3) Refer to (1) above.

(4) Ministers have foreshadowed a number of initiatives since the Coalition came to office. The precise scope of these, their implementation plans, and funding details, will be finalised as part of the Budget process.

(5) Full details of new initiatives announced by the Coalition will be provided in the 1996-97 State Budget.

(6) Refer to (5) above.

174. Performance Management Dividend

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Mines and Energy—

With reference to his department—

- (1) What savings options have been offered by his Department in order to achieve the Government's budget policy of a 1 percent "across the board" efficiency dividend?
- (2) Which of his savings options have been adopted by the Government?
- (3) What is the specific dollar value of each of these options?
- (4) What new initiatives in his portfolio have been announced by the Coalition Government since 19 February 1996?
- (5) What is the estimated full year cost of each of these initiatives and what is the source of funding for each initiative—Consolidated Revenue, Trust and Special Funds or borrowings?
- (6) When will each of these new initiatives be implemented, or in the case of capital projects, when will the project commence and what is its estimated date of completion and its costs?

Mr Gilmore:

(1) It is not yet clear whether a 1% productivity dividend will be applied to all Departments. In order to fund election commitments, the Coalition proposed introducing a 1 percent efficiency dividend on the Consolidated Fund published expenditure forward estimates. However, in view of the scale of the previous Government's election promises and other post Budget expenditure initiatives it has been necessary to institute a review of expenditure commitments across all departments and agencies. Should the application of a dividend be considered desirable and necessary, then it will be applied across the board and be absorbed equitably by all programs.

(2) I commissioned a review of demand side efficiency initiatives and as I expected many of these initiatives were proven to be gimmicky and expensive to administer. A number of these rebate schemes have subsequently been withdrawn. This is expected to save approximately \$3.0 million in 1995/96. I will however be seeking Cabinet endorsement to introduce coalition energy policy initiatives from 1996-97 onwards.

I have preferred to undertake a comprehensive review of the Department's programs and budget rather than rushing into a series of hastily considered savings initiatives (unlike the previous Government—remember the embarrassment of reversing hasty decisions to close country rail stations!)

That review is now being completed by the Department and has identified some areas where savings can be achieved. However, I have to say that what the review has uncovered is a history of neglect by the previous Government in terms of resourcing this Department.

Far from having too much money, it is abundantly clear that my Department is significantly under resourced as a result of over six years of systematic reduction in real terms 'base' funding.

This less than ideal budget situation will need to be carefully considered as the Department now moves to restructure itself along more client focussed and 'understandable' lines.

As part of that process, we will need to consider our expenditure priorities and allocate the available budget to highest priority programs. While there are many important programs currently undertaken, the three key priorities are likely to be:-

programs that promote the prospectivity of Queensland

reform of the electricity industry in a manner which ensures that we maximise the benefits for Queenslanders of national reforms to the industry; and

programs to promote and assist research into alternate energy sources.

Members will already be aware of the Coalition's commitment to the provision of \$50 million over ten years to fund innovative research projects. We will fund this program commencing in 1996-97.

(3) (as above).

(4),(5),(6) Whilst there have been a number of announcements regarding initiatives taken by this Government, most notably involving the electricity industry, it is far too early to provide details of the cost of these projects and the likely source of funding.

Ultimately, the course of action taken by this Government to provide power to Queenslanders, and that includes those living north of the Daintree, will be made only after careful consideration of the options available, with particular emphasis on choices that provide the best value for money in the generation and transmission of electricity.

I have requested a number of services be coordinated within the industry in anticipation of providing the necessary information for the preparation of the 1996-97 State Budget.

175. Performance Management Dividend

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to his department—

- (1) What savings options have been offered by his Department in order to achieve the Government's budget policy of a 1 percent "across the board" efficiency dividend?
- (2) Which of his savings options have been adopted by the Government?
- (3) What is the specific dollar value of each of these options?
- (4) What new initiatives in his portfolio have been announced by the Coalition Government since 19 February 1996?

(5) What is the estimated full year cost of each of these initiatives and what is the source of funding for each initiative—Consolidated Revenue, Trust and Special Funds or borrowings?

(6) When will each of these new initiatives be implemented, or in the case of capital projects, when will the project commence and what is its estimated date of completion and its costs?

Mr Quinn:

(1) In order to fund election commitments, the Coalition proposed introducing a 1 percent efficiency dividend on the Consolidated Fund published expenditure forward estimates. However, in view of the scale of the previous Government's election promises and other post Budget expenditure initiatives, it has been necessary to institute a review of expenditure commitments across all departments and agencies. The findings of this review will be taken into consideration in developing the State Budget for 1996/97. Further, the Commission of Audit currently is examining the state of Queensland's finances. The Commission is due to report by the end of June. The Commission's report will provide valuable input into the preparation of the 1996-97 State Budget. In the course of preparing the Budget, all relevant funding sources will be considered, including any efficiency dividend that may be considered desirable and necessary.

(2) Refer to (1) above.

(3) Refer to (1) above.

(4) The Honourable Member would be aware that Ministers have foreshadowed a number of initiatives since the Coalition came to office. The precise scope of these, their implementation plans and funding details, will be finalised as part of the Budget process.

(5) Full details of new initiatives announced by the Coalition will be provided in the 1996/97 State Budget.

(6) Refer to (5) above.

176. Performance Management Dividend

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Natural Resources—

With reference to his department—

- (1) What savings options have been offered by his Department in order to achieve the Government's budget policy of a 1 percent "across the board" efficiency dividend?
- (2) Which of his savings options have been adopted by the Government?
- (3) What is the specific dollar value of each of these options?
- (4) What new initiatives in his portfolio have been announced by the Coalition Government since 19 February 1996?
- (5) What is the estimated full year cost of each of these initiatives and what is the source of funding for each initiative—Consolidated

Revenue, Trust and Special Funds or borrowings?

- (6) When will each of these new initiatives be implemented, or in the case of capital projects, when will the project commence and what is its estimated date of completion and its costs?

Mr Hobbs:

(1) In order to fund election commitments, the Coalition proposed introducing a 1 percent efficiency dividend on the Consolidated Fund published expenditure forward estimates. However, in view of the scale of the previous Government's election promises and other post Budget expenditure initiatives it has been necessary to institute a review of expenditure commitments across all departments and agencies. The finding of this review will be taken into consideration in developing the State Budget for 1996-97.

Further, the Commission of Audit currently is examining the state of Queensland's finances. The Commission is due to report by the end of June. The Commission's report will provide valuable input into the preparation of the 1996-97 State Budget. In the course of preparing the Budget, all relevant funding sources will be considered, including any efficiency dividend that may be considered desirable and necessary.

(2) Refer to one above.

(3) Refer to one above.

(4) Ministers have foreshadowed a number of initiatives since the Coalition came into office. The precise scope of these, their implementation plans, and funding details, will be finalised as part of the Budget Process.

(5) Full details of new initiatives announced by the Coalition will be provided in the 1996-97 State Budget.

(6) Refer to 5 above.

177. Property Resumptions

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

With reference to his public statements that the Coalition's 8-lane highway between Logan Motorway and Smith Street will require 170 properties (including 48 at Eagleby) to be resumed by the Government—

- (1) What is the real property description of each of these properties?
- (2) What is the street address of each of these properties?
- (3) Which of these are residential properties?
- (4) Which of these properties are commercial properties?
- (5) What is the estimated cost to the Government of these resumptions?
- (6) When will these families be forced by the Government to quit their homes?

Mr Johnson:

(1), (2), (3) and (4) 170 properties is an estimate of the number of properties from which the Department

of Main Roads requires land to build the motorway and service road system. The Government is unable to advise of the exact property affected until the designs are complete and the community has been consulted. When the consultation is complete and individuals have had their say, it will become clearer which properties will need to be acquired.

(5) The project budget provides \$60 million towards the acquisition of properties.

(6) The Department of Main Roads has not set any firm dates at this stage. Departmental officers will be working closely with property owners to provide advance advice on the timing of construction.

178. Performance Management Dividend

Mrs BIRD asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry—

With reference to his department—

- (1) What savings options have been offered by his Department in order to achieve the Government's budget policy of a 1 percent "across the board" efficiency dividend?
- (2) Which of his savings options have been adopted by the Government?
- (3) What is the specific dollar value of each of these options?
- (4) What new initiatives in his portfolio have been announced by the Coalition Government since 19 February 1996?
- (5) What is the estimated full year cost of each of these initiatives and what is the source of funding for each initiative—Consolidated Revenue, Trust and Special Funds or borrowings?
- (6) When will each of these new initiatives be implemented, or in the case of capital projects, when will the project commence and what is its estimated date of completion and its costs?

Mr Davidson:

(1) In order to fund election commitments, the Coalition proposed introducing a 1 percent efficiency dividend on the Consolidated Fund published expenditure forward estimates. However, in view of the scale of the previous Government's election promises and other post Budget expenditure initiatives it has been necessary to institute a review of expenditure commitments across all departments and agencies. The findings of this review will be taken into consideration in developing the State Budget for 1996-97. Further, the Commission of Audit currently is examining the state of Queensland's finances. The Commission is due to report by the end of June. The Commission's report will provide valuable input into the preparation of the 1996-97 State Budget. In the course of preparing the Budget, all relevant funding sources will be considered, including any efficiency dividend that may be considered desirable and necessary.

(2) Refer to one above.

(3) Refer to one above.

(4) Ministers have foreshadowed a number of initiatives since the Coalition came to office. The

precise scope of these, their implementation plans, and funding details, will be finalised as part of the Budget process.

(5) Full details of new initiatives announced by the Coalition will be provided in the 1996-97 State Budget.

(6) Refer to 5 above.

179. Pacific Highway

Mr BEATTIE asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts—

With reference to the \$200m that she has to find to pay for the removal of the Sunshine Tollway and the \$630m which she now says she needs for only 37km of eight-laning of the Gold Coast Highway between Beenleigh and Nerang—

(1) Will she give the Queensland public a firm figure for how much more she will need to eight-lane the very narrow, 33 kilometre corridor between Beenleigh and Brisbane's Central Business District?

Mrs Sheldon: Work is currently being undertaken by the Department of Main Roads on the scope and costings for development of the South-East Freeway/Pacific Highway corridor north of Beenleigh. I understand that once this work is finalised, the Minister for Transport and Main Roads will bring forward a submission for Cabinet's consideration on development and funding options for the road.

181. Proposed Ambulance Station

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport—

Will the newly planned \$800,000 Ambulance Station, that was planned and financed by the previous Labor Government to commence being built in June, go ahead as scheduled or has it been stopped by the Treasurer?

Mr Veivers: In response to the specific question made by Mr Dollin, I can advise as follows:

The present Government has agreed to fund the construction of a new ambulance station in Maryborough as part of the 1995/96 budget.

Queensland Health has agreed to the construction of the new station on the grounds of the Maryborough Hospital.

Final plans have been agreed with local staff and the local community and documentation is almost complete.

It is anticipated that the project will go to tender within the next month.

183. Airconditioning of Schools

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the commitment by the Government to air-condition all schools north of Bowen—

(1) Will he advise what rationale was used to determine which schools would be air-conditioned?

(2) Why have schools in Central and Western Queensland not been given the same consideration?

Mr Quinn:

(1) The decision to make a commitment to air-condition all schools north of Bowen was based on the fact that this part of Queensland is subjected to exceptional heat and humidity.

(2) Schools in central and western Queensland are not subject to the same humidity as that experienced by those north of Bowen.

184. Environmental Protection Plans

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Environment—

With reference to the Environmental Protection plans for air, water and noise currently being prepared by the Department of Environment—

(1) Now that public consultation on the air and water plans has been completed, when will the plans in final form be issued?

(2) Why has he delayed the release of these two plans?

(3) When will the draft noise plan be released for public consultation?

(4) What measures will be taken to ensure adequate consultation takes place?

Mr Littleproud:

(1) The Government has moved quickly to review the progress of the Environmental Protection Policies (EPPs) that are under development. Since public consultation ended for the Water and Air EPPs, the submissions have been collated and assessed. The Environmental Protection Act 1994 requires that all submissions are considered before the final policy is made. Final drafting of the EPPs for Water and Air has commenced and the Government expects that these EPPs could be operating from July 1996.

(2) Since taking office the Government has expedited the completion of the EPPs which have been under preparation since 1994. The Government has commenced a review of all the environmental legislation to streamline processes and make them practical. The first area under review is the licensing process and I have convened a Ministerial Advisory Committee to examine the impact of licence fees and conditions with the intention of making licensing more acceptable to business while still protecting the environment. As the EPPs are a necessary reference in assessing licensing applications, it is important that they are completed as soon as possible.

(3) The Government has received the draft EPP for Noise and the consultation documents will be released for full public consultation in May 1996.

(4) While I have expressed concern that the process of consultation should be pertinent, it is not my, nor the Government's intention, to inhibit debate on the EPPs or any other policy issue. There is, however, a

need to accurately target information to facilitate understanding in the community of specific issues and how they might affect their interests. The processes described in the Environmental Protection Act will be followed and the public will be fully informed of policy proposals and the opportunities for consultation.

185. Pacific Highway

Mr HAMILL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

With reference to the Government's decision to upgrade the Pacific Highway between its junction with the Logan Motorway south to its junction with Pappas Way—

- (1) How many grade-separated intersections exist in this section of road?
- (2) What is the location of each of these intersections and when were they opened for traffic?
- (3) What was the cost of construction for each of these grade separated intersections?
- (4) Which of these grade separated intersections will need to be reconstructed to accommodate the additional traffic lanes proposed by the Government in its highway upgrade?
- (5) What is the estimated cost of demolition and reconstruction for each of the grade separated intersections identified in (4)?
- (6) Which existing grade separated intersections will be removed and not replaced in the highway upgrade?
- (7) Are there new grade separated intersections to be constructed as part of the highway upgrade and what is their location?
- (8) What is the location of the existing "at grade" intersections?
- (9) Which of these "at Grade" intersections will be removed as part of the highway upgrade?
- (10) Which of these "at grade" intersections will be replaced by new grade separated intersections?
- (11) Which "at grade" intersections will be retained as part of the highway upgrade?
- (12) Are there any new "at grade" intersections proposed as a part of the highway upgrade and what is their location?
- (13) How many pedestrian and cyclist overbridges or underpasses currently exist in this section of the highway?
- (14) What is the location of each of these pedestrian and/or cyclist overbridges or underpasses and when was each of these constructed?
- (15) What was the construction cost of each of these pedestrian and/or cyclist overbridges or underpasses?
- (16) Which of these overbridges or underpasses will need to be reconstructed as a result of the highway upgrade?
- (17) What is the estimated cost of demolition and reconstruction for each of these overbridges and underpasses identified in (16)?
- (18) Which of these overbridges and underpasses will be removed and not replaced as a result of the highway upgrade?
- (19) Are there new pedestrian and/or cyclist overbridges or underpasses to be constructed as part of the highway upgrade project and what is their location?

Mr Johnson:

(1), (2) and (3) There are 14 major grade-separated interchanges on the Pacific Highway between the Logan Motorway and Pappas Way. These interchanges are known as the Logan Motorway interchange, the City Road interchange, the Main Street interchange, the Staplyton-Jacobs Well interchange, the Burnside Road interchange, the Peachey Road interchange, the Mirambeena Drive interchange, the Yawalpah interchange, the Coomera interchange, the Oxenford interchange, the Helensvale Road interchange, the Gold Coast Highway interchange, the Smith Street interchange and the Nerang-Southport interchange. In addition, there are other types of minor interchanges involving underpasses under existing highway structures. Most of these structures were built between the late 1960s and the mid 1990s, as part of the upgrading of the highway to four lanes and/or to remove median openings of at-grade intersections.

The Department of Main Roads is unable to provide the detailed construction cost of each interchange as records are unavailable to correctly dissect the cost of the interchange component from the overall cost of works. The following recently completed works are examples of the cost of an interchange construction:

the Yawalpah interchange was officially opened to traffic in November 1994 at a cost of \$ 4.7 million; and

the Mirambeena Drive interchange was completed in October 1993 at a cost of \$ 4.9 million

(4), (5), (6), and (7) The Department is unable to provide details and costs at this time. This information will become publicly available as part of the Impact Management Plan process.

(8), (9), (10), (11) and (12) The number and location of existing and future at-grade intersections will be publicly documented as part of the Impact Management Plan process.

(13), (14), (15), (16), (17), (18) and (19) There are numerous pedestrian and/or cyclist facilities which have been built as an integral part of the highway construction. The Department of Main Roads is unable to provide the detailed construction cost of these facilities as records are unavailable to correctly dissect the cost of pedestrian and/or cyclist facilities. The following recently completed works are examples of the cost:

the Studio Village overpass was completed in October 1994 at a cost of \$ 1.3 million ; and

the George Street overpass was completed in August 1995 at a cost of \$ 1.0 million.

The number and location of existing and future pedestrian and/or cyclist facilities will be publicly documented as part of the Impact Management Plan process.

186. Mooring Fees, Wynnum Creek

Mr BURNS asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

With reference to the current launch by the Port of Brisbane Authority of a campaign which is causing tremendous concern to boat owners who moor their vessels in Wynnum Creek and as the local Member, I have long supported previous practices that had let boat owners use the creek as a safe haven for smaller boats and commercial fishermen, with no mooring fees and little or no support or money spent by the PBA—

- (1) Who instigated the current campaign?
- (2) Was anyone or any organisation consulted?
- (3) Is the proposed mooring fee reported in the *Wynnum Herald* factual; if not, are there any proposals for mooring fees in an area where no fees have been charged for the last 60 years?
- (4) When was the last time the PBA dredged Wynnum Creek?
- (5) What section was dredged and at what cost?
- (6) Where did the funds come from for the dredging?
- (7) Are there any licensed moorings in this creek?
- (8) Will the PBA meet with all affected boat owners and other interested community groups to ensure that all local views are heard and understood before any action is contemplated?
- (9) Will he act to see that no mooring fees are imposed on battling small boat owners?

Mr Johnson:

(1) The Port of Brisbane Corporation received a complaint from Mrs M Dickie regarding derelict vessels and pollution in Wynnum Creek. This complaint was also received from the then Deputy Premier's office as well as being reported in the *Wynnum Herald* on 21 February 1996. A subsequent inspection by a Corporation officer revealed a number of derelict/abandoned vessels as well as a range of unsafe mooring structures, irregularly constructed at various locations along both sides of the creek.

(2) The Department of Environment (South East Regional, Coastal Development Section) was advised of the Corporation's concerns regarding the mooring structures per letter on the 29 February 1996. The Department of Environment was requested to forward a list of current mooring approvals for the area. A list of approvals was received on 19 March 1996.

A second letter was forwarded to the Department of Environment advising of a number of non-approved structures in the creek.

(3) The fee reported in the *Wynnum Herald* would be payable to the Department of Environment when seeking Section 86 approval for any marine structure. The Corporation receives no fee through this approval process.

It is the Corporation's understanding that a fee was previously applied during the 1950s by the then Department of Harbours and Marine. This fee was discontinued prior to the formation of the then Port of Brisbane Authority. Where approved structures exist, the Corporation generally issues tenure to the owners of those structures in accordance with its tenure policy. Applications for tenure are dealt with on an individual basis.

(4) The Port of Brisbane Corporation, on behalf of the Department of Transport (Marine and Ports Division) undertook dredging works at the mouth of Wynnum Creek from 29 April 1991 to 17 June 1991.

(5) The dredging work undertaken comprised a 468 metre long section from a point near the Fish Board seaward, approximately 12 metres wide to a depth of 1.2 metres.

The cost to the Department of Transport was \$131,388.50

(6) The then Authority completed the dredging works as a contractor for the Department of Transport.

(7) The Corporation is currently endeavouring to ascertain the number of approved moorings in Wynnum Creek by reference to the Departments of Environment and Transport and the vessel owners themselves.

(8) It is the Corporation's intention to continually monitor the situation as and when information regarding approvals, the structural and navigational safety of the moorings and walkways, and the level of pollution within the creek is made available. The relevant officers of the Corporation continue to be made available for construction with interested and relevant parties during this process.

(9) I support the Corporation and the Department of Environment in their endeavours to ensure that marine structures are safe and constructed according to best practice and that safety on the waterways is not in any way compromised. Naturally there are costs associated with this.

If it is required, then boat owners in Wynnum creek will need to pay a fee, in the same manner as ALL other boat users in the Port of Brisbane area. I am of the strong opinion that the thinking members of the Wynnum Creek boating fraternity would be well aware that you get nothing for nothing and very little for next to nothing. I would furthermore imagine that as a matter of responsibility, they would want the cost of maintaining the facilities at Wynnum Creek to fall upon users of those facilities, rather than have others pull their weight for them.

187. National Parks

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Environment—

With reference to funding for National Park acquisition and management—

- (1) Does he intend to purchase any new National Parks in the current term of the Government; if so, where and what level of funding will be applied?
- (2) Has he redirected any funding allocated by the previous Government for National Park acquisition or other Environment Department activities to park management; if so, how much and to where?
- (3) What funds will he direct to park management for the remainder of 1996?

Mr Littleproud:

(1) The question of whether or not any land will be acquired for National Park purposes will depend on opportunities presented. As to where and what level of funding will be applied, it is not customary or prudent from a business perspective to provide such information in advance.

(2) No.

(3) Based on expenditure to 31 March 1996 funds available for park and wildlife management for the balance of the current financial year total \$9,270,000.

188. Cleveland Court House

Mr BRISKEY asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice—

With reference to the urgent need for a replacement Courthouse in Cleveland—

- (1) Where will this new Courthouse be sited?
- (2) When will tenders be let for its construction?
- (3) When will its construction begin?
- (4) When will the Courthouse be available for use?
- (5) What is the estimated cost of this facility?
- (6) Will the new Cleveland Police Station be situated adjacent to the new Courthouse?

Mr Beanland:

(1) My department has been considering a number of sites in the Cleveland area but no site has yet been selected. I will be visiting Cleveland in the next few weeks to inspect the existing courthouse and possible alternative sites and to discuss the matter with the Mayor and departmental officers.

(2)-(4) No program has been established. All dates are dependent upon identification and acquisition of a suitable site and the allocation of funds.

(5) The estimated planning budget is \$3.25 million.

(6) The Department of Justice and the Queensland Police Service are cooperating in the consideration of potential sites. However any decision on the future location of the Cleveland Police Station is a matter for the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing.

189. Health Facilities, Palm Island

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Health—

Will he provide an unqualified and on the record assurance that the new hospital and other associated medical facilities committed to Palm Island by the Goss Government will proceed as planned and in the same timeframe under his administration?

Mr Horan: Yes, and more so. The Goss Government approved the construction of a \$6 million facility; however, commitments made by his ministers, including your leaders, Messrs Elder and Beattie, exceeded the approval of the Executive and the consent of the Legislative Assembly by at least \$3 million—just one example of the many which led to the overcommitment of the Hospital Rebuilding Program by \$1.2 billion.

The people of Palm Island can be assured, however, that I have now established formal processes and taken steps to restore the normal and prudent operation of the Hospital Rebuilding Program. Without these processes and steps, the Palm Island facility would have been under threat of curtailment, delay, or cancellation. I can assure them that, as a result of the election of the Borbidge Government, these threats have been removed.

190. Southern Brisbane Bypass

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

With reference to requests by residents of the suburb of Stretton for open graded asphalt to be laid on that section of the Southern Brisbane bypass that is closest to their homes—

Is he prepared to agree to their requests?

Mr Johnson: It is conceded that open graded asphalt surface can marginally reduce road noise. However, concessions already made to the residents of Stretton, namely, a 60 metre shift in the road alignment directed by the previous Minister at an additional cost of many millions of dollars, and provision of a 6 metre high earth mound topped by a 2 metre high noise barrier fence, are both effective and inordinately generous. It is considered therefore that further expenditure of public funds to achieve a very minor improvement in noise levels,—levels which are already projected to be well below the intervention criteria recommended by the Transport Department's Guidelines, is not warranted.

191. Caboolture Hospital

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the Caboolture Hospital—

- (1) What is the current position regarding the development of Stage 2 of the hospital?
- (2) When will Stage 2 be completed?
- (3) What facilities will be provided in Stage 2?
- (4) Will he guarantee that adequate recurrent funding will be provided for the Stage 2 development?

Mr Horan:

(1) Architectural Consultants, Cox MSJ, were commissioned in late November 1995 to undertake an Asset Review, Functional Plan and Master Plan for completion by 31 March 1996. This deadline has been extended to take advantage of a proposal to collocate a private hospital on the hospital campus. Consequently, there was a need to integrate both proposals to determine services profiles and

optimum siting. This exercise is now expected to be completed by the end of May 1996.

(2) A completion date for Stage 2 of the Caboolture Hospital will be provided later this year, when the mess which resulted from Labor's \$1.2 billion overcommitment of the Hospital Rebuilding Program is resolved. Caboolture Hospital is one of Queensland's most important, serving an area of rapid growth and many young families. Once this Government takes those prudent and deliberate steps which are required to resolve the mess, that is, later this year, estimated completion dates for all projects will be released.

(3) The process of Master Planning will determine needs and services. However, the redevelopment will include the operating theatre suite, day surgery, birthing suite, diagnostic services, allied health, intensive care and coronary care, and medical records.

(4) Yes, adequate recurrent funds will be provided. This contrasts with the practice of the Goss Government, a Government of which you were a member, a Government in which you served as Minister for Health. The Royal Brisbane Hospital's adolescent mental health unit was opened by your successor, Peter Beattie, in a blaze of glory, just after his 100 days of self promotion. Yet no funding was provided to staff it! When you were Minister, a 24-bed unit was opened at the Nambour Hospital, and again, no funding was provided by you, nor by your successor, Jim Elder, nor by his successor, Peter Beattie! Patients who should be in that hospital are sent to Brisbane. Again, three years ago, when you were Minister, the rehabilitation unit at Kirwin Hospital was opened, and its funding was cut in half: only half the unit was staffed and used.

In contrast, the people of Caboolture have my assurance that the Borbidge Government guarantees adequate recurrent funding for the Stage 2 development of their Hospital.

192. Rural Living Infrastructure Program

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Local Government and Planning—

With reference to the Goss Labor Government's introduction of the much appreciated Rural Living Infrastructure Program to assist local authorities with a population of less than 10,000 and to projects approved under the program including community hall upgrades, air-conditioning, footpaths and toilet facilities—

- (1) Will she give an undertaking to retain the program?
- (2) Will she consider the expansion of the scheme to include those small rural communities presently excluded because they are part of a local authority with a total population in excess of 10,000?

Mrs McCauley:

- (1) I agree that any program which supports the provision of community infrastructure in rural and

remote Queensland is worthwhile. Feedback from those Councils who benefited from the scheme has been positive.

I expect the Cabinet Budget Committee will be considering a number of options to support rural Queensland communities in the formulation of the 1996/97 State budget. I assure you that, contrary to the former Government's intention to terminate this program at 30 June 1996, I will be in there arguing for further assistance to such communities.

- (2) If a new scheme is approved, I will be looking at the old administrative and eligibility guidelines and ways they can be improved.

193. Fire Service Equipment

Mr LIVINGSTONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport—

With reference to the Queensland Fire Service—

- (1) How many fire appliances are owned by the Queensland Fire Service?
- (2) How many of these are fully operational?
- (3) What is the cost of a fully equipped fire appliance?
- (4) What is the make and age of every appliance currently in use?
- (5) How many new fire appliances were purchased in 1994-95?
- (6) How many fire appliances have been or will be purchased in 1995-96?
- (7) How many new appliances will be proposed for the 1996-97 Budget?
- (8) What amount was set aside in each of the last 3 budgets to maintain these fire appliances?
- (9) Are there any issues of discontent emanating from either the United Firefighters' Union, the Queensland Fire Service or Queensland Firefighters regarding the standard of fire appliances?
- (10) What process is employed by the Queensland Fire Service in allocating and replacing fire appliances?

Mr Veivers:

- (1a) Urban—427
- (1b) Rural—Records of the Division show 543 appliances under the control of Rural Fire Brigades.
- (2a) Urban—427 are operational. At any one time there are three or four vehicles non-operational as they are removed from service for disposal. Six vehicles located at State Training Centre, Lytton can be used operationally if required.
- (2b) Rural—I am informed that the Division believes that all are operational.
- (3a) Urban—Whilst the value of the vehicle is known the value of the equipment carried may vary according to the operating location.

Appliance Type	Value of Vehicle	Value of Equipment	Total Value
Standard Pumper	320,000	51,300	371,300
Telescopic Aerial			
Pumper	573,000	41,000	614,000
Aerial Appliance	910,000	6,500	916,500
Pumper Tanker	169,000	38,500	207,500
Compact Pumper	126,000	32,600	158,600
Emergency Tender	48,000	16,000	64,000
4X4 Tanker	82,000	5,000	87,000

(3b) Rural—The Division constructs three standard appliances for Brigades. As at 27 November 1995 the costs were:

(a) Mark I (based on Mitsubishi Canter chassis) \$52,948

(b) Mark II (based on Mitsubishi Canter chassis) \$48,494

(c) Light Attack (based on a Mitsubishi Triton chassis) \$33,782

(4a) Urban—I include for tabling, an Urban Appliance List.

(4b) Rural—I include for tabling a printout from the Rural Fire Division database showing the make and age of most of the appliances in the fleet.

(5a) & (6a) Urban

APPLIANCES PURCHASED 1994/95

TYPE—QTY

Standard Urban Pumper—10

Telescopic Aerial Pumper—4

Pumper Tanker—13

Aerial Ladder—2

TOTAL—29

APPLIANCES PURCHASED 1995/96

TYPE —QTY

Pumper Tanker—16

4X4 Pumper Tanker—7

Telescopic Aerial Pumper—4

Standard Urban Pumper—8

TOTAL—35

(5b) Rural—38 new appliances were distributed to Brigades in 1994/95.

(6b) Rural—65 new appliances will be provided in 1995/96.

(7a) Urban—30 appliances to be provided in 1996/97.

(7b) Rural—Current planning is for 44 appliances to be provided in 1996/97.

(8a) Urban —

95/96 \$1.039 million

94/95 \$0.948 million

93/94 \$0.877 million

(8b) Rural—Maintenance of Brigade appliances is the responsibility of each Brigade. The Division makes no budgetary allowance for this activity.

(9a) Urban—Generally the firefighters are satisfied with the new fire appliances currently on issue, however, there have been recent concerns raised

regarding the "Firepac" urban pumpers Mark 1 and Mark 2 which have been in service for four years.

These concerns relate to cabin layout including seating positions, Breathing Apparatus cylinder mounting arrangements and seat belts. These issues have been the subject of intense negotiations and research and an agreed modification program is now in place that addresses these issues.

Recently a number of Firepac Mark 2 appliances showed stress cracking on a cabin support chassis member. As a result a recall and modification program has been put into place to install strengthening gussets to the affected areas.

Air conditioning in Firepacs has been a topical issue and continuing research and work with manufacturers and firefighters is slowly resolving these issues. New design appliances have a much improved air flow and improved cooling system.

There are also concerns regarding some minor issues relating to Firepac appliances namely vibrating rear view mirrors, door and seat trims and locker space. These have all been addressed and solved by new design or retrofit solutions.

There have been some concerns from mechanics regarding service access and maintenance on the newer technology machines. This has been addressed in the latest specifications and design, and training courses have been set up for operational and maintenance staff.

(9b) Rural—Queensland Fire Service has no discontent with the current appliances.

(10a) Urban—The philosophy behind vehicle allocation and replacement is as follows:

a. New vehicles are allocated to a region based on the age and condition of vehicles located in that area.

b. The final destination of allocated vehicles is determined by Regional Management based on suitability and usage levels. In principle, new vehicles are allocated to high call rate stations in the first instance. This allows older vehicles to be transferred to stations with lesser activity levels. Ultimately the aim is to retire the oldest vehicles in the fleet.

c. In order to maintain the status quo on vehicle age, a minimum of 25 new vehicles per year need to be purchased. The Queensland Fire Service vehicle replacement program will achieve the desired fleet vehicle age of 17 years in 2001 by purchasing in excess of 25 vehicles each year.

(10b) Rural—Each of the Division's 14 District Inspectors assesses the needs of Brigades in his District. Appliances are allocated to Brigades having the highest needs.

194. Mr D. McTaggart

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts—

When did she tell Dr McTaggart that he had the job as Under Treasurer?

Mrs Sheldon: Dr McTaggart has not been appointed to this position. I understand applications for the position close on Monday, May 20.

195. Airconditioning of Schools

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to his decision to air-condition 2 schools in Townsville at a cost of \$1.5m—

- (1) What investigations has his department undertaken into the suitability of existing school buildings to be air-conditioned?
- (2) What structural modifications will be required to existing buildings, how much will this cost and who will pay the cost?
- (3) What upgrading of electrical installations is likely to be required in existing buildings, at what cost and who will pay the cost?
- (4) What are the estimated maintenance and operational costs of running air-conditioners in schools and what additional grants will P & C's receive to pay these costs?
- (5) What guidelines will be used to prioritise which schools or which buildings within schools will be given preference under his scheme?

Mr Quinn:

(1) (2) & (3) The two schools referred to, Northern Beaches State High School and The Willows State School, are yet to be constructed and as such will not require any "retrofitting".

(4) Maintenance costs are based on limited historical data and will vary depending on the type of installation finally selected. However, if you refer to an announcement by the Member for Mundingburra, you will note that preliminary estimates for electricity and maintenance costs are \$1250 per classroom, per annum.

Ongoing operating and maintenance costs will be met by the government, for consumption during school hours. The requirement for an additional grant to P&C's is not, at this stage, considered necessary.

(5) The Government has made it clear that only those schools north of the 20th parallel will be considered for air-conditioning under this scheme. Of these schools, priority will be given to those schools in zones considered to be most susceptible to heat stress. An exception to this priority is a commitment to air-condition all new schools and new buildings within this region.

196. Mr K. Davies; Mr J. Andrews

Mr MILLINER asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing—

- (1) Has his Acting Director General, Mr Kevin Davies, recently had a meeting with Mr John Andrews at Level 7, 80 George Street; if so, what was the purpose of the meeting?
- (2) Has Mr Andrews been engaged as a consultant to the Department of Public Works and Housing; if so, what is the basis of this consultancy?
- (3) What fees will be paid to Mr Andrews?
- (4) Is this the same Mr John Andrews who was a former partner with Mr Davies in a private surveying company?

- (5) Is this the same Mr Andrews who was heavily involved in Liberal politics with Mr Davies?

Mr Connor:

- (1) I am informed by Mr Davies that he regularly meets with Mr Andrews for a variety of reasons.
- (2) No.
- (3) No fees will be paid to Mr Andrews for consultancy work.
- (4) & (5) My Ministerial responsibility is to answer questions on Government business, not private business or private politics.

198. Mount Lindesay Highway

Mr FOLEY asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

With reference to his statement to the House on 17 April 1996 that the Government is considering upgrading the Mount Lindesay Highway as an alternative to expansion of the Pacific Highway north of the Logan Motorway—

- (1) Will he release maps and other details of the option being considered in regard to the Mount Lindesay Highway upgrade?
- (2) How many homes are proposed to be resumed if the Mount Lindesay Highway upgrade goes ahead?
- (3) What impact would this option have on Beaudesert Road, Moorooka and Ipswich Road, Annerley in terms of (a) traffic volumes; and (b) road widening?
- (4) Why did the coalition fail to inform the public prior to the 1995 election that it proposed to consider upgrading the Mount Lindesay Highway as an alternative to expansion of the Pacific Highway north of the Logan Motorway?
- (5) Why has he failed to consult with the residents of Annerley and Moorooka about this proposal?

Mr Johnson: There are no current plans to consider upgrading of Mount Lindesay Highway as an alternative to expansion of the Pacific Highway/South East Freeway north of the Logan Motorway.

(1) The option of upgrading Mount Lindesay Highway has long featured in Main Roads/Queensland Transport planning for future development of this highway, as indeed is the situation for all major roads comprising the State-controlled transport network. The planning documents are readily available for public viewing at the appropriate Main Roads' District Office. I envisage that this corridor, and others, will be part of the integrated Regional Transport Plan, but this is not indicative of any plan to turn the Mount Lindesay Highway into a major corridor linking Brisbane with the Gold Coast. There will be no motorway through this area and indeed it is my aim to get all unnecessary heavy vehicles away from residential areas.

The previous administration would be aware that the current Roads Implementation Program (1995/96—1999/2000) in fact provides indicative

forward funding allocations for upgrading of the highway to four-lane, divided carriageway standard south of Browns Plains, including grade-separated interchanges to eliminate existing traffic-congested intersections at Browns Plains Road and Vansittart Road.

(2) Planning for four-laning of the highway to Beaudesert still is at an early stage; however, it is expected that no houses will be required to be resumed for this upgrade.

(3) No significant, direct impact of this proposal is expected on Beaudesert Road, Moorooka or Ipswich Road, Annerley.

(4) Planned upgrading of Mount Lindesay Highway is not a new proposal. Main Roads/Queensland Transport planning for four-lane development of the highway has been in existence in one form or another since the early 1980s.

(5) Consultation with the appropriate, likely affected parties would be undertaken as a matter of course during the detailed design process of this project, following final approvals to proceed.

199. Pacific Highway

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

With reference to the Government's long term proposal to 6 lane the Pacific Highway from Nerang to the border—

- (1) What would be the additional cost of 6 laning from Reedy Creek to Tugun at this time, given that construction of the 4 laning on this section of highway has only just begun?
- (2) What would be the cost of an additional 2 lanes to meet 6 laning of this section of highway at some time in the future?
- (3) What would be the difference in cost of carrying out the work now when the construction equipment is on site as opposed to building the 2 lanes at some future time?

Mr Johnson: (1), (2) and (3) No detailed costings of this nature are available at this time. The current construction project to four lane the Pacific Highway between Reedy Creek and Tugun makes provision for future widening to six lanes with minimum interference to highway traffic. The Government will consider upgrading this section of the Pacific Highway from four to six lanes in the future when travel demands warrant.

201. Rental Bond Scheme

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing—

With reference to the Residential Tenancies Authority Rental Bond Scheme and rental properties within the Nudgee electorate—

- (1) How much money remains unclaimed from this fund?
- (2) How many tenancies does this relate to?
- (3) What is the highest amount unclaimed?
- (4) What is the median amount unclaimed?

Mr Connor:

(1) The latest Residential Tenancies Authority (RTA) figures show private rental tenants and lessors in the Nudgee electorate have failed to reclaim \$3,680.83 in bonds from as far back as 1991.

(2) In the Nudgee electorate, 39 cheques have been issued and are still unclaimed. The RTA sends notices of rental bond claims and cheques to a tenant's last known address. If they move on and do not leave the RTA a forwarding address, as requested, they may not even realise a cheque is waiting for them.

(3) The highest amount outstanding in the Nudgee electorate is \$800.

(4) The median amount unclaimed is \$50.

202. Haemophilia

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the blood disease haemophilia—

- (1) Is he aware that the Haemophilia Foundation of Queensland has identified a chronic shortage of Factor 8, which is the blood product used to control bleeding in cases of haemophilia?
- (2) Given that the disease is life threatening when Factor 8 is not available, what action will he take to overcome this problem?

Mr Horan:

(1) Yes. I was aware, and extremely concerned about the shortage prior to my appointment, and met with the Foundation on 27 March 1996 as a result.

(2) My Department, being aware that chronic shortages of Factor 8, has arranged for weekly reports from the Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service to monitor the situation. Supplies are being managed to avoid shortages and extra supplies are available from other States should extraordinary demand be encountered. My Department has developed a management plan to ensure adequate supplies of Factor 8 (both plasma derived and synthetically produced) are available. In view of criticality and urgency of this matter, I have entered into negotiations with Treasury and established departmental deadlines to ensure resolution of this issue in the immediate future.

203. Caboolture-Wamuran Rail Line

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

With reference to the Caboolture to Wamuran rail line—

- (1) Will he assure pineapple growers in my electorate that the line will remain open for the transport of pineapples from Wamuran?
- (2) Does the Government have any plans to extend and electrify the line to Woodford as claimed by the coalition candidate in the 1995 State election for the seat of Caboolture; if so, when will this work begin?

Mr Johnson:

1. Queensland Rail has no current plans to cease railing pineapples from the Wamuran branch to the cannery at Northgate.

2. The existing railway runs from Caboolture to Wamuran. It is not electrified and is used primarily for pineapple traffic.

The current major railway commuter station in the area is Caboolture and there are no plans to electrify the line.

Residential growth in the Woodford and Caboolture region is high. However, it is not anticipated that this growth will justify the introduction of an electrified passenger railway to Woodford in the immediate future. There are currently no funds allocated for progressing this work.

204. Queensland Ambulance Service

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport—

With reference to the Queensland Ambulance Service—

- (1) How many permanent positions are filled by personnel acting in these capacities?
- (2) Where are these positions located?
- (3) Will he provide a comprehensive list of all these positions?
- (4) When will these positions be filled with permanent appointments?

Mr Veivers:

(1) The staff establishment of the Queensland Ambulance Service is 1780. As of 18 April 1996, there were 101 vacant permanent positions. The records indicate that as at 23 April 1996, 64 permanent positions were filled by personnel acting in them. The reasons for the acting are varied and include:

incumbent on leave

incumbent seconded to other temporary duties; eg—major projects

position vacant and awaiting new appointee to take up position

position vacant and recruitment process being followed

incumbent undergoing further training; eg—paramedic course

some remote and rural areas difficult to fill on a permanent basis so relievers rotated through the position.

- (2) The positions are located across the State.
- (3) It is not practical to provide a comprehensive list as the list changes virtually on a daily basis as positions become vacant and filled, officers return from leave, and as projects and training are completed.
- (4) The positions are filled with temporary appointments for approximately six weeks for those on annual leave. Other leave relief varies depending on the length of leave; eg—long service, accouchement.

For those permanent positions that are vacant, it takes approximately eight weeks to fill a position from the commencement of advertising to the time the successful appointee takes up the position. Every effort is being made to fill all vacant positions.

206. Police and Citizens Youth Club, Bundaberg

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport—

With reference to the Community Centres Program and the fact that Bundaberg has one of the highest levels of unemployment in Queensland, and needs facilities for youth in the city and district—

Will he immediately consider a grant to Bundaberg to establish a Police and Citizens Youth Club in Bundaberg?

Mr Veivers: In response to the specific questions made by Mr Campbell, I can advise as follows:

Two proposals came forward under the Community Recreation Centres Program from the Bundaberg area. One from the Honourable Member for Bundaberg for the establishment of a Police Citizens Youth Club and the other from the Christian Outreach Centre for a Community Recreation Centre.

The Advisory Council established by the previous Government and chaired by Mr Clem Jones made no recommendation on either of these two proposals.

The number of commitments made by the previous Government have allowed me little capacity to consider any new proposals under this Program.

I am currently reviewing this Program to determine how available funding may be best targeted to provide the greatest benefits to Queenslanders.

207. Performance Management Dividend

Mr ELDER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

With reference to the Budget—

- (1) What savings options have been offered by his department in order to achieve the Government's budget policy of a 1 percent "across the board" efficiency dividend?
- (2) Which of his savings options have been adopted by the Government?
- (3) What is the specific dollar value of each of these options?
- (4) What new initiatives in his portfolio have been announced by the Coalition Government since 19 February 1996?
- (5) What is the estimated full year cost of each of these initiatives and what is the source of funding for each initiative—Consolidated Revenue, Trust and Special Funds or borrowings?
- (6) When will each of these new initiatives be implemented, or in the case of capital projects, when will the project commence and what is its estimated date of completion and its costs?

Mr Johnson:

(1) The Honourable the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for the Arts has provided a response to this question.

(2) Refer to (1) above.

(3) Refer to (1) above.

(4) A number of new transport portfolio initiatives have been foreshadowed since 19 February 1996, the most significant being:

- removal of the toll on the Sunshine Coast Motorway; and,
- the upgrading of the Pacific Highway from Brisbane to the Gold Coast.

As indicated in the response to this question by the Honourable the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for the Arts, the scope, implementation plans and funding details of new transport portfolio initiatives will be finalised as part of the Budget process.

(5) The 1996-97 State Budget will contain full details of new transport portfolio initiatives.

(6) Refer to (5) above

208. Pacific Highway

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

With reference to his decision to widen the South East Freeway to 8 lanes between the Logan Motorway and Smith Street, Southport, and associated commitments to provide the service roads first in relation to the Beenleigh-Eagleby area—

- (1) Is a bridge connection over the Logan River between Holmview Road at Edens Landing and Drews Road being considered; if so, what is the current status of those considerations?
- (2) Is a bridge connection over the Logan River which will involve a new road from the corner of Boundary Road and Logan Street, Beenleigh through the Doug Larsen Wetlands being considered; if so, what is the current status of those considerations?
- (3) What streets and roads in Beenleigh and Eagleby will be utilised as service roads to carry South East Freeway traffic, during the proposed construction period for that section of freeway between the Albert and Logan Rivers?

Mr Johnson:

(1), (2) and (3) No bridge connection is being considered as part of this project.

The project does provide for a possible connection along this route to cater for local traffic movements. The proposal will be discussed with the community and Local Government to obtain their views as part of the Impact Management Plan process.

The Department of Main Roads will not be using existing local and service roads in Beenleigh to carry highway through traffic during the project's construction period.

209. Power Supply, Daintree Region

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment—

With reference to statements by the Premier and the Minister for Mines and Energy announcing the Government's intention to extend power

transmission lines north of the Daintree River to at least the areas of Forest Creek and Cow Bay—

- (1) Is he aware of any ecological values of these areas; if so, what are they and which values are likely to be affected by such an engineering project?
- (2) What inquiries has he made to determine the ecological values and plant and animal biodiversity of the region and the impact of this project on such values and diversity?
- (3) Is he aware of the proximity of the subdivided areas to the Wet Tropics World Heritage area?
- (4) Has he made inquiries as to the impacts, both direct and indirect, which this project is likely to have on such World Heritage Areas; if so, what are those impacts?
- (5) Which parts of World Heritage Area will be traversed by the proposed power line?
- (6) Does he approve such incursions on the World Heritage Area?
- (7) Has he made any assessment of the likely impetus to urban settlement and associated vegetation clearing likely to result from powerline extensions to these areas?
- (8) What are the detailed social and environmental impacts of such developments?

Mr Littleproud:

- (1) The ecological values of the Daintree are well researched and documented and are not in question.
- (2) I am aware of the ecological values of the Daintree area generally and I will make more specific inquiries as the need arises.
- (3) Only about 25 of the 1200 odd freehold are within or partly within the World Heritage Area. As the Wet Tropics area is defined and has a boundary, that land boundary would have to be shared and it is my belief that many of these remaining blocks would be proximate to the area.
- (4) The matter of the impact of the power extensions on the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area is obviously of concern to me. I have asked my colleague, the Hon Tom Gilmore, Minister for Mines and Energy to ensure that world best environmental practices are adopted in the design and construction of any power extensions.
- (5) If any parts of the World Heritage Area are to be traversed they will be identified at a later date.
- (6) Since no area is presently defined no decision can be made.
- (7 & 8) At this time no detailed assessments have been made.

210. South Coast Motorway; Eastern Corridor

Mr ELDER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

With reference to the Goss Government's decision to abandon the South Coast Motorway and to dispose of the Eastern corridor north of the Logan River in sensitive koala habitat—

- (1) What properties have now been disposed of that were held in that corridor?
- (2) What properties are still retained by his departments in that corridor?
- (3) What time table is there for the disposal of properties still owned by the Government in that corridor?

Mr Johnson: In answer to Part 1, there have been no properties disposed of at this time.

In answer to Part 2, forty-four properties are owned in the former motorway corridor (northern section). These are listed for progressive disposal.

In answer to Part 3, the first property to be disposed of has been listed with agents for public auction on 12 June 1996. No formal timetable has been established as yet for disposal of all the properties, that are to be disposed of. The timetable will be managed to maximise return to Government. It is envisaged the sale of all properties could take up to four to five years, depending on market forces.

211. Draft Child Protection Bill

Mr FOURAS asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care—

With reference to the draft Child Protection Bill that was to be tabled this year by his predecessor—

- (1) Will he be introducing this Bill in the next session of Parliament in its current form?
- (2) If not, when will the 1965 Childrens' Services Act be updated?

Mr Lingard: (1) & (2) The draft proposals for new child protection legislation prepared by the previous Government are currently being examined. I expect to be in a position in the near future to present drafting instructions for Cabinet approval. These instructions will incorporate provisions which reflect this Government's policies.

It is imperative that new child protection legislation include provisions which make clear to the families of Queensland this Government's commitment to the prevention of child abuse through measures which support and reinforce the role of families. The Government is committed to early intervention to assist families and children before serious abuse or irreparable family breakdown occurs.

I have in recent times met with my fellow Ministers in this portfolio area in other States, through the Health and Community Services Ministerial Council, and have taken on board some of the national concerns facing us in the difficult area of child protection. My staff are currently examining what responses we in Queensland can make to help ensure that child protection laws Australia-wide provide a tight safety-net for the children of this country.

The protection of children is something to which I am sure all members of this Parliament are committed, and I personally am committed to proceeding to introduce a Child Protection Bill into Parliament at the earliest opportunity.

212. Nutrient Removal Infrastructure Program

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Local Government and Planning—

With reference to the Nutrient Removal Infrastructure Program (QNIFP) and her Government's pre-election promise to increase the subsidy payable to local Government to 40 per cent—

- (1) Has she considered the January applications to her department from the Townsville City Council for subsidies for the urgently required new works at Magnetic Island and the upgrading of the Cleveland Bay Purification Plant?
- (2) Does she support the Townsville City Council view that Magnetic Island, as an island community in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park environment, and as a tourist drawcard to North Queensland, has unique waste water needs which require a \$9m waste water scheme which is beyond the funding capacity of city rate payers?
- (3) In terms of her Government's priorities, does she accept that the \$7.8m proposed Cleveland Bay Purification Plant Effluent Reuse Scheme designed to reuse 100 per cent of the plant's average dry weather effluent and thereby provide maximum protection of Townsville and Cleveland Bay's marine ecosystem, must have a first order status in terms of State Government financial support?

Mrs McCauley:

(1) While the applications referred to by the Member have been received by my Department, they have not yet been submitted to me for consideration. I understand the technical and engineering aspects of the proposals are presently being reviewed by the Department of Natural Resources. This is the normal practice for all requests for State subsidies.

(2) I am aware of the sensitivity of the Magnetic Island and Great Barrier Reef Marine Park environments. I understand the estimated cost of proposed works is \$9M and I will take into account the capacity of local rate payers to meet that cost when I consider the Council's application.

(3) Any proposal which provides for re-use of water is to be supported and this will certainly be a consideration when I examine the Council's application.

216. Rev. A. Male; Shaftesbury Citizenship Centre

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care—

With reference to the appointment of Reverend Allan Male as Acting Director-General of the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care—

- (1) Does Reverend Allan Male pay any rent for the residence he occupies at the Shaftesbury Centre; if so, how much?
- (2) In light of his answer to myself that the Shaftesbury Centre has received no Government funding and his subsequent response to a question by the Member for South Brisbane to the contrary, will he provide details of all Government funding received by

the Centre, including funding from the Queensland Corrective Services Commission, for consideration, capital and recurrent programs, since the centre was established?

- (3) Specifically, what youth activities are conducted with the \$82,161 annual funding received by the Shaftesbury Centre?
- (4) How many, if any, young people were accommodated at the Shaftesbury Centre in the past twelve months?
- (5) What role, if any, will the Director-General play in assessing funding applications from the Shaftesbury Centre and other youth organisations?

Mr Lingard:

(1) There is no residence at the Shaftesbury Centre at Spring Hill.

As I advised previously, Rev Male and his wife mortgaged other properties to ensure completion of infrastructure and facilities at the Shaftesbury Campus at Deception Bay, where they reside.

(2) The Shaftesbury Citizenship Centre Inc. located at Spring Hill has received some funding from my Department over a number of years. In the current financial year, an amount of \$82,161 has been allocated under the Grants to Community Organisations Program. The Shaftesbury Campus at Deception Bay does not receive any funding from my Department. My colleague the Minister for Police and Corrective Services could advise details of funding for the adult community corrections centre at Deception Bay.

(3) Departmental funding to the Shaftesbury Citizenship Centre Inc located at Spring Hill is provided to assist with the employment of staff and operational costs for the Street Academy Program. Shaftesbury programs have been acclaimed internationally.

The Street Academy located at Spring Hill, provides educational support to disadvantaged young people aged between 13-15 years. Most of the young people have been suspended or expelled from schools and the purpose of the academy is to provide an alternative education experience and to reintegrate the students into mainstream education.

(4) There is no accommodation at the Shaftesbury Centre in Spring Hill. The Shaftesbury Campus at Deception Bay does not provide long term accommodation for young people. Rather, the units are used for short term youth leadership and other programs.

(5) I, as the Minister responsible, am the sole financial delegate for the approval of all grants under the programs administered by the Department. The Minister's decisions are informed by an extensive planning and assessment process which entails community involvement in the identification of needs and objective assessment of the priorities by departmental officers. Generally recommendations to the Minister are endorsed by the Director-General as Chief Executive of the organisation. As with all Public Servants the Reverend Male will follow the Code of Conduct for Public Servants and not

involve himself in any decisions where there could be a real or perceived conflict of interest.

219. Housing and Facilities for Disabled Citizens

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care—

With reference to people with disabilities who have a right to live as other Queenslanders and be included as valued members of their community and as some may need care and support services to enable them to enjoy a quality of life in the community and for the benefit of those with disabilities and their families—

- (1) What is the Coalition Government doing with regard to the provision of independent public housing for those with disabilities?
- (2) What is the Government doing with respect to the development and implementation of policy to assist disabled persons living in public housing who require the services of carers 24 hours a day?
- (3) What would be the Coalition Government's response be to helping a disabled person who, for one reason or another, has lost both parents and therefore his/her principal carers?

Mr Lingard:

(1) People with disabilities in Queensland have access to public housing through the ordinary public housing program. My colleague, The Honourable Ray Connor, Minister for Public Works and Housing can more properly address this provision. For those people with disabilities who are relocating from institutions to the community, the Government is making provision for additional public housing places. The provision of these additional places means that other people with disabilities are not disadvantaged in waiting for the provision of public housing.

(2) Many people with disabilities live in the community with the support of either paid or unpaid carers. Some of these carers may be family, some are staff paid by non-government agencies which are funded by the Government and some may be staff employed by a Government agency. Through existing legislation and service provision, the Government is able to provide support to a large number of people with disabilities in the community. This support is based on their needs for support and not on their housing type, as these people live in a range of housing including public housing, and private housing options. Where people with disabilities live in public housing and require 24 hour support, the policy options exist through the Disability Services Act and through the Government's Intellectual Disability Services and Medical Health Services to fund or provide the necessary support.

(3) There are a number of options available to assist people with disabilities who have lost the support of families:

The Government is able to provide or fund support services which meet the basic needs of the person;

Assistance with finances can be provided by organisations such as the Public Trust Office;

The Intellectually Disabled Citizens' Council, and the Volunteer Friends Program, assists people with disabilities to be linked to friends in the community; and

A number of agencies funded or supported by Government provide services which assist people with disabilities to experience a quality of life and participate in various community activities.

220.DBIRD Office, Maryborough

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry—

With reference to the regional office of DBIRD which was opened in Maryborough on 13 February 1992 by the then Premier Wayne Goss to, amongst other things, assure the smooth implementation of assistance to business and industry of the very successful growth and development package for the Great Sandy Region and as this package was set in place to compensate and to make sure that this region maintained its economic growth after the cessation of logging on Fraser Island—

Does his Government intend to maintain this office in Maryborough as a Regional office?

Mr Davidson: Yes, this office will be retained as a regional office of the Department of Tourism, Small Business and Industry.

224.Cat Control Program, Toowoomba City Council

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

With reference to the Toowoomba City Council's cat control program in which traps are hired out to residents having problems with roaming cats with the requirement that the trapped cats are taken to a council pound for retrieval by their owners or destruction—

- (1) Does he support this program?
- (2) Does he intend to encourage other local authorities to adopt this model law; if not, why not?
- (3) Does he support the RSPCA call for cat registration?
- (4) Does he support cat de-sexing as a means of control over cat numbers?

Mr Littleproud:

(1) My colleague the Minister for Local Government and Planning would be better placed to respond in detail to your questions. However, I endorse any attempts by local authorities to control the domestic cat population provided they are underpinned by sound humane principles.

The Department of Environment convened a "Cat Management Workshop" in 1993 to address the many issues surrounding cats and cat control. Among the outcomes from this workshop were:

"There is a considerable weight of evidence to indicate that feral and uncontrolled domestic cats cause severe depredations on native wildlife. Any attempt to reduce these depredations therefore needs to take account of both feral and domestic cat populations. If domestic cats were ignored significant depredation of native wildlife would continue around all areas of human habitation, not to mention that recruitment of new feline stock into the feral population must come from the domestic population."

Cat control programs like the one proposed by the Toowoomba City Council have been successfully introduced in several other areas of Australia. The Toowoomba program only targets the uncontrolled portion of the domestic cat population and hence should be of little concern to responsible cat owners. The purpose of such controls is to protect the welfare of native, companion and farm animals and minimise nuisance to people.

(2) The principle of increased humane control of the domestic cat population is one to be supported. The form such controls would take is a matter for each local authority to consider in light of their own environmental setting. The inherent differences between urban and regional environments will dictate the exact form these controls will take.

(3) Registration as advocated by the RSPCA provides a means for distinguishing the uncontrolled portion of the domestic cat population and could be an important component of a cat control program. The responsibility for cat control does however still rest with cat owners.

(4) A scheme where owners of reproductively capable cats needed to be registered as cat breeders would effectively control/eliminate the flow of domestic cats into the feral population. Such a scheme has been implemented in other parts of Australia and has been endorsed by the RSPCA. The previously mentioned Cat Management Workshop agreed that a much larger number of domestic cats entered the wild than the reverse and that if domestic cats were desexed, these animals would be unable to establish or significantly help to maintain a viable feral population if they strayed.

225.Draft Wet Tropics Management Plan

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Environment—

With reference to public consultation on the Draft Wet Tropics Management Plan which closed on 26 April—

- (1) When will the final plan be released?
- (2) Will the Wet Tropics Authority Board members have input into the final plan?
- (3) Will the public submissions be made public?

Mr Littleproud:

(1) Proper consideration of the many submissions to the draft Plan will take some time. A report on the submissions must also be presented to the Ministerial Council. Both the Authority's Board and

the Ministerial Council will need to consider the impact of these submissions on the draft Plan. Neither the Board nor the Ministerial Council will make hasty decisions in weighing community concerns. The Board and the Ministerial Council next meet later in the year.

(2) Yes. A report on all submissions received, along with any proposed amendments to the draft Plan will be considered by the Board. The final draft endorsed by the Board will then be forwarded to the Ministerial Council as required by s.46 of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993.

(3) A report documenting all submissions and how each related to the Plan will be publicly available simultaneously with the release of the final Wet Tropics Plan. This report will also describe the method of consultation used and the outcomes of the process.

226. Mouse Plague, Darling Downs and Goondiwindi

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry—

Is he aware of the catastrophic mouse plague being experienced by areas of the Darling Downs and Goondiwindi, where the mice are so bad that many farmers have stopped the planting which had commenced following the recent rain, as the mice have been digging up the grain every night as fast as it is planted?

Will he assist the hard pressed farmers by approving the use of appropriate chemicals?

Mr Perrett: I am aware of the existing mouse situation on the Darling Downs, and met with my colleagues, the Honourable Ministers for Natural Resources and Health on 1 May to discuss what needs to be done.

As a result of our meeting, a rodent research team is being established to investigate a number of issues including long term integrated pest management. The Mice Task Force Team consisting of representatives and a number of government agencies and industry is also being reformed.

The approval system for agricultural chemicals is the responsibility of the National Registration Authority for Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals. The Authority is well aware of the current situation that exists. Currently, there are no 'in crop' broad acre rodenticides registered or available in Australia.

At this stage, it is expected that the rain and cooler temperatures may impact on mice numbers and the situation may not be as critical as is being suggested. However, the position is being constantly monitored.

229. Police Staffing, Caboolture and Bribie Island

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing—

With reference to police staffing levels at Caboolture and Bribie Island police stations in the Caboolture electorate—

When can staff increases be anticipated?

Mr Cooper: The authorised model strength at Caboolture station is thirty-three (33) officers. At present, the actual strength is thirty-three (33) which includes two (2) surplus officers. There is one (1) Senior Constable and one (1) Constable vacancy. Appropriate action has been taken by the Personnel Officer, North Coast Region to fill these vacancies.

In relation to staff increases, the Government has given an undertaking to maximise police recruitment through increased recruit intakes, civilianisation and the establishment of a new Police Academy at Townsville. Recruits who are successful in the first increased intake will graduate in November 1996. The actual number of police to be allocated to Caboolture and Bribie Island Stations will then be determined by the Service's Resource Allocation model.

233. Proposed Camira Bypass

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

With reference to the proposed Camira by-pass road—

- (1) How many residents have completed negotiations with the Department of Transport for the sale of their properties?
- (2) How many residents have still to enter into negotiations with the department for the sale of their properties?
- (3) What is the expected date for commencement of road works on the Camira by-pass road?

Mr Johnson: Negotiations for full or part property acquisition have been completed for thirty-two properties. Negotiations are proceeding on a further fourteen properties.

There are five properties remaining, where negotiations have not commenced.

No definite time can be given for commencement of roadworks. Work is expected to commence in the latter part of this year, following finalisation of the Springfield Agreement and gazettal of the Springfield Development Control Plan.

235. Community Renewal and Local Jobs Program, Zillmere

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Local Government and Planning—

With reference to the Community Renewal and Local Jobs Program—

Is her department intending to establish a project for the Brisbane suburb of Zillmere; if so, (a) what are the terms of reference and the specific objectives of the project, (b) what community consultation will take place prior to and during the implementation of the project, (c) what time frame is proposed for the implementation of the project and (d) will she guarantee local community representation on any committee established to oversee the implementation of the project?

Mrs McCauley: As the Member would be aware, the Community Renewal and Local Jobs Program was established as a result of a 1995 election commitment of the previous Government.

At this point in time a detailed Budget Review of State Government Programs is under way. The Community Renewal and Local Jobs Program is subject to that review.

The Member would also be aware that the previous Government approved the inclusion of Zillmere as one of the 13 areas for further review under the Program in 1996/97.

There are no current commitments in the Zillmere area under the Community Renewal and Local Jobs Program at this time and there was no provision under the previous Labor Government for forward funding for these projects.

237. Pollution of Gold Coast Waterways by Sewage

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Environment—

- (1) Is he aware of the concern of Gold Coast residents about the serious pollution problem being caused by the overflow of raw sewage into the broadwater and canals of the Gold Coast which is occurring up to five times a month, some of them are of the capacity of 80,000 litres?
- (2) As this is of concern to all Gold Coast residents and Queenslanders, will he outline the facts relating to the overflows?
- (3) What action is his department taking in recording and monitoring these overflows and their effect on the environment?
- (4) Will he outline what action is being taken by his department to get the Gold Coast City Council to remedy this dangerous situation?

Mr Littleproud:

(1) Yes, I am aware of concerns expressed by Gold Coast residents. However, I am advised by officers of the Department of Environment that the allegation that overflow of raw sewage may be occurring up to five times per month is incorrect as is the alleged volume of the overflows.

(2) The Department has been advised by the Gold Coast City Council that since the last Christmas period there have been three overflows of a very minor nature. These overflow incidents were apparently caused by pump failures and were detected at an early stage. The resulting spillage of raw sewage would have been less than 5000 litres in total.

(3) The Gold Coast City Council has advised the Department that the overflows were minor in nature and not of the magnitude alleged. The Gold Coast City Council has in existence an appropriate monitoring facility which meets Departmental requirements.

The pump stations associated with the Gold Coast City Council's sewage reticulation system are all

fitted with high level alarms (flashing red lights) and the major stations are connected to a telemetry system which continually monitors the operations of the pump station. The telemetry system detects any abnormal events such as power outages and pump failures and communicates this information to a central monitoring facility. This is consistent with good practice for such equipment.

(4) Licences for sewage treatment plants are currently being developed across the State. As part of this overall process, appropriate conditions will be incorporated into the Gold Coast City licences. Specific emphasis will be placed on telemetering and standby equipment. These conditions will reflect the measures necessary to ensure the continued protection of our aquatic environment.

The Gold Coast City Council advises that it is making every effort to eliminate all overflows, and has resolved to expand its telemetry monitoring system. It also has decided to upgrade treatment plants from secondary to tertiary standard.

240. Commonwealth Environment Protection Agency

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment—

With reference to the strengthening reports from Canberra that the Howard Government intends to abolish the Commonwealth Environment Protection Agency and as it is this body that will set the national standards that industry will need to meet—

- (1) Does he oppose this move?
- (2) Has he expressed opposition to this move to his Federal counterpart Senator Hill; if not, does he intend to; if not, why not?
- (3) If the agency is abolished how does he see these national standards being set and coordinated?
- (4) In the event of the agency being abolished, will he give a commitment that he will not allow Queensland to become a haven for dirty industry and what steps will he take to implement environmental standards to ensure this?

Mr Littleproud: I am unable to answer the question as the premise of the question is incorrect. The Commonwealth Environment Protection Agency (CEPA) does not "set national standards that industry will need to meet". This is the statutory role of the National Environment Protection Council (NEPC) which consists of a Minister of the Commonwealth nominated by the Prime Minister, and Ministers of each participating State or Territory nominated by the respective Premier or Chief Minister.

The Council has been set up under uniform and complementary Acts in each State, Territory and the Commonwealth (except Western Australia which has recently indicated its desire to participate).

CEPA is a branch of the Department of Environment, Sport and Territories, and whether or not it is abolished is not relevant, as the committee established under the NEPC comprises nominees of

each member of the Council, being officials of the individual jurisdictions. It is thus up to each NEPC member how his or her jurisdiction would best be represented.

242. Agribusiness Industry, Quality Assurance Systems

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry—

With reference to the increasing importance of Quality Assurance systems in developing a successful Agribusiness sector, which is particularly the case for companies wishing to export to markets where compliance with Quality Assurance standards (such as ISO 9000) is a prerequisite for market entry—

Will he assure the Agribusiness industry in Queensland that the Government's commitment to the development of Quality Assurance systems will not wane under this new administration, and that funds will continue to be provided to assist primary producers to develop quality practices?

Mr Perrett:

1. In the rural sector, the Queensland Government is committed to the concept of quality assurance (QA) being increasingly applied along the chain from production through to the marketing of products. QA is primary industries' key to future competitiveness and profitability.

2. Wider adoption of quality principles across the rural sector is regarded by the Government as an important element for revitalising the rural sector and support for the sector to implement quality principles is being provided on a continuing basis.

3. The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is involved in promotion of QA in many rural industries and provision of services to assist with implementation of QA. For example, the Centre for Food Technology in the department has extensive expertise in quality management and training and provides technical support and guidance necessary to establish successful quality management systems.

4. Financial assistance to develop and implement QA is also provided to exporters of products originating in the rural sector through the Agribusiness Exporters Quality Assurance Scheme administered by DPI.

5. Success through provision of products of consistent quality is becoming more prevalent in world markets. Evidence of quality, by developing quality systems based on international quality system standards has become an important marketing strategy used by suppliers of goods and services throughout the world to satisfy their customers needs.

244. Police Staffing, Brisbane

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing—

With reference to his commitments to increase police presence and police numbers, and in particular his commitment, reported in local newspapers that Red Hill and The Gap Police Stations will remain open—

- (1) How does he explain the decision to (a) disband The Gap CIB and JAB, (b) reduce the operations of The Gap and Red Hill Police Stations to be Shop Fronts which are open during office hours only and (c) transfer operations at night to Toowong and Alderley which reduces the number of operational police each shift from one (1) Supervisor and two (2) patrol cars at each existing Police Station at Red Hill and Alderley to only one (1) Supervisor and three (3) patrol cars based at Alderley and responsible for the area from Stafford to Mt Nebo?
- (2) Is this an example of his commitment to increased police or is this an example of what Labor-held electorates, such as all of those impacted by this decision, can expect?

Mr Cooper:

(1) Earlier this year a project team was selected to consider the following options:

(a) That the Red Hill Division receives an appropriate increase in staff to meet Service and Community expectations;

(b) That the status quo remain;

(c) That the current boundaries of the Red Hill and Toowong Divisions remain until completion of the proposed Divisional Complexes for Alderley and Toowong Divisions; and

(d) That Red Hill and Toowong Divisions merge with portions of Red Hill Division being transferred to Alderley, Toowong and Brisbane City Divisions.

The last option was firmly recommended by the Assistant Commissioner of the Metropolitan North Police Region to the Board of Management on 16 April 1996 and the recommendation was approved. Merging of the two principal divisions will commence on 25 May 1996.

The following outcomes are envisaged:

(i) A merging of the two principal Divisions will produce efficiencies in rostering which will provide more effective service delivery and improve the staff working environment; and

(ii) The redistribution of the personnel attached to Red Hill Division will enable the Service to continue a viable policing presence in the inner western suburbs for some time ahead.

Features of this allocation are:

An equitable distribution of staff to meet Service, Community and staff expectations in the resized Divisions;

The establishment of an enhanced Toowong Divisional Traffic Branch under the day to day control of a substantive Senior Sergeant position;

Enhanced C I Branch and Juvenile Aid Bureau structures for the Toowong and Alderley Divisions; and

A dedicated Detective Senior Sergeant position in charge of the Toowong Division C I Branch.

The distribution of positions and personnel will need fine adjustment throughout the implementation

process. Where possible ideal rank structures will be sought. However, it is likely that further ongoing adjustment will be required.

Until completion of the complexes for Alderley and Toowong divisions, personnel and equipment will be accommodated in existing buildings which are adequate.

Alderley Division will inherit The Gap Station. A counter service will be maintained at this station from 8.00am to 4.00pm, Monday to Friday. It will be augmented by marked mobile patrols as part of the Alderley Division with further support by patrols from the enlarged Toowong Division providing a 24 hour police presence.

The Alderley JAB will be relocated from the former Newmarket Station to The Gap Station. The building has a dedicated interview room and the accommodation is more suitable for JAB purposes.

Toowong Division will inherit Red Hill, Torwood and Bardon stations. Red Hill Station will maintain a counter service from 8.00am to 4.00pm Monday to Friday. It will also become the Administration Centre for Toowong Division.

Bardon Station is currently used for training purposes and does not provide a counter service. A blue phone, which provides a 24 hour access to police, is established outside this station.

Torwood Station currently accommodates the Red Hill Division Traffic Branch, and is capable of accommodating the proposed Toowong Division Traffic Branch.

The merger is in line with regional planning for strategic placement of divisional 24 hour police complexes to meet future policing and community requirements within Metropolitan North Region.

The merger also provides the capability of increasing the minimum marked mobile patrols, within the current Red Hill Divisional area, from 2 to 3 units.

(2) The decision to merge Red Hill Division was made by the Police Service Board of Management on the basis of improving service delivery to the community.

246.Redland Shire Bus Service

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

With reference to the totally inadequate bus service being provided to my constituents and all residents of the Redland Shire—

- (1) What is being done to ensure that the timetable presently in operation is upgraded to provide an adequate service for Redland's residents?
- (2) What is being done to ensure that the bus routes offered are adequate for the needs of Redland's residents, especially the large proportion of elderly residents who no longer have a regular bus service to Cleveland?
- (3) When will a new bus contract be awarded for the Redland Shire?
- (4) Will he give a commitment that the needs of my constituents will be met by this new bus contract?

Mr Johnson: The legacy of your Labor administration, left the bus services of Redlands Shire in a very poor state indeed. Naturally I am proactive in addressing this deficiency.

In reply to parts 1 and 2 of the Honourable Member's question, Queensland Transport is currently investigating a range of matters relating to public passenger transport in Redland Shire with a view to ensuring that the reasonable expectations of the local community are satisfied under current and future public passenger transport arrangements. The inputs of the local community will be most important.

As part of this investigation Senior Officers of the Department have facilitated meetings with local bus and ferry operators, Redland Shire Council, local MLAs and their constituents to work through a range of concerns, including timetabling and the route structure of bus operations in Redland Shire.

Given problems associated with recent operational changes, Bayside Buslines proposes to conduct a survey of passengers to gauge the services required to meet patron's needs, with a view to amending their timetables and routes.

Moreover, the Department proposes to engage an independent consultant to prepare a public passenger transport study on Redland Shire, reporting on such matters as:

the current and prospective patronage on all modes of public passenger transport in the area;

the community transport needs as measured against current services;

the effective integration of the different transport modes (QR, bus, ferry, water taxi, barges), including daily lines of communication; and

the applicability of the proposed commercial service contract conditions to the Redland Shire, including minimum service levels (MSLs).

To further ensure the conditions of the proposed contract fit the needs of the local community, the Department will advertise the proposed MSLs in the local press and invite public comment, ahead of progressing the commercial service contract. The timetable for this will extend past the current financial year.

In answer to part 3, a contract for urban scheduled bus services has yet to be entered into in the Redland Bay/Cleveland area. Currently, bus operators in the proposed contract area function under license arrangements which will be subsumed into a single exclusive authority with the awarding of a commercial service contract.

The previous timetable for entering into the proposed Cleveland/Redland Bay contract has been delayed. Formal invitations are not expected to be issued to the existing operators prior to the end of the 1995/96 financial year. The explanation for this new timeframe is twofold.

Firstly, Queensland Transport is currently undergoing an internal review of the direction of the reforms to public passenger transport being implemented by the Department. The issue of

service contracts, in general terms forms part of this review.

Moreover, the Department proposes to have an independent transport consultant recheck the applicability of the proposed commercial service contract conditions to the Redland Shire (including minimum service levels) and invite public comment on the proposed service levels prior to invitations being sent to the existing operators.

In answer to part 4, the aim of service contracts is to ensure that the operators of public passenger transport services are held accountable for providing higher levels and standards of services at an acceptable cost than would otherwise be achieved through unrestricted competition.

The service contract is therefore a performance agreement between the Department and a bus operator who successfully addresses the provision of a standard and a manner of service deemed to be in the public interest and which includes the following elements:

- service frequency and accessibility levels;
- fleet standards and average fleet age;
- customers service standards and information; and
- fares to be charged, including any concessions to be given.

Furthermore, as I related in answer to an earlier question, it is proposed that the applicability of these service contract conditions to the case of Redland Shire is to be rechecked by an independent transport consultant and, thereafter, the local community of Cleveland/Redland Bay invited to comment upon the proposed minimum service levels ahead of progressing the contract.

Let me assure the Honourable Member that the Government is committed to entering into a service contract that better meets the needs of the Cleveland/Redland Bay community by providing more than adequate express services to the Brisbane CBD in conjunction with a comprehensive local route network within Cleveland/Redland Bay, and effectively coordinating these services with the other modes of transport in the area, represented by ferries, water taxis and rail services.

252. Freeholding of Leasehold Properties

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Natural Resources—

With reference to the previous Government's decision to allow householders to freehold their leases at the 1980 valuations and to the fact that some 280 people for various reasons had not taken advantage of this offer and are now anxious to do so and to my numerous discussions with senior officers of the former Lands Department seeking an extension of time and, in particular, correspondence to him as the appropriate Minister—

Will he give one final extension of time so that those persons who have to date failed to take advantage of the former offer, could do so given that the failure to accept this offer means that where people could

freehold their property at approximately \$1500, it could now cost them approximately \$20,000?

Mr Hobbs: I am aware of concerns expressed in relation to freeholding arrangements for Miners' Homesteads. The Member for Mt Isa would also be aware that these concerns arose from a decision by the former Labor Government, when he was Minister of the Crown, to impose a deadline of 31 December 1994, for lessees to apply to freehold their Miners' Homesteads.

As a result, around 280 Mount Isa residents were caught out and were faced with a much higher freeholding cost. There are also a number of lessees in other places who are in a similar situation.

Following a strong call from the public including a large number of the Members own constituents, I will introduce legislation to rectify the situation caused by the Labor Government. This legislation will enhance the option to freehold former Miners Homestead Perpetual leases. People may then take advantage of this option to freehold one final time.

256. Callide B-Tarong Powerline

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Environment—

With reference to comments by the Minister for Mines and Energy regarding the proposed route of the \$60m Callide B—Tarong powerline in which he stated it would traverse mainly forest and grazing country—

- (1) Will the Department of Environment have input into the route decision?
- (2) If not, will he give a commitment that no high conservation value forests will be included in the corridor whether they be on private or State land?
- (3) Will he give a commitment that no habitat of any species of rare or threatened wildlife will be traversed or impacted upon by the corridor?
- (4) What sets this powerline apart from the Eastlink proposal in terms of environmental impacts?

Mr Littleproud:

- (1) Yes, the Department of Environment will be one of the advisory bodies that will be consulted throughout Powerlink Queensland's Environmental Impact Study.
- (2) The Department of Environment will have input.
- (3) My Department will be reviewing the Terms of Reference for the Environmental Impact Study, and the report itself, to ensure that all relevant impacts are identified and addressed.
- (4) In responding to this question, the Honourable Member should recognise that the term 'environment' includes social, economic and ecological issues.

This powerline will allow the substantial social and economic benefits from new power developments to be kept within Queensland, rather than exporting these benefits to New South Wales. It will provide the necessary strengthening of the Queensland grid to allow the State to develop its own energy

resources, rather than rely on an "extension cord" from New South Wales.

Ecological impacts of the powerline will be fully assessed in the Powerlink Queensland Environmental Impact Study.

257. Effluent Treatment, Gold Coast and Caboolture

Mr FOURAS asked the Minister for Environment—

With reference to plans by both the Caboolture and Gold Coast City Councils to recycle highly treated sewerage back into drinking and bathing water—

- (1) Does he support such moves?
- (2) If so, is he encouraging other local authorities to do likewise?
- (3) Is he directing funding to such work; if so, what level of funding?
- (4) Will he give a timeframe in which we can expect to see such a practice commonplace in Queensland?

Mr Littleproud:

(1) I am advised that there are no plans for the Gold Coast City Council to recycle highly treated sewage directly into drinking or bathing water supplies. I understand that the Caboolture Shire Council is planning to recycle highly treated sewage to the Caboolture River upstream of the weir from which water is drawn for subsequent treatment for drinking or bathing. The proposal includes a testing program to demonstrate there are adequate safeguards in place. I would not oppose any scheme to productively re-use highly treated sewage as a substitute for waters drawn from the environment but would point out that in the first instance this is a local government matter. Where there are appropriate safeguards in place, this would include recycling to drinking and bathing waters supplies.

(2) The Environmental Protection Act 1994 requires persons applying for a licence to examine alternatives to discharge of effluents to the environment. As part of any application for approval for sewage treatment, local governments will have to examine a waste management hierarchy including waste avoidance, waste re-use and finally waste disposal. All local governments are encouraged to examine ways to productively re-use highly treated sewage.

(3) There are no funds from the Environment Budget being directed to financing schemes for the direct re-use of highly treated sewage for drinking or bathing water supplies. The Government is committed to assisting the upgrading of sewage treatment in Queensland and financial assistance is available through the Department of Local Government and Planning.

(4) The practice of intentional re-use of highly treated waste water in Queensland is not likely to occur in the near future.

262. Townsville-Magnetic Island Ferry, Pensioner Subsidy; Railway Maintenance Facility

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

With reference to recent statements that his Government is prepared to offer only limited subsidies for island pensioner ferry travel between Townsville City and Magnetic Island—

- (1) How can he justify the betrayal of the people of Magnetic Island who were offered a 50 per cent general subsidy on ferry travel between the island and the mainland by the Liberal candidate prior to the 15 July election, a promise that was endorsed by him as the then Opposition spokesman for Transport?
- (2) In view of his back-flip over the Magnetic Island ferry subsidy, how can the community be expected to have any confidence in his promise to put in place a major railway maintenance facility to service rolling stock in North Queensland?

Mr Johnson:

(1) During March of this year I visited Townsville to familiarise myself with the concerns of Magnetic Island residents about recent fare rises and the commercial realities facing the company involved, Magnetic Island Ferries, owned and operated by Trinity Consolidated.

The fare rises proved to be of real concern to Island residents, particularly pensioners, so for the first time in recent history in Queensland, the Government has provided direct support for pensioners on an Island ferry service. We recognised a need and have provided an Interim Package of support while longer term options are still being addressed.

The Magnetic Island Transport Action Committee initially sought a 50 per cent subsidy for all ferry users, including tourists. They then sought subsidies for Townsville and Magnetic Island residents, who would not, in the normal course of events, qualify for special fares on other forms of transport by the Department (eg pensioner and student rail fares). They also stated they wanted fast ferries of the type currently provided but at the lower cost fares which apply to slow ferries. Now they claim they are prepared to have a slower, lower cost vessel operating on the route.

Faced with the varying claims of the Committee, the Government has responded to the immediate needs of resident pensioners while continuing to seek a longer-term solution.

The Interim Package that was announced on Friday 3 May 1996 provides a six month funding support scheme. The discount, when added to the Townsville City Council subsidy, effectively reduces the monthly purchase of a five return Flexi-fare ticket from \$55 to \$35.50 for island resident pensioners. The level of support provided through the Interim Package amounts to \$13.50 for each island resident pensioner each month. This approach assumes the welcomed continuation of the Townsville City Council subsidy for the Island's pensioners.

In response to a need identified in consultation with the Island community, the discount will be administered in the form of a voucher and will be transferable. This means that if someone does not need a Flexi-fare ticket for a particular month they can pass their voucher to another Island resident pensioner who may need to make repeated trips in that month for medical or other reasons.

The Interim Package has been structured to encourage competition in the service. As part of this approach, the company has agreed to the early calling of tenders for the school transport contract to provide scope for increased competition. The successful tenderer for the carriage of eligible school children to and from the Island will have a fixed base level of patronage.

In addition, the Government has agreed to fund the payment of the Picnic Bay Jetty passenger levy to the Townsville Port Authority which applies to all commercial users of the Jetty. This would apply to any new service provider using the Jetty, not just to the existing operator.

However, several potential new operators who have approached Queensland Transport have all highlighted the difficulty of gaining berth access in the Port of Townsville. Passenger berth availability in the Port of Townsville is limited by the practise of the Port Authority of entering into leases with port users granting the lease holder the exclusive right to control access to the facility. This is in stark contrast to the more conventional "common user" approach in Queensland ports for key infrastructure.

The purpose-built ferry terminal on Ross Creek, leased by Trinity Consolidated, was leased by the Townsville Port Authority to the company on an exclusive basis. Given that the company has a long-term lease which grants them control over the facility, they are within their rights to uphold their position of excluding competition.

This does not solve the problem of access. A decision over which berth, if any, to develop, will take into account access to the site, the cost of development including dredging and mooring, the operating characteristics of vessels of the potential operators and the proximity to the Harbour entrance and the travel time required within the Harbour (the closer to the Harbour entrance, the quicker the trip to Magnetic Island),

Should a site be developed, it must be done in a way which will ensure the users can provide a competitive service which meets community needs.

The preferred option would be to negotiate with an existing landholder who controls a suitable berth so that the berth can be used to provide access for a potential new entrant to the trade. This approach has the benefit of limiting duplication of investment in the port and reducing the need for significant new investment when it is not certain that an operator will actually enter the trade or that they will remain in the industry for a long time.

Prior to making any long-term decision on the provision of ferry services to Magnetic Island or encouraging a new entrant into the market, it is important to recognise the role of the ferry company

in this matter. Whilst they have raised ferry fares, the raising of fares is a valid commercial decision made by a company providing a service in a commercial environment which has experienced significant cost increases.

The company has been most cooperative in its negotiations with Government and has commenced an ongoing productive dialogue with the Island community.

The company currently provides a ferry service which caters for the tourist trade to Magnetic Island. The vessels operated by the company serve both the needs of the tourist market and the Island community. Much of the Island community is reliant on tourism for employment and income and the company is seeking to continue its support for this aspect of the Island economy.

The company could replace current vessels with slower craft more suited to a commuter style service at a lower cost to users, however, this may impact adversely on Island tourism. This is a decision for the company alone, but the Island community should recognise that calling for lower fares could impact directly on service provision.

Let me assure the inquirer that the Government is committed to ensuring that residents of Magnetic Island are provided with a quality ferry service at an affordable cost.

In respect of part 2 of the question, Queensland Rail have already constructed a new major maintenance facility for locomotives and wagons at Stuart in Townsville.

The depots are operational but not fully staffed. Additional staff are being retrained to enable full operation of the depots.

269. Queensland Rail; Continuous Automatic Train Protection System

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

With reference to the Continuous Automatic Train Protection System which is said to be essential for driver only operation with Queensland Rail—

- (1) When will the new system be officially introduced into Queensland Rail locomotives?
- (2) How much has the research, development and testing of this system cost Queensland taxpayers?
- (3) What will be the ongoing costs of maintenance and replacement of technology used in this system?
- (4) What guarantees can Queensland Rail give that this system is fail-safe?
- (5) Under duty of care provisions, is Queensland Rail confident this new system will deliver safety expectations to one driver operators and the Queensland public?

Mr Johnson:

- (1) For the past 6 months there have been various test runs conducted with the Westect Automatic Train Protection system or ATP, active on real trains

to assess locomotive and wayside equipment reliability from an operational and maintenance point of view and to also fine tune system configurable parameters in order to facilitate performance improvements. Those reliability issues that have been identified through test operation of the system have been progressively receiving attention with a view to their elimination/minimisation prior to release of the system into regular commercial traffic. Subject to the successful outcome of further formal reliability acceptance testing due to be conducted during May and June 1996, it is conceivable that ATP locomotives will be able to be progressively introduced on scheduled commercial services by about August 1996 and used in conjunction with the introduction of Driver Only Operation between Rockhampton and Purono and between Ipswich and Toowoomba.

It should be understood that the Westect ATP system is a complex and new development of technical significance within the railway signalling industry throughout the world and like any such new development does contain some uncertainties in terms of finalising outstanding matters and formally introducing it into service. The August 1996 date for commencement of progressive implementation is therefore the best estimate at this stage.

(2) Because of the way the Centralised Traffic Control signalling and ATP Contract (CST-S150) was originally specified, tendered and awarded, the ATP portion of that contract was not specifically identified as a separate cost item. However it has generally been accepted by QR and the Contractor that about \$4 million of the total \$20 million contract is attributable to the development and delivery of the Westect ATP system. Whilst this represents a significant capital cost, the project was approved on the basis of a thorough assessment of costs and benefits. Within the broader strategic program, of which ATP is a key element, the costs of the project were expected to be more than offset by quantified operational benefits. That is, the project identified a net ongoing benefit to Queensland taxpayers through reduced rail operating costs.

(3) The Westect ATP system is a product wholly developed within Australia and supplier support for the system is therefore readily available.

The Westect ATP system has been developed with the intention of being a low maintenance system. In fact, being essentially an electronically/processor based system, there are essentially no components as such that wear out although failures and physical damage, which are difficult to anticipate and accurately quantify, may occur from time to time. The infrastructure already exists to maintain the power signalling and telecommunications systems and these resources will also maintain the locomotive and wayside ATP equipment in the event of faults. The ATP contract has provided for a number of spare components, modules and test equipment to facilitate timely and cost effective attention to faults.

The system has specifically been designed and constructed in a modular form to aid speedy maintenance repairs and to also more readily provide for upgrading of the technology and further

developments should these be necessary throughout the life of the product.

The product is expected to have at least 12 to 15 years life cycle although it is difficult to anticipate the impact of accelerating technology changes into the future. QR has a pricing and technology support agreement with the supplier of the system and this will ensure that repair replacements are priced fairly and in accordance with market forces and that technology advances generally do not displace the system prematurely.

The ongoing cost of maintenance and replacements through normal operation are expected to be substantially lower than alternative systems that offer similar functionality.

(4) The Westect ATP system has undergone extensive safety assurance auditing throughout the development period by an independent safety assurance assessor, Admiral Computing (Australia) Pty Ltd culminating in the issue of a Safety Assurance Certificate dated 6 July 1995.

The Audit Baseline and Safety Criteria are in accordance with Best Railway Industry Safety Practice applicable to Automatic Train Protection systems of the type developed under the ATP contract for Queensland Rail and are in accordance with the relevant industry standards applicable at the time of the contract.

(5) QR is very confident that the Westect ATP system will provide a high level of driver supervision on board the locomotive and respond in a safe and timely manner in the event of system or equipment failure or in the event of driver train handling error or misjudgment.

Reaction from drivers of ATP test trains to date, some of whom have considerable experience in operation of Driver Only Operation on trains equipped with Automatic Train Control (ATC) on the north coast line, has been very positive and there is nothing to suggest that the expectations of drivers will not be met in respect of the intent and use of the Westect ATP system.

272. Robina-Coolangatta Rail Line, Impact Assessment Study

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

With reference to the impact assessment study carried out on the extension of the rail line from Robina to Coolangatta—

- (1) What are the recommendations of the impact assessment study?
- (2) What is the current status of any proposal to extend the Gold Coast rail line south of Robina?

Mr Johnson: An impact assessment study has not yet been undertaken into the extension of the rail line from Robina to Coolangatta. Such a study would begin only after a strategic planning study of the corridor determines the most appropriate rail alignment.

The feasibility of extending the railway line south of Robina will be investigated as part of the strategic planning study of the Southern Gold Coast—Tweed area.

The proposed study will be a joint initiative between Commonwealth, State and Local Government.

It is expected to commence in mid 1996 and be completed by the end of 1997. Route options for the rail extension will be part of the study. Community consultation will be an integral part of the process as per the usual approach of my Department.

274. Protection of Mudflats and Seagrass Beds, Wynnum

Mr BURNS asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry—

With reference to international visitors to the recent Ramsar Convention who were delighted and amazed on their visit to Wynnum to see the bird life on the seagrass beds and mudflats along the waterfront in front of residential areas and as these mudflats and seagrass beds are so vital to the future of bird and marine life—

- (1) What plans has his Government put in place to protect them?
- (2) What is the current situation in relation to plans for commercial worm diggers to be allocated an area away from the residential areas and the seagrass beds?
- (3) As there is conflict over spraying the mangrove and seagrass areas as part of a mosquito control program, and given that Ross River Fever is showing signs of increasing, with residents suffering badly from time to time from mosquito viruses, will the Government take over this program to see that it is both environmentally sensitive and effective in controlling mosquitos?
- (4) As many commercial fishermen, who are excluded from these beds and claim that the use of bait nets and cast nets, especially by some new settlers from Asian areas, kill more small fish than they would do, have asked that all netting be banned on these banks and beds, has he considered such a proposal?
- (5) What is his Government's intention in relation to (a) bait and cast nets, (b) making winter whiting a non-commercial fish and (c) tunnel netting?

Mr Perrett:

1. The Wynnum mudflats and seagrass beds fall within the boundaries of the Moreton Bay Marine Park for which the Department of Environment is presently preparing a zoning plan. I understand that the Wynnum mudflats is to be part of a Shorebird Management Area within a proposed Habitat Zone of the Marine Park.

The seagrass is specifically protected under the 'Marine Plant' provisions of the 1994 Fisheries Act and its 1995 Regulation. Digging of worms for bait has been permitted subject to the replacement of seagrass after digging has been completed. A study by my Department has indicated that the seagrass is able to re-establish if replaced properly.

2. Harvesting of blood worms has been carried out by commercial and recreational fishers over many years. Commercial interest emerged in the 1920s and this small industry is now valued conservatively at \$1.3 million providing employment equivalent to thirty full-time jobs. The industry's product is the most sought after bait of recreational anglers, whilst export prospects are emerging.

The vast majority of industry activity centres around the foreshores of the mouth of the Brisbane River including Cribb Island, Fisherman Islands and the Wynnum-Manly foreshores.

The combination of a limit on the number of participants, fifty in total, and conditions on how the digging activities are to be performed provide for the sustainable use of blood worm stocks and the seagrass beds on which they depend. Market demand for live worms and bouts of inclement weather also act to limit harvesting.

The areas available to commercial harvesting are already severely restricted in Moreton Bay. Further restriction of those areas will be considered in reviewing management measures for those stocks.

3. Control of marine insect pests, including mosquitoes and biting midges is the direct responsibility of the relevant Local Authority. However, given that treatment programs of spraying with chemicals do target wetland areas, my Department has provided technical advice to Local Councils since the late 1970s to explore and implement alternate methods of control to that of chemical spraying.

Alternate methods presently included within the treatment programs include 'runneling'—a minor form of land modification resulting in better tidal flushing of mosquito breeding areas—and the use of chemicals that specifically target mosquitoes. For midge control, better design of canal estates resulting in no exposed intertidal areas for midge breeding and minor disturbance of beach sands along the shoreline of early canals has seen a reduction in the use of chemicals.

Given the formation of a number of contiguous groups of neighbouring Local Councils (e.g., Tweed, Gold Coast, Logan and Redland Councils) to coordinate treatment activities to ensure economies and coordination in the application of spraying programs, I do not support the State Government taking over this program.

4. The matter of the use of bait and cast nets over foreshore areas and seagrass beds is a subset of the wider issues surrounding the use of such nets and will be dealt with in the fisheries management planning process outlined in response to Question 5.

5. The issues of use of recreational bait and cast nets, commercial tunnel nets and a proposal to make winter whiting a non-commercial species were raised in the State Government Inquiry into Recreational Fishing conducted by Mr Tom Burns, MLA in 1993.

Recommendations from the Inquiry were put to Government for consideration. Government has now determined that issues raised in the inquiry are to be afforded no greater or less importance than any other issue for the fishery.

The Queensland Fisheries Management Authority is presently about to release a discussion paper on management issues in the Sub-Tropical Inshore Finfish Fishery as part of the process under the requirement under the Fisheries Act 1994 to produce a Fisheries Management Plan. The Discussion Paper will be released for a three month period eliciting submissions and comment from the community on the issue in question as well as any other issues.

Comments will be taken into account in developing a Management Plan. In the meantime Government has no intention of circumventing the process and jeopardising the consultative arrangements required under the Act.

276. Boondall State School; Sandgate Road Speed Zone

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

With reference to Boondall State School and the 70 kph speed zone applying on that section of Sandgate Road running adjacent to the school—

Will he authorise his department to lower the speed limit on this section of road in order to allay the concerns of parents dropping off and picking up students, and to improve the safety for these parents and students?

Mr Johnson: The Boondall State School is situated at the corner of Sandgate Road and Roscommon Road in Boondall. The main access to the school is through Roscommon Road. Sandgate Road is a four lane divided road with a posted speed limit of 70 km/h. The road carries about 13 500 vehicles per day on the north bound carriageway (near the school) and about 11 000 vehicles per day in the opposite direction.

The most recent speed survey indicated that the majority of vehicles on the north bound carriageway travelled at speeds up to 78 km/h. A speed limit review in 1995 of this section of the road indicated that the posted speed limit of 70 km/h was appropriate. The local police officers consulted about this were also in agreement with this conclusion.

Research indicates that drivers tend to drive at speeds in accordance with the surrounding road environmental conditions and the degree of land use activities. Arbitrarily imposed speed limits normally result in very low compliance levels even with sustained police enforcement. The relatively high travelled speeds on Sandgate Road are indicative of the road and speed environment perceived by most motorists. Any attempts to substantially reduce the speed limit on this road would not be met with good compliance by drivers. This would not be conducive to road safety as such a situation would give the other road users a false sense of security in believing that vehicle speeds would be lower than the actual speeds.

The current speed limit of 70 km/h on this section of Sandgate Road is considered to be appropriate, and any reduction of such limit is not recommended. To reduce the safety risk of parents and children on this

section of the road, parents should be encouraged to use Roscommon Road for picking up and setting down children.

Should you seek a letter from my Department to the school principal suggesting that he convey to parents the advantages of the Roscommon Road entrance then I shall ensure that this happens. You may consider it more appropriate though for the you, as Local Member, to raise the issue with the principal, or to liaise directly with your constituents, on the risks of dropping off and picking up their children on Sandgate Road.

278. Department of Families, Youth and Community Care Office, Caboolture

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care—

With reference to the establishment of an office of the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care at Caboolture—

- (1) Is he investigating the feasibility of establishing an office in Caboolture?
- (2) What is the timetable for establishment of the office?
- (3) Will he guarantee funding for a fully resourced office at Caboolture?

Mr Lingard:

(1) The future establishment of a departmental office at Caboolture based on a projected service delivery need in that area has been foreshadowed in the Department's Office Accommodation Three Year Plan.

(2) The Office Accommodation Three Year Plan is currently being revised and includes a new office at Caboolture in the 1996/97 financial year.

(3) However, implementation of the plan is subject to the availability of funds, and funding for the new Caboolture office will be determined during the 1996/97 budget process in the light of competing departmental priorities.

280. Pacific Highway

Mr ELDER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

With reference to two questions requesting traffic projections for the Logan River Bridge on the Pacific Highway for the year 2011 and an assurance to me that such figures would be provided and have not—

- (1) Will he provide traffic projections from his department for the (a) Logan River Bridge, (b) the Coomera River Bridge north of Mains Road, (c) the Captain Cook Bridge and (d) through Springwood for the Pacific Highway for years 2011 and 2026?
- (2) What are his departments' projections for the capacity of his eight lane half a highway at the Logan and Coomera Rivers in 2011 and 2026?

Mr Johnson: An assurance was indeed given, and a reply containing the material sought was sent on 10 May 1996. I would respectfully ask however,

that the inquirer be a little more patient, as my Department cannot respond by 2nd May to a letter dated only on the 19th April, especially when there are the postal delays in both directions.

As the subject is now included in a question on notice, I would like to reiterate that, the only available traffic projections at this time are for the Logan and Coomera River crossings and for the years 2006 and 2011. The projections suggest daily volumes of 111,000 and 130,000 vehicles at the Logan River crossing in years 2006 and 2011 respectively, and 123,000 and 164,000 vehicles at the Coomera River crossing in years 2006 and 2011 respectively.

Further details of projected traffic volumes on the Logan Motorway to Nerang section of the Pacific Highway will become publicly available as part of the Impact Management Plan.

I will consider the release and timing of traffic projections on the Captain Cook Bridge to Logan Motorway section after Cabinet has considered the present investigations now in progress.

282. Wynnum District-Brisbane Roads; Removal of Tolls on Roads

Mr BURNS asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

With reference to transport difficulties on the southside—

- (1) As Wynnum motorists travelling to the city to work during Wednesday morning's rain took 95 to 105 minutes to travel 19 kms between Wynnum and Brisbane Central Brisbane District, and as the time taken to cover this relatively short distance is growing from month to month, will he detail what steps the Government will take or what plans it has to widen existing roads or construct new roads, etc. that will reduce travelling time between Wynnum, Manly, Lota and the CBD?
- (2) As one of the reasons the Treasurer and Member for Caloundra gave for the removal of the tolls on the highway in her Sunshine Coast area was the fact that a tradesman she knew spent many dollars crossing the bridge on the Maroochy Road, and as I can point to thousands of southside residents, tradesmen and business people who live on the southside and work on the northside, will she show the same concern and remove the toll for them?

Mr Johnson: In weather conditions such as those prevailing on Wednesday 1st May, it is normal that travel times for journeys to the CBD in the morning peak hours increase. Wynnum motorists were not alone in experiencing longer travel times on that day. As Mr Burns would be well aware none of the arterial roads leading to the CBD from the suburbs of Wynnum, Manly, and Lota are State-controlled roads, but are the responsibility of Brisbane City Council. The Government, therefore, has no plans to widen existing roads or construct new roads between these suburbs and the CBD.

The Government will be considering measures which will produce a more efficient public transport system,

thereby encouraging commuters to use public transport.

In relation to Part 2 of the question, there is no determination yet made. The Treasurer is yet to deliver her decision on tolls, however the government will certainly honour all policy commitments on the Gateway Bridge fare structure. The specific details will be conveyed by the Hon Treasurer at the appropriate time.

It needs to be said however, that whilst I will most likely be guided by the recommendations of the Hon. Treasurer, it will be on a case by case basis. Any position that the Hon Treasurer may have taken or appear to have taken in one instance on road or bridge tolls, should not be interpreted as meaning that such a position will be applied in every subsequent instance that appears to display certain similarities.

288. Pacific Highway

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

With reference to the four laning currently under construction on the Pacific Highway between Reedy Creek and Stewarts Road, Tugun—

- (1) Will he provide a detailed report on the progress of the upgrading?
- (2) What is the anticipated date of completion of the project?

Mr Johnson:

(1) I have already instructed my officers from the Main Roads South Coast-Hinterland District office at Nerang to contact the Member for Currumbin (and the Member for Burleigh) to arrange personal presentations on the progress of the Pacific Highway Duplication Project during May 1996.

These presentations will give Members an advance viewing of key documents proposed to be used in public displays at local regional shopping centres during June 1996.

The presentations will also provide an opportunity for Members to meet key project management staff from my Department and the contractor's organisation.

(2) The duplication carriageway of the Pacific Highway component of the project is programmed for completion by 3 January 1997. Rehabilitation of the existing Pacific Highway carriageway, and construction of the extension of Bermuda Street between Burleigh Connection Road and Andrews are programmed for completion by 3 June 1997.

290. Gun Control Laws

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing—

What steps does he plan to take, as a matter of urgency, to effectively administer the present Queensland law relating to firearms to ensure that all holders of firearms obtain a licence, and what steps can be taken to obtain the surrender of firearms

including automatic and semi automatic guns in the possession of unlicensed persons?

Mr Cooper: The Queensland Police Service, in its routine actions, takes all possible steps to ensure public adherence to weapons licensing requirements. Where it comes to police notice that any form of firearm is in the possession of an unlicensed person, appropriate action is always taken to correct the situation and to prosecute the offender. This is a matter for the Commissioner and his policies on operational policing, not for me as Minister. I am satisfied that the police are already doing everything they can in this matter and I do not intend to give any special directions in this case. You will appreciate that normal police actions on weapons licensing will continue to be vigorously pursued while the Queensland Government contributes to the development of the national approach to firearms control. We are fully committed to supporting this development with all the measures available to us. New measures will be implemented as quickly as possible and appropriate directions will be given to the Police Service in the new circumstances.

294.Noise Barriers, South East Freeway

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

With reference to the construction of noise amelioration barriers on the South East Freeway from Woolloongabba to the Stanley Street exit—

- (1) Will he confirm or deny recent departmental advice to myself that the noise barrier project is now on hold pending consideration of widening of this section of the freeway to accommodate eight lanes and/or busways?
- (2) If so, when will a final decision be made?
- (3) Will widening options require property resumptions?
- (4) If so, how many and where?
- (5) If no consideration is being given to widening, why is the noise barrier project being delayed?
- (6) When can local residents expect construction of noise barriers to begin and finish?

Mr Johnson:

(1) It is confirmed that all noise barrier projects along the South East Freeway are currently 'on hold' awaiting resolution of issues associated with the proposed busways and possible upgrading of the Freeway to provide additional transport capacity. This is consistent with my previous advice concerning the same issues, as it would be a waste of taxpayers money if barriers were to be erected and then taken down for relocation shortly afterwards as a result of further construction on the Freeway.

(2) & (5) As previously included with my announcement for 8 laning of the Pacific Highway, a report is being prepared for options to increase transport capacity along the Pacific Highway and South East Freeway between Logan Motorway and Captain Cook Bridge.

I expect that report will be presented to me within a matter of weeks, and a decision can therefore be expected around mid year.

(3) & (4) Every effort will be made to contain any new construction within the current Freeway boundaries. However, until the report is presented and an option selected, I cannot guarantee that property resumptions will be avoided.

(6) If the option selected has minimal effect on the noise barriers as currently designed it can be expected that tenders for construction of a significant part or all of the noise barriers would be called in August/September 1996 for completion of the works before Christmas 1996.

If the option selected has a significant effect on the noise barriers as currently designed, it may be early 1997 before tenders for construction of noise barriers could be called; allowing time for redesign, further public consultation, documentation, calling and closing of tenders, etc.

295.Eastern Corridor

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

With reference to Eastern Corridor Planning Study of January 1992, prepared for the Department of Transport by Rankine and Hill Pty Ltd and its major recommendation 5 (b) which stated "The Queensland Government, as a matter of prudent long term regional planning, should act to preserve the preferred route for an eastern corridor and advise directly affected property owners accordingly"—

What action is his department taking to implement this recommendation?

Mr Johnson: The inquirer should be well aware that the Goss Government in 1992, adopted the recommendation of the Eastern Corridor Planning Study only for that part of the corridor as far north as the Beenleigh-Redland Bay Road. It did not adopt the study preferred route, or any other route between Beenleigh-Redland Bay Road and the Gateway Motorway. Subsequently, the Goss Government changed its mind and adopted a route north of Beenleigh-Redland Bay Road and acquired significant parcels of land along the route. Then in 1995, it changed its mind again and decided to abandon the route.

This current Government is proceeding with upgrading of the Pacific Highway, and will not be preserving the former South Coast Motorway route north of Beenleigh-Redland Bay Road. Landowners are aware of that, and land which has been acquired will be sold at appropriate times depending on the real estate market.

297. South East Queensland Regional Air Quality Strategy

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Environment—

With reference to media reports in which the Queensland Conservation Council highlights the need for Government to address the problem of air pollution in South East Queensland—

- (1) What progress has he made in finalising the South East Queensland Regional Air Quality Strategy?
- (2) What timetable has been set for finalising and implementing this strategy?
- (3) What action has he taken to ensure his Government addresses the issue of improved public transport between Brisbane and the Gold Coast as part of such a strategy?
- (4) What other action does he intend to take to tackle the problem of South East Queensland's declining air quality?

Mr Littleproud:

(1) Considerable progress has been made with the South-East Queensland Regional Air Quality Strategy (SEQRAQS) since its commencement in 1993. The air monitoring network in the region has been expanded from three monitoring stations in 1993 to 10 stations currently. A computer model which simulates the air movements which transport pollutants around the region has been developed and is being refined by the Department. An inventory of emissions to air of the major air pollutants has been compiled and has recently been finalised. The next stage of SEQRAQS, modelling of current and past pollution episodes and of scenarios for the future, is about to commence.

A Steering Group with wide government representation has been set up to oversee the finalising of the strategy. In addition, a Technical Advisory Committee has been established, giving the Steering Group access to the expertise available in industry, the academic world and the environmental movement and their advice on issues relevant to the development of the strategy.

(2) Some further tasks need to be done before a strategy with a firm scientific basis can be prepared. The modelling of scenarios for possible future pollution episodes will take a minimum of a further 12 months to complete. A draft strategy is expected to be ready for consideration by Government in December 1997. Implementation will commence after its adoption.

(3) Given that motor vehicles contribute significantly towards the man-made emissions of the Brisbane airshed, options for alternative transportation will be given high priority in the development of the strategy. I have arranged that State and Local Government agencies responsible for transport planning are represented on the Steering Group.

(4) It is quite false to claim that there is a problem of declining air quality in South-East Queensland. The air monitoring data for the region do not show evidence of a decline. What the data do show is that the potential for air quality problems remains because the region is growing in population and economic activity and this may lead to increases in emissions, particularly from motor vehicles. It is because of this potential for future problems that the air quality strategy is being developed. When adopted, it will ensure the maintenance of acceptable air quality over the next decade and beyond.

300. Conservation Grants, Department of Environment

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Environment—

With reference to a Department of Environment advertisement in the *Courier-Mail* on 27 April 1996 which called for applications from non-Government organisations for the annual conservation grants—a fine Labor Government initiative—

- (1) Does the reference to the activities needing to be located wholly within Queensland apply to the project for which funding is being sought or the organisation's activities as a whole?
- (2) If the latter, would this preclude organisations such as the Australian Marine Conservation Society, the Rainforest Conservation Society, the Australian Conservation Foundation and the Wilderness Society from applying for funding?
- (3) What level of funding has been provided for this round of grants?
- (4) Will he give a commitment to continue funding for these grants in subsequent years at present or higher levels?
- (5) Does his answer to a question without notice on 1 May 1996 mean that independent community conservation organisations will be deprived of funding by his Government if they do not capitulate to his directions as to what constitutes their role?

Mr Littleproud:

(1) Funding will be considered for organisations that have a national focus, but only for those activities to be undertaken wholly within Queensland.

(2) See (1) above.

(3) \$190,000.

(4) The level of funding available for all grant programs will be reviewed annually during Departmental budget deliberations.

(5) I have reviewed my comments made to this House on 1 May 1996. Nowhere in those comments did I issue any directions on the role of conservation organisations. However, I did say that it is irresponsible of the Queensland Conservation Council not to take up a moral obligation to take part, as invited, in a committee reviewing licensing and implementation of the Environmental Protection Act. It should be noted that about the same time I announced that Cabinet had approved funding of \$30,000 for a community coordinator to be appointed through the Queensland Conservation Council to help develop the Environmental Protection Policy on the Mining and Petroleum Industries.

303. Police Service, Rockhampton

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing—

With reference to the Police Service in Rockhampton—

- (1) How many operational police officers are currently employed at the Rockhampton and North Rockhampton Police Stations?
- (2) How many police officers are employed in clerical and other non operational jobs at the Rockhampton and North Rockhampton Police Stations?
- (3) What were the numbers of (1) and (2) above in 1989, 1990s, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994 and 1995?
- (4) Given his pre-election promise to increase police numbers in Rockhampton (a) when will this take place and (b) how many extra operational officers will be provided?
- (5) How many police cars are available for operational duties in Rockhampton on a 24 hour daily basis?
- (6) Does he consider that the number of vehicles is adequate to provide adequate cover of two Rockhampton areas?
- (7) When will the non operational police employed at the Rockhampton Station be put on operational duties and have their previous duties fulfilled by civilians?
- (8) When will the shop front in the City Mall be opened?
- (9) What will its staffing and hours of operation be?
- (10) Given his predecessors commitment to spend \$20m upgrading the Rockhampton Police Station does he intend to honour this commitment; if so, when?
- (11) When will the new North Rockhampton Police Station as promised by the Member for Keppel be built?
- (12) When will the special response team be returned to Rockhampton?

Mr Cooper:

- (1) The current authorised strength of sworn officers at Rockhampton and North Rockhampton stations is as follows:

Rockhampton General—61 (Includes Communications and Watchhouse Staff)
 Criminal Investigation Branch—11
 Juvenile Aid Bureau—6
 Dog Squad—2
 Scenes of Crime—3
 Scientific Section—1
 Traffic Branch—9
 Intelligence Officer—1
 First Year Constables (R'ton)—17
 North Rockhampton General—21
 Stock Investigation Squad—3
 First Year Constables (Nth R'ton)—10
 Police Prosecutors—3

- (2) The following sections can be considered non-operational but provide vital support functions to operational officers. These positions are not included in the above figures.

District Office (Administration)—1
 Training Officers—3
 Radio and Electronics Section—2

The following officers are represented in the above allocation of sworn staff and perform non-operational support functions and administrative duties:

Rockhampton Station (Administration)—2

North Rockhampton (Administration)—1

- (3) The authorised strength of sworn officers for the years 1989 to 1995 is as follows:

YEAR	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95
Rockhampton General	49	49	49	46	64	61	61
Criminal Investigation Branch	11	11	11	11	11	11	11
Juvenile Aid Bureau	3	3	3	3	3	3	6
Dog Squad	2	2	3	3	2	2	2
Scenes of Crime	-	-	-	3	3	3	3
Scientific Section	-	-	-	1	1	1	1
Traffic Branch	10	10	10	12	12	12	9
First Year Constables (R'ton)	-	-	-	-	8	6	10
North Rockhampton General	16	16	16	16	18	18	18
Stock Investigation Squad	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
First Year Constables (Nth R'ton)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Police Prosecutors	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Intelligence Officer	-	-	-	1	1	1	1

The authorised strength of non-operational support staff for the years 1989 to 1995 is as follows:

YEAR	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95
District Office (Administration)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Training Officers	-	-	2	2	2	2	2
Radio and Electronics Section	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Rockhampton Station (Admin)	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
North Rockhampton (Admin)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

- (4) The Government's undertakings to increase the number of operational police officers throughout the State have begun to be implemented with an increased recruit intake at the Oxley Police Academy scheduled for this month. In addition, the opening of the North Queensland Police Academy in Townsville in October this year will provide for the training of additional recruits. The flow-on of this increased recruitment will begin to be realised late 1996 when these recruits graduate as Constables. Distribution of newly appointed Constables and decisions regarding the number of additional police to be allocated to Rockhampton will not be made until closer to the time of graduation. Rest assured, however, that Rockhampton will receive its fair share of additional police numbers.

- (5) The number of vehicles specifically allocated to sections performing operational duties on a 24 hour basis at Rockhampton is as follows:

Rockhampton General Duty Police—4

North Rockhampton General Duty Police—3

Criminal Investigation Branch/Juvenile Aid Bureau—4

Traffic Branch, Rockhampton—4

Lakes Creek Station—1

Vehicles attached to other areas in Rockhampton are available on a needs basis.

(6) With the current staff levels at Rockhampton and North Rockhampton where actual strength exceeds the authorised strength, some difficulties were experienced at station level in accessing vehicles at times. However, the District Officer, Rockhampton has examined the fleet and reallocated one vehicle from one section to another.

Other vehicles are available from non-operational areas on a needs basis to ensure best use of overall resources. Given the availability of non-operational vehicles on a needs basis, the Assistant Commissioner considers the overall vehicle fleet at Rockhampton adequate to respond to operational needs however, has appointed his Inspector, Projects to assess the overall vehicle fleet at Rockhampton and associated management practices.

(7) Civilianisation priorities are presently being determined and will be implemented in accordance with budget allocations for 1996/97. Initial priority will be given to the civilianisation of communication rooms throughout the State. The Rockhampton communications room is earmarked for the civilianisation of six positions currently being performed by police officers.

(8) The Shop Front/Beat Policing Program is administered at Service level. At present there are no plans or approvals to establish a shop front in the City Mall, Rockhampton. The State Coordinator has conducted an initial assessment only. Rockhampton Police operate from a Kiosk in the City Mall at various times as a local initiative.

(9) As no approval exists under the Shop Front/Beat Policing Program to establish a shop front in the City Mall, staffing hours of operation is not applicable.

(10) A need has been identified to refurbish/upgrade the existing Rockhampton Police Station. Under the document 'Towards the 21st Century', it was indicated that this project could commence in 1998/99. Queensland Treasury is currently undertaking a review of Capital Works resourcing and this project is subject to that review. The most pressing need is to construct a new Watchhouse which is being undertaken in conjunction with the development of the new Courts Complex.

(11) Assistant Commissioner, Central Region is not aware of any new police station for North Rockhampton. It is not included in the current Queensland Police Service forward planning document, 'Towards the 21st Century: Resource Priorities for the Queensland Police Service' which was endorsed by the former Government and with which you presumably have raised no objection.

(12) During 1995 modifications to Special Emergency Response Team arrangements resulted in the units being located at Cairns and Brisbane. Requirements for Special Emergency Response Team (SERT) official deployments in the State are now met from either Cairns or Brisbane. There are no plans to re-establish the previous SERT functions at Rockhampton. The four members previously occupying the SERT role at Rockhampton have been deployed to general duty police functions. The

Queensland Police Service advised me that they are unaware of any objections you raised to this reallocation of resources when it was undertaken in 1995.

309. Pacific Highway

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

With reference to his decision to widen the South East Freeway to 8 lanes between Smith Street and the Logan Motorway—

- (1) Why has he refused to attend public meetings in Eagleby/Beenleigh on this issue?
- (2) When will he be able to advise precisely where the widened road will be placed between the Albert and Logan Rivers?
- (3) When will he advise home owners in Eagleby and Beenleigh, who own homes he will seek to resume, of that intention?
- (4) What is the proposed basis for compensation for those homeowners, particularly as the housing market is currently in a slump and that house values have fallen further as a result of his announcement on the freeway widening?

Mr Johnson:

(1) I have not refused as the question suggests. I have however had other commitments which have prevented me from personally attending the meetings, though I certainly would have done so, had I been able.

(2) The alignment of the upgraded Pacific Highway between the Albert and Logan River will not be known precisely until the approved Impact Management Plan is publicly released in October 1996. Between now and October 1996, the Department of Main Roads and its external consultant will be working closely with residents to seek their comments on the options being considered.

(3) The Department of Main Roads will advise property owners formally when the approved Impact Management Plan is released in October 1996. Between now and October 1996, the Department of Main Roads and its external consultant will be working closely with property owners to keep them informed of progress and address any particular issues of concern.

(4) The Department of Main Roads will pay fair and reasonable market value for properties resumed as well as all disturbance expenses such as removals, stamp duty on the repurchase of an alternative property, mortgage re-establishment fees and legal fees to facilitate the purchase of another property.

In assessing a reasonable market value, the impact of any loss to property values caused by the announcement of the 6-laning and subsequent 8-laning of the Pacific Highway is disregarded. The Department of Main Roads will gather evidence from areas not so affected to support a reasonable market value. If the affected property owners feel a little uncomfortable in dealing direct with departmental officers then they will be encouraged by the

Department of Main Roads to engage the services of a registered valuer and/or solicitor. The Department will reimburse reasonable fees incurred in this regard.

310. Bruce Highway

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

With reference to the proposed upgrading of the Bruce Highway to the Bribie Island turn off—

- (1) Has a final recommendation been made concerning the most suitable option to be used in the upgrading of the Bruce Highway?
- (2) When will the upgrading commence?
- (3) What is the time frame for completion of the upgrading?

Mr Johnson:

(1) A study by consultants Rust PPK is under way into widening of the Bruce Highway to six lanes from the Gateway Arterial Road to Boundary Road. A draft report and recommendation is due before the end of June. A final recommendation has been received from Hughes McNaughton Consultants Pty Ltd for the widening of the Bruce Highway to six lanes from Boundary Road to Uhlmann Road. Approval of the Federal Transport Department is required prior to the plans being placed on public display, and this has not yet been received. A final recommendation has been made to the Department by consultants Maunsell Pty Ltd for the widening of the Bruce Highway from Uhlmann Road to Glasshouse Mountain Road. When all of the studies are finalised, a recommendation will be forwarded to the Federal Transport Minister for approval.

(2) & (3) The Bruce Highway is part of the National Highway system and is funded by the Federal Government. At this time, funds have been allocated for planning of the six lane widening but not yet for its construction.

319. Accommodation for Intellectually Disabled Persons, Mackay

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care—

With reference to the fact that the Division of Disability Services doesn't provide any permanent accommodation places for intellectually disabled persons in Mackay—

- (1) How many people with intellectual disabilities are currently waiting for non-Government sponsored care accommodation in Mackay?
- (2) Will he and his department provide through non-Government organisations any additional 24-hour care accommodation, which should also take into account individual needs, to enable these people the right to live independently of their parents in their home city of Mackay; if so, when will this occur; if not, why not?
- (3) What does he propose to do to overcome this problem?

Mr Lingard: The Department of Families, Youth and Community Care does not keep a record of waiting lists of people with disabilities wanting to access non-government services. It is, however, recognised that there may be extensive waiting lists.

Since assuming responsibility for this portfolio I have become aware of the large number of requests for services to meet the needs of people with disabilities, including people with intellectual disabilities. I understand that there is considerable need to support people with disabilities, their families and carers, not only in Mackay but also in areas across Queensland.

I am committed to addressing the issue of unmet needs inherited from the previous Government, and will be seeking additional funds through the State Budget process. I will also be seeking a fairer share of funds from the Commonwealth for this important area as part of the renegotiation of the Commonwealth/State Disability Agreement.

In acknowledging the level of unmet need, I do not wish to undervalue the activities that my Department is already supporting in the non-government sector in Mackay, where 11 accommodation support services receive over \$1 million in Government funding each year.

369. Proposed Youth Curfew

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing—

With reference to his recent comments published in the *Courier-Mail* from a spokesman for him regarding his proposed youth curfew in response to calls from a Pine Rivers group to use that area as a trial and I quote "the Minister welcomed the dialogue but would ask Pine Rivers to look at creating more youth shelters so police had somewhere to take juveniles"—

Will he now admit that (a) his proposed youth curfew can not work without the provision of such shelters and properly trained supervising staff, (b) the entire policy has been poorly thought through, (c) it has not been properly costed and is unlikely to be adequately funded and (d) it was a political stunt designed to appease those sections of our community who like him have a poor understanding of the real problems our young people face and the proper solutions that are so urgently needed?

Mr Cooper: (a), (b), (c), (d) The proposal is not any so-called "youth curfew" but a proposal to include in a revamped and reviewed Police Powers and Responsibilities act the power for Police to take home or to a place of refuge—not a Police Station—any child younger than 13 who is detected unsupervised by a responsible adult between midnight and five a.m.

This proposal—a pre-Election Coalition public policy—arose from overwhelming feedback from public meetings throughout the State convened by the Coalition's Law and Order Task Force while in Opposition. Since I announced the proposal, the reaction has been extremely positive.

At present, Police who locate a child in a public place at a late hour in circumstances where they believe that the child is in need of care and protection or care and control can consider action under the Children's Services Act. However, before Police can take such action, it is necessary to obtain sufficient evidence to prove to the Children's Court that the need for the application exists. Investigations almost invariably require interviews with the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care, the juvenile and the family over a number of days.

Obviously, such applications are intended to address long-term issues affecting a child and issues which, if proven, are sufficiently serious to warrant the removal of the child from the parents.

Some of the criticism of the proposal has been based on misreporting or misunderstanding; some has been downright malicious.

Some critics of the proposal have clearly been motivated by hatred and suspicion of the Police Service and the subtext to these criticisms is that Police are not human beings despite often being parents themselves, and are not fit and proper people who could exercise a caring, reasonable discretion to use this proposed power to take pro-active rescue action.

The Government does recognise that a whole-of-Government approach is needed to address the terrible problem of young children on the streets and we are pursuing our policy agenda across the board.

Demonstrably, however, we must confront the stark reality of what to do to rescue children under the age of 13 on the streets in the wee small hours alone and unsupervised. Recent concerns about paedophile activity and the ongoing concerns about children being exposed to drugs and juvenile crime underline the need for this proposal.

This proposal is a sincere and genuine proposal to give Police a discretionary power for the protection of children themselves.

Under the proposal, the Government would call for volunteers who would be prepared, out of the goodness of their own hearts, to accept children rescued by Police into their homes for a safe, overnight stay if these children could not be taken home to a safe and non-abusive environment. Of course, these volunteers would be required to pass the most stringent and exhaustive checks.

There will be a full and appropriate public consultation process at the time and all those interested are welcome to make submissions then and all will be closely and properly considered.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**35. Calamvale, Police Station**

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing—

With reference to the Queensland Police Service "Towards the 21st Century: Resource Priorities for the Queensland Police Service" report tabled in Parliament in 1995—

- (1) Will he adopt the recommendation contained in the report to construct a Police Station at Calamvale?
- (2) Will he match the commitment by the previous Minister to build this police station before July 1998?
- (3) When will work commence on this new Police Station?

Mr Cooper:

- (1) The Coalition Government is committed to the principles of the 21st Century document.
- (2) That document contains provision for a new police station at Calamvale to commence in the financial year 1998-99 and to be completed in 2000-01.
- (3) Whilst not diminishing the commitment to the 21st Century document the time of individual projects may be subject to some amendments.

65. Deferral of Government Projects

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry—

- (1) What projects did he include in the list of Government funding commitments, the implementation or continuation of which could be permanently curtailed, scaled back or deferred, which was requested by the Treasurer by 16 March 1996?
- (2) What is the cost of each project?
- (3) How many person hours of work were involved in each project?

Mr Perrett:

1. The Government has made it clear that it intends to review all of the previous Government's funding commitments arising from the annual Budget context, post Budget election commitments, the accelerated capital program and the Mid-Year Review of the Budget. Such a review is a legitimate action for a new Government to take in order to assess the initiatives and projects against the new Government's priorities and strategic direction and to provide capacity for the implementation of high priority Coalition commitments. This task is also essential because the commitments put in place by the previous Government are not sustainable from an overall funding perspective.

The initiatives and projects under review are documented and described in recent Budget Papers and subsequent announcements by the previous Government. Those projects initiated by the

previous Government have continued under the various contractual arrangements.

2. & 3. As noted in (1), the costs and other details such as employment effects of projects and initiatives were documented by the previous Government and can be sourced from those documents.

113. Cleveland, Police Station

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister For Racing—

With reference to the extremely urgent need for a replacement police station in Cleveland—

- (1) Where will this new station be sited?
- (2) When will tenders be let for its construction?
- (3) When will its construction begin?
- (4) When will the station be available for use?
- (5) What is the estimated cost of this facility?
- (6) Will the new Cleveland Court House be situated adjacent to the new station?
- (7) Will the station also incorporate the Wynnum Traffic Branch?

Mr Cooper:

(1) The Cleveland Police Station, Watchhouse and Magistrates Court occupy a site in Cleveland. Redland Shire Council requires that this new collocated facility be located in Middle Street, Cleveland as it has designated this area as a government precinct. The area has subsequently been reduced by the sale of three key allotments for commercial development. The remaining area available for the Police/Justice complex is inadequate and no longer viable. The feasibility of obtaining additional land through a partial road closure of Middle Street and access through adjacent park land has been investigated. This option would however impose substantial financial burden due to the presence of unstable fill, possible decontamination and diversion of the existing storm water and sewerage connections. Other sites in the Cleveland area are also under investigation.

(2) Any decision to locate to the Middle Street site is essentially a Justice prerogative as the Service requires collocated facilities. It is understood that the previous Minister for Justice and Attorney-General recently held discussions with Redland Shire Council to resolve the issue. The result of this meeting is unknown. Construction issues cannot be considered until a decision is made as to an appropriate site.

(3) It is expected, subject to the resolution of site issues, that construction could commence in late 1996/97.

(4) Construction would take approximately 40 to 48 weeks from acceptance of tender dependent upon any extensions of time for wet weather etc.

(5) A total amount of \$600,000 has been allocated for land acquisition and \$3.5M has been allocated for construction of the new police station and watchhouse.

(6) The Queensland Police Service is committed to the construction of a new police station and watchhouse that adjoins a new Courthouse in Cleveland.

(7) It is envisaged that the new facilities will incorporate the Wynnum Traffic Branch which is currently housed at Chandler.

115. Sunshine Motorway

(Additional information in answer to Question on Notice 115 by Mr Hamill, *Hansard*, 16 May 1996, p. 1284)

Mr Johnson: I wish to clarify certain points made in reply to Question 115. Please note that this material is to clarify, and not intended to replace the original reply, either in part, or in whole.

Point 1

While the employees referred to in the question employed by Sunshine Motorway, not all 47 were directly employed by Queensland Motorways Pty Ltd (QML). 37 were employed by an agent of QML—ADT Group 4 Securitas Pty Ltd.

In addition to the \$75,000 ex gratia assistance package which was recently offered to the employees, other payments relating to the redundancies amounting to \$341,00 were made some time ago.

The Department of Main Roads will reimburse the forementioned \$341,000 as well as meet the \$75,000 ex gratia assistance package, in total \$416,000. This has already been funded by an appropriation from the Consolidated Fund.

Point 8

In addition to the appropriation to cover the cost of redundancy payments, a further appropriation of up to \$2 million from Consolidated Revenue has been made to cover the costs of demolishing and removing the toll plazas.

Normal road funds will fund the annual maintenance of the motorway.

I will consider funding for new works and enhancements, when developing the relevant Roads Implementation programs.

117. Acacia Ridge Police Station

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing—

With reference to the recent justified increases in staff that have outstripped the out-of-date accommodation at Acacia Ridge Police Station—

Will he advise when work, foreshadowed in the 1995 Budget Speech of the former Treasurer, will be undertaken to construct a new building at Acacia Ridge to upgrade the totally inadequate facilities at that Police Station and for which an initial allocation was made in the 1995/96 Budget?

Mr Cooper: The Acacia Ridge Police Station has been tendered on the basis of a two stage design and construction management delivery system.

The tender for stage 1 was accepted in January 1996. The Department of Public Works and Housing have advised that the acceptance of the stage 2 tender is likely to occur in approximately one month.

Upon acceptance of the stage 2 tender, construction is anticipated to be 28 weeks. The total cost of the project is currently estimated at \$1.847M.

120. Annerley Police Station; Police Shopfront, Moorvale Shopping Centre

Mr FOLEY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing—

- (1) Will he give an assurance that the Annerley Police Station, upgraded during the term of the Labor Government, will not be downgraded?
- (2) Will he support the establishment of a police shopfront facility at the Moorvale Shopping Centre as requested by the South-West Brisbane Chamber of Commerce and Industry?

Mr Cooper:

- (1) The policing of Annerley and Dutton Park is currently being examined with a view to determining whether service delivery could be improved by the amalgamation of both Divisions.

There is no intention to close Annerley Police Station and the service currently provided from that station will continue.

There will not be any changes to the current policing arrangements unless the study reveals that a more effective service can be provided by amalgamation.

No decision will be made without the prior approval of the Police Service Board of Management.

Local public sentiment is a factor which will be taken into consideration when the review is being evaluated. No matter what decision is reached, there will not be a downgrading of the service provided to the community.

- (2) The request for a Police Beat Shopfront at Moorvale Shopping Centre was raised following the tragic shooting at the Moorooka Westpac Bank. The establishment of Police Beat Shopfronts is a matter for the Queensland Police Service and I, as the responsible Minister, will support whatever decision the Service makes concerning the Moorvale Shopping Centre at Moorooka.

Current crime figures do not support the establishment of a Police Beat Shopfront at this time. Commissioned Officers from the Oxley District Office have been liaising with members of the South-West Brisbane Chamber of Commerce and they are aware of the current situation.

170. Performance Management Dividend

Mr GIBBS asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry—

With reference to his department—

- (1) What savings options have been offered by his Department in order to achieve the Government's budget policy of a 1 percent "across the board" efficiency dividend?

- (2) Which of his savings options have been adopted by the Government?
- (3) What is the specific dollar value of each of these options?
- (4) What new initiatives in his portfolio have been announced by the Coalition Government since 19 February 1996?
- (5) What is the estimated full year cost of each of these initiatives and what is the source of funding for each initiative—Consolidated Revenue, Trust and Special Funds or borrowings?
- (6) When will each of these new initiatives be implemented, or in the case of capital projects, when will the project commence and what is its estimated date of completion and its costs?

Mr Perrett:

1. In order to fund election commitments, the Coalition proposed introducing an 1 per cent efficiency dividend on the Consolidated Fund published expenditure forward estimates. However, in view of the scale of the previous Government's election promises and other post Budget expenditure initiatives it has been necessary to institute a review of expenditure commitments across all departments and agencies. The findings of this review will be taken into consideration in developing the State Budget for 1996-97.

Further, the commission of Audit currently is examining the state of Queensland's finances. The Commission is due to report by the end of June. The Commission's report will provide valuable input into the preparation of the 1996-97 State Budget. In the course of preparing the Budget, all relevant funding sources will be considered, including any efficiency dividend that may be considered desirable and necessary.

2. Refer to 1 above.

3. Refer to 1 above.

4. Ministers have foreshadowed a number of initiatives since the Coalition came to office. The precise scope of these, their implementation plans, and funding details, will be finalised as part of the Budget process.

5. Full details of new initiatives announced by the Coalition will be provided in the 1996-97 State Budget.

6. Refer to 5 above.

200. Effluent Treatment

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Natural Resources—

With reference to the ongoing problems in finding sites for further water supply dams, and the pollution problems waste water puts back into the streams after urban and rural use, especially blue-green algae—

Will he provide information whether his department is carrying out any research into tertiary treatment of effluent?

Mr Hobbs: The emphasis on managing waste water should include consideration of all options for making use of this resource, after it has been appropriately treated, rather than just discharging it to streams. This will effectively reduce the impact on streams. It should also be noted that tertiary treatment is not essential for a number of potential uses of effluent, for example, for the irrigation of certain crops.

Tertiary sewage treatment processes are fairly well documented in the technical literature. What is needed at this time is to encourage use of the most cost-effective technology.

My Department will shortly be issuing guidelines covering re-use of effluent which will include advice on the treatment processes that should be installed to achieve the effluent quality required for any particular use. The guidelines will include the latest overseas information on this issue.

With the cooperation of local governments and funding from the National Landcare Program my Department has established a number of artificial wetlands pilot installations throughout the State to determine their effectiveness in improving the quality of final effluent. A trial wetland has also been installed at the Burdekin River Irrigation Area with funding from the Land and Water Resource Research Development Corporation to evaluate the process for irrigation tailwater.

The Department has previously developed a biological nutrient removal package plant, again with assistance from the National Landcare Program, to demonstrate this new technology to Queensland local governments. After a period of operation in southern Queensland, the plant is currently operating at Cairns so that it can be inspected by northern local governments. Information from operating the plant in various modes can be used by local governments to decide the optimum process for their purpose.

The Department is also investigating the use of effluent for irrigation. The results of this work will be particularly relevant to sugar areas where waste water source is close to areas that can be irrigated.

As part of this investigation, my Department has developed a software package which can be used as an irrigation planning and management tool to help landholders optimise the application of waste water to land in a way that will not cause land degradation, environmental or health hazards.

In summary, I am pleased to be able to say that on this question, my Department is doing a great deal to identify best practice approaches to treatment and re-use options for effluent.

205. CAPELEC, Rockhampton

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Mines and Energy—

With reference to reports and discussions concerning the probability of centralising electricity billing services in Brisbane and thus removing some 30-40 jobs from CAPELEC's Rockhampton operation—

- (1) Will he give an unequivocal guarantee that he will intervene to prevent this loss of jobs from proceeding?
- (2) If it is to proceed what options will be available to the displaced staff?
- (3) How much will be saved by this proposal to centralise billing?
- (4) What reasons are there for not centralising billing operations in Rockhampton?
- (5) Are there any other functions in the electricity industry which could be centralised in Rockhampton and thereby offset these losses to the Rockhampton job market?

Mr Gilmore:

1. I sought advice from the Chief Executive Officer of CAPELEC, Mr Kim Griffith in order to answer this issue. Mr Griffith advised me that CAPELEC has embarked on a major business improvement initiative to improve service delivery and prepare the organisation for the introduction of a competitive market in Queensland.

- (a) It is understood that an area which CAPELEC has targeted for improvement is the revenue management area. This is because a large number of CAPELEC customers have indicated that they require more flexible payment options and a more informative electricity account service. It is therefore proposed that CAPELEC will maintain responsibility for electricity billing in the area but source account production and dispatch from Brisbane. The transfer of CAPELEC's account production and dispatch to Brisbane will save the equivalent of 2 jobs (ie not the 30-40 jobs quoted by Mr Schwarten).
- (b) While I will not directly intervene to prevent the transfer of CAPELEC's account production and dispatch to Brisbane, I have already written to the Chair of the Queensland Transmission and Supply Corporation, Mr Bill Blair, expressing my concern that any rationalisation proposal must give careful consideration to the possible regional employment implications and that any proposal should not result in a deterioration of services provided to regional Queensland.

2. Mr Griffith has informed me that there will be no forced redundancies or job losses and staff who find that their positions are made redundant will be offered redeployment elsewhere in the organisation.

3. The new arrangements for the revenue management area will save CAPELEC \$850,000 per annum.

4. It is proposed to source account production and dispatch from Brisbane as the capability to print the form of electricity account requested by CAPELEC's customers is only available in Brisbane.

5. The Queensland Transmission and Supply Corporation, consistent with Government policy, is committed to maintaining current regional service delivery standards. However, at the same time the corporation is looking to strengthen cooperative development between the different electricity distribution corporations, improve service delivery, establish centres of excellence for different areas

where it makes sense to streamline processes (ie the account production area will be centralised in Brisbane) and maintain competitive electricity prices.

All electricity distribution corporations, including CAPELEC, will host centres of excellence. The specific areas or functions which may be carried out by CAPELEC have not been determined but will be decided as part of this process.

213. University of Queensland, Proposed Ipswich Campus

Mr HAMILL asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the proposed University of Queensland campus in Ipswich—

- (1) Is the Government considering a request from the University to obtain either (a) the existing Challinor Centre site, or (b) the existing Ipswich Showgrounds site, or (c) the existing Ipswich Country Club site, or any or all of these sites?
- (2) What is the value of each of these three sites and the improvements located on each of these sites?
- (3) If the Government supports the University's request, what compensation and assistance will it provide (a) the residents of the Challinor Centre, (b) the Ipswich Show Society, (c) the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club and (d) the Ipswich Country Club to relocate and re-establish their activities?
- (4) Noting the University's claim that it requires approximately 80 weeks of construction time to open its new campus for the commencement of the 1998 academic year, what is the deadline set by the Government for its final decision on the siting of the new campus in Ipswich?

Mr Quinn:

(1) No formal request has been received from the University regarding any of the sites mentioned.

(2) No action has been taken to value any of these sites, or to assess the improvements located on each of them.

(3) The Government is yet to receive a request from the University for funding of any site, or sites, other than the Ipswich Railyards site.

(4) The Heritage Council is due to consider the heritage implications of a university development on the Ipswich Railyards, at its June meeting. The State will have discussions with the University, with respect to its intentions, in light of the outcome of this meeting.

If the University wishes to proceed on the Railyards site, adequate time remains for construction, to achieve a 1998 opening.

214. Education Department Capital Works

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the Education Department's proposal to defer \$23.3m in capital works as outlined

in the document tabled in Parliament on 30 April 1996—

Will he detail each of the capital works projects which his department has identified should be deferred from the 1995-96 budget as a cost cutting measure?

Mr Quinn: With respect to the \$23.3 million in capital works, outlined in the document tabled in Parliament on 30 April 1996, there are no projects that have been deferred as a cost cutting measure.

The \$23.3 million in capital works outlined in the document tabled in Parliament on 30 April 1996 refers to the Building Better Schools (BBS) project. All projects within the BBS project are progressing but are at various stages of the capital works cycle, ranging from planning through to construction.

The deferral of capital works associated with this project has been brought about by the sometimes lengthy timelines experienced by the Department in:

- identifying projects
- finalising programs of work
- consulting with school communities
- appointing external project coordinators

The Honourable Member would also note that at the change of government, approximately only \$9 million, of the \$50 million 1995/96 Building Better School budget, had been expended by the Department.

215. Housing Development, Sandgate

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing—

With reference to 7th Avenue housing development and in view of his recent comments regarding public housing stock and waiting lists—

Will he confirm that the public housing development in 7th Avenue, Sandgate will proceed as originally planned?

Mr Connor: My Department is seeking to meet the housing needs of those Queenslanders who are in greatest need. I have directed the Department to especially target areas where applicants have waited for more than four years.

The project proposed for 7th Avenue, Sandgate, will provide a range of accommodation including 2, 3 and 4 bedroom housing. Some tenants will have waited up to five years, when they move in.

The Department has developed a sensitive design and layout which will yield 19 units of accommodation and provide for the sale of heritage-listed "Allambie".

Currently, the land is being rezoned and tenders for the construction will be called in about three months' time.

This project will contribute to the public housing needs of those seeking accommodation in the Sandgate area.

217. Capricorn Helicopter Rescue Service

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport—

With reference to the Premier's promise during the 1995 election campaign to provide \$1.5m up front to fund the Capricorn Helicopter Rescue Service (CHRS) and since this has been confirmed by the Premier when he visited Central Queensland recently—

- (1) When will the CHRS receive the full \$1.5m funding?
- (2) Has Treasury agreed to increase the Emergency Services budget by \$1.5m to pay for the Premier's promise or will this have to be found from existing budget resources?
- (3) Will he honour the commitment to the CHRS made by his Labor predecessors to provide \$1.5m over 5 years?

Mr Veivers:

(1) The original estimate of \$1.5M for the establishment of the helicopter service at Rockhampton was based on the need for the CHRS to actually purchase a helicopter. As the previous Government did not provide funding for this to occur, the Department of Emergency Services devised a wet leasing alternative as a method of establishing the service.

Wet leasing involves the contracting of a commercial helicopter provider to supply a fully equipped helicopter and crew for a fixed monthly charge (referred to as a standing charge) and a fixed rate for each hour flown but working to service delivery standards established and monitored by the Department of Emergency Services.

The implementation of the wet leasing option has substantially reduced the need for start-up capital and ensured that the operational and logistical back-up for such operations is vested in an experienced commercial helicopter provider.

The annual recurrent cost of operating the CHRS in Rockhampton under the wet lease arrangement is estimated at about \$800,000. After receiving the current level of Government grant of \$300,000, this leaves a \$500,000 funding gap to be made up from corporate and community sponsorships.

As the wet lease arrangement is tied to a five year Service Agreement, the urgency to provide a large amount of start-up capital no longer exists and the Government can now consider the provision of funds for the CHRS in conjunction with the formulation of the State budget.

(2) CHRS is funded to \$300,000 per annum as are all other community based helicopter services. As mentioned above, wet leasing arrangements remove the need for large amounts of start-up capital.

(3) The provision of \$1.5M over a five year period (ie—\$300,000 per annum) has been incorporated into the budget of the Department of Emergency Services and will continue to be available over the period of the 5 year Service Agreement.

The Government remains committed to continuing close consultation and liaison with the organising committee of the CHRS, health services, and Local Government in the region.

218. Building and Construction Industry Inquiry

Mr MACKENROTH asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing—

With reference to the inquiry into the building industry—

- (1) What is the anticipated cost of this inquiry?
- (2) What are the details of these costs including (a) daily fee to chairman and total fees (b) daily fee to members and total fees and (c) travel costs?
- (3) From which fund or funds will the costs of this inquiry be drawn?

Mr Connor:

- (1) It is anticipated at this stage that the total cost of the Inquiry will be approximately \$350,000.
 - (2)(a) The daily fee to the Chairman has been approved by Governor in Council at \$1,000 per day plus actual expenses incurred in the performance of duties. Total fees are estimated at \$130,000.
 - (b) The daily fee to Members has been approved by Governor in Council at \$360 per day plus actual expenses incurred in the performance of duties. Total fees are estimated at \$100,000.
 - (c) Travel costs inclusive of accommodation are estimated at \$58,000.
- (3) Costs of the Inquiry will be drawn from the Public Works Building Funds and Housing Trust funds of my Department, being the two areas of relevance to the matters of the Inquiry.

221. Education Department Capital Works, Murrumbidgee Electorate

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the Education Department's proposal to defer \$23.3m in capital works from the 1995-96 budget—

Which capital works in the Murrumbidgee electorate will be affected by this deferral?

Mr Quinn: The \$23.3 million in capital works outlined in the document tabled in Parliament on 30 April 1996 refers to the Building Better Schools (BBS) project. All projects within the BBS project are progressing but are at various stages of the capital works cycle, ranging from planning through to construction.

The deferral of capital works associated with this project has been brought about by the sometimes lengthy timelines experienced by the Department in:

- identifying projects
- finalising programs of work
- consulting with school communities
- appointing external project coordinators

The Honourable Member would also note that at the change of government, approximately only \$9 million, of the \$50 million 1995/96 Building Better School budget, had been expended by the Department.

The Education Department has no plans to defer any capital works in the Murrumbidgee electorate, that are a part of this project.

222. May Mini-Budget

Mr BEATTIE asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts—

With reference to the article in this weeks Business Queensland entitled "Freeze chills business", which describes how a company went into liquidation as a result of the new Government's indecision and to persistent rumours across the Public Service that consideration of many frozen programs will be postponed until Government policy is determined through the 1996-97 Budget process—

Will her May Mini-Budget resolve once and for all which programs are to be axed and which are to be saved, or will programs be put into deep freeze, extending the uncertainty for business through until the September budget announcement?

Mrs Sheldon: The process of reviewing previous Government initiatives is the first phase of the 1996-97 Budget and will be finalised and announced in that context. In relation to general programs and capital works, Ministers have full discretion to proceed with these programs.

223. Mr Kevin Davies

Mr MILLINER asked the Minister for Natural Resources—

With reference to the appointment of Mr Kevin Davies as Acting Director-General of the Department of Public Works and Housing and to his previous employment with the former departments of Geographic Information and Mapping and Surveying—

Will he detail (a) all travel and expenses incurred by Mr Davies for each year he was Surveyor-General, including purpose of travel or entertainment, all costs, destinations, accommodation and related entertainment activities, (b) all entertainment conducted by Mr Davies, in-house in the department, including functions, lunches and dinners, guest lists, catering costs and purpose of each event, during his previous employment and (c) the commissioning by Mr Davies of a Pro Hart painting, at a cost of \$35,000 for his office while Surveyor-General?

Mr Hobbs:

(a) Mr Davies was appointed Surveyor-General in October 1982 and remained in that position until August 1990. In accordance with Public Finance Standard No. 401 all vouchers showing details of expenditure up to 30 June 1990 have been destroyed. Vouchers retained by the Department indicate the following details of travel and expenses incurred by Mr Davies and acquitted during the 1990/91 financial year—

EXPENSE—LOCATION—DATES—AMOUNT

Meals & accommodation—Hotel Adelaide—
2/2/90—\$84.60

Meals & accommodation—Hotel Conrad Gold
Coast—7-8/5/90—\$186.45

Meals & accommodation—Hilton Int. Cairns—
9-11/5/90—\$366.95

Meals & accommodation—South Mole Is. Resort—
9-11/6/90—\$399.90

Total—\$1037.90

I have been advised by the Department that no details as to the purpose of above travel are indicated on individual vouchers and no other departmental records which contain these details are known to exist.

(b) Refer to answer (a) above. There are no vouchers or other departmental records for the period July-August 1990 detailing any entertainment conducted by Mr Davies.

(c) I have been advised that there are no departmental records indicating that Mr Davies commissioned a Pro Hart painting, at a cost of \$35,000 for his office.

227. Courthouse Land, Bundaberg

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice—

With reference to the allocation of half a million dollars in the 1995-96 Budget for the purchase of land adjacent to the new police station in Bundaberg for a Court House—

- (1) Have those funds been spent to purchase land for the new Court House?
- (2) Will the funds allocated for the acquisition of land be spent in 1996-97?
- (3) Will he give an assurance that planning and construction of the new Bundaberg Court House will commence in 1996-67?

Mr Beanland:

- (1) No
- (2) No. The cost of the land required for the Court House has been estimated by valuers of the Department of Natural Resources at \$865,000. This is \$300,000 above the funds allocated by the former government. A further proposal to resolve the issue will be advanced during the consideration of the formulation of the 1996-97 budget.
- (3) No. My department will not be constructing a new Courthouse in Bundaberg in 1996-97.

228. Moorooka State School

Mr FOLEY asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the concern of parents at the Moorooka State School over traffic hazards in dropping off and picking up children at the school—

Will he take steps to establish a drop-off zone outside the school in order to improve safety for parents and children?

Mr Quinn: The safety of people, in and around school property, is of paramount concern to the Department of Education, and myself.

In addressing the concern of parents at the Moorooka State School, I would advise the Honourable Member that current government policy dictates that the provision of vehicular setdown, or parking facilities, outside schools, is a matter for consideration by the local authority. If a school considers this matter to be a problem, then the school, or a subcommittee of the school parent group, should approach their local council seeking improvements.

In consideration of the application, the council may seek financial assistance on a subsidy basis from the Transport Department, under the School Safe Program. Should space limitations dictate utilisation of some of the school reserve for the construction of the drop-off zone, the Education Department would give consideration to making available the necessary portion of land, if possible, to allow its excision from the school reserve, to road reserve.

The Department of Education will consider funding the cost of title transfer, survey and fence relocation, in cases where excisions are necessary.

230. Education Department Capital Works, Archerfield Electorate

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the proposal by the Education Department to defer \$23.3m in capital works from the 1995-96 Budget—

Which capital works in the Archerfield electorate will be affected by this deferral?

Mr Quinn: The \$23.3 million in capital works outlined in the document tabled in Parliament on 30 April 1996 refers to the Building Better Schools (BBS) project. All projects within the BBS project are progressing but are at various stages of the capital works cycle, ranging from planning through to construction.

The deferral of capital works associated with this project has been brought about by the sometimes lengthy timelines experienced by the Department in:

- identifying projects
- finalising programs of work
- consulting with school communities
- appointing external project coordinators

The Honourable Member would also note that at the change of government, approximately only \$9 million, of the \$50 million 1995/96 Building Better School budget, had been expended by the Department.

The capital works deferred to 1996-97 in the Archerfield electorate, that are a part of this project, include:

- the construction of a covered area at Pallara State School
- the upgrade of classrooms at Calamvale State School

231. Education Department Capital Works, Ipswich West Electorate

Mr LIVINGSTONE asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the proposal by the Education Department to defer \$23.3m in capital works from the 1995-96 Budget—

Which capital works in the Ipswich West Electorate will be affected by this deferral?

Mr Quinn: The \$23.3 million in capital works outlined in the document tabled in Parliament on 30 April 1996 refers to the Building Better Schools (BBS) project. All projects within the BBS project are progressing but are at various stages of the capital works cycle, ranging from planning through to construction.

The deferral of capital works associated with this project has been brought about by the sometimes lengthy timelines experienced by the Department in:

- identifying projects
- finalising programs of work
- consulting with school communities
- appointing external project coordinators

The Honourable Member would also note that at the change of government, approximately only \$9 million, of the \$50 million 1995/96 Building Better School budget, had been expended by the Department.

The capital works deferred to 1996-97 in the Ipswich West electorate, that are a part of this project, include:

- the upgrade of classrooms at Ipswich North State School
- the construction of a covered area at Brassall State School
- the construction of a covered area at Haigslea State School
- the construction of a covered area at Glamorgan Vale State School
- the construction of a covered area at Karalee State School

232. Education Department Capital Works, Currumbin Electorate

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the proposal by the Education Department to defer \$23.3m in capital works from the 1995-96 Budget—

Which capital works in the Currumbin Electorate will be affected by this deferral?

Mr Quinn: The \$23.3 million in capital works outlined in the document tabled in Parliament on 30 April 1996 refers to the Building Better Schools (BBS) project. All projects within the BBS project are progressing but are at various stages of the capital works cycle, ranging from planning through to construction.

The deferral of capital works associated with this project has been brought about by the sometimes lengthy timelines experienced by the Department in:

- identifying projects
- finalising programs of work
- consulting with school communities
- appointing external project coordinators

The Honourable Member would also note that at the change of government, approximately only \$9 million, of the \$50 million 1995/96 Building Better School budget, had been expended by the Department.

The capital works deferred to 1996-97 in the Currumbin electorate, that are a part of this project, include:

- the upgrade of a classroom at Currumbin Valley State School
- the construction of a covered area at Ingleside State School

234. Bowen State School

Mrs BIRD asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the application by the Parents and Citizens Association of Bowen State School for funding for a much needed multi-purpose shade building for the pupils—

- (1) Will he recognise the need for such a shade building at the school?
- (2) Will he provide funding, at the very minimum dollar for dollar, to the Parents and Citizens Association to protect the children of the Bowen State School from the northern sun?

Mr Quinn: (1) & (2) No applications for funding towards a multipurpose shade facility have been received from the Bowen State School.

However, the Building Better Schools program has identified a need for additional covered play area at this school. Funding has been allocated in the current financial year to address this issue.

236. Child and Adolescent Mental Health Clinics, Indooroopilly and Ashgrove

Mrs EDMOND asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Will he confirm for the House and concerned members of the community the planned closure of the Indooroopilly and Ashgrove Child and Adolescent Mental Health Clinics, leaving a void in child and youth mental health services from Enoggera to Inala?
- (2) What considerations were given to the continuing needs of young people at risk and their families, given that these services were well utilised and demand high, and that this level of service will not be met by the hasty closure or merger of these services in a totally unsuitable site with recognised access problems?

- (3) Is this closure linked to Treasury initiated funding cuts to the child and youth mental health teams and the Mental Health Implementation Strategy?

Mr Horan:

(1) No, no clinics are to be closed and no void in service will be left. Rather, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) at Indooroopilly and Ashgrove Clinics are being relocated to enable consolidation of the five existing clinics into three (at Nundah, Pine Rivers, and Enoggera). The five clinics (which were all established under Coalition Governments) were sited, between 1959 and 1970, to reflect the demographic profile and community needs of that time. The teams, as they are currently organised, are too small to meet the needs of the community for a specialist service. In addition, the clinics have ill defined and overlapping catchment areas. Consolidation into three sites will provide three larger clinical teams, which will then have the critical mass of staff required to better meet today's specialised mental health service needs.

(2) The relocation of services in the health district has not been a hasty move. Rather it represents the phased implementation, commenced under successive Labor Ministers Hayward, Elder, and Beattie, of a wide ranging external review of mental health services provided to the children and young people in what was then Brisbane North Region. The report of this review was completed in January 1994. The review included consultations with staff, community and relevant agencies.

The consolidation of services to an expanded service at the Enoggera site is occurring in a planned and phased manner to ensure that any disruption to services is minimised.

The Enoggera service will provide greater accessibility to a wider range of consumers, and is within a few minutes walk of a major bus-rail interchange.

The catchment population south of the Brisbane River, some of which previously attended Indooroopilly is now serviced by the Yeronga mental health service with clinics also operating at Inala and Greenslopes. Collaboration with these clinics is occurring to facilitate the transfer of specific families who have been receiving their services from the Indooroopilly site.

(3) No; in fact, I have announced new, additional, and significant allocations of capital works funds which will see the major upgrade of CAMHS on Brisbane's Northside. It is a demonstration of the commitment of the Coalition Government that one third of the entire \$1.275 million allocation for Brisbane North was dedicated to child and adolescent mental health.

Further, and in contrast to the behaviour of the Goss Government, there have been no Treasury initiated funding cuts to the child and youth mental health teams, nor to the Mental Health Implementation Strategy. Under the administration of the Goss Government, of which you were a member, and specifically during the Health Ministries of your now leaders, Messrs Elder and Beattie, funding for mental health services were bled by the wasteful regional

system. For example, between 1992/93 and 1993/94, \$1.8 million of new funding was provided to Regional Health Authorities by Mental Health Branch, and yet mental health expenditure only increased by \$0.5 million. With Queensland's population growth, this actually resulted in a per capita fall in mental health expenditure by over 2%.

This Government is committed to ensuring mental health services, including those for children, adolescents, and families, are improved. I also guarantee that funds allocated to these services will go to delivering services, and no longer be siphoned into other areas.

238. Education Department Capital Works, Mackay Electorate

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the proposal by the Education Department to defer \$23.3m in capital works from the 1995-96 Budget—

Which capital works in the Mackay Electorate will be affected by this deferral?

Mr Quinn: The \$23.3 million in capital works outlined in the document tabled in Parliament on 30 April 1996 refers to the Building Better Schools (BBS) project. All projects within the BBS project are progressing but are at various stages of the capital works cycle, ranging from planning through to construction.

The deferral of capital works associated with this project has been brought about by the sometimes lengthy timelines experienced by the Department in:

- identifying projects
- finalising programs of work
- consulting with school communities
- appointing external project coordinators

The Honourable Member would also note that at the change of government, approximately only \$9 million, of the \$50 million 1995/96 Building Better School budget, had been expended by the Department.

The capital works deferred to 1996-97 in the Mackay electorate, that are a part of this project, include:

- the upgrade of classrooms at Mackay Central State School
- the construction of a covered area at Victoria Park State School

239. Mr Kevin Davies

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing—

With reference to the appointment of Mr Kevin Davies as Acting Director-General of the Department of Public Works and Housing—

- (1) Is he aware of the serious allegations made in the Parliament, and documented in *Hansard* 1979-1983, regarding Mr Davies' suitability for

appointment to a senior public service position?

- (2) Will he provide (a) details of Mr Davies' membership, positions and activities in the Queensland Liberal Party, both past and present and (b) details of private sector companies and organisations with which Mr Davies has or has had an association involving a pecuniary interest, including directorships, shareholding, property interest and partnerships, including any silent partnerships?
- (3) Given a possible conflict of interest between Mr Davies' connections with private sector companies and his new role in the process of awarding public contracts, what assurances can he give that any conflict of interest can be eliminated?

Mr Connor: The question from the Member for South Brisbane about my Acting Director-General is a good illustration of how bereft the Opposition is of original thought.

To put things into context, the Member's contribution to the House in 1996 is to parrot the baseless allegations made almost 20 years ago by that renowned mud slinger—the former Member for Archerfield.

If the Member took the trouble to check, she would realise that Ministers at the time completely refuted the criticisms made and placed on the record the great advances made in the organisations under the administration of Mr Davies.

Kevin Davies has a proven record of achievement as a public servant during his 11 years under the former coalition government.

You may be interested to know that the Minister at the time of Mr Davies' departure from the Public Service, Bill Eaton, personally gave him no fewer than four letters of commendation for his work!

I am pleased to have a man with such experience and ability as the Chief Executive in my portfolio.

With regard to the specific questions asked, I can advise:

- (1) Yes.
- (2)(a) Mr Davies resigned from the Liberal party in 1978 prior to being appointed to the Public Service.
- (b) I remind the Member that all company and share information is available for public search.
- (3) I have no evidence of conflict of interest.

241. Education Department Capital Works, Bulimba Electorate; Morningside State School

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) Will the proposed capital works freeze for the 1995-96 Education Budget affect the schools in the Bulimba electorate?
- (2) Will he detail capital works that are being frozen in the Bulimba electorate?

(3) Why has \$40,000 for capital works at Morningside State School disappeared?

(4) Will he tell the parents of state school children when capital works programs will start again in schools that are in need of urgent repair?

Mr Quinn:

(1) & (2) There are no capital works in the Bulimba electorate that are being frozen by the Department of Education.

(3) At the request of the former federal Labor candidate for the electorate of Griffith, Mr Kevin Rudd, the former Minister for Education, the Honourable Member for Ipswich, directed that Education officers and Q-Build staff visit Morningside State School to consider the needs of a particular classroom. It was considered that the needs of the school could be better addressed through the Building Better Schools (BBS) conversion/upgrade program. Consequently work has not been undertaken and will now progress under BBS.

(4) All work programmed on the 1995-96 Education capital works program is progressing.

243. Building and Construction Industry Inquiry; Subcontractors and Suppliers

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing—

Whilst recognising the current review of the building industry by the committee chaired by Mr Scurr—

What assistance is proposed by the Minister for subcontractors and suppliers financially disadvantaged by the non-completion of Government projects in Mt Isa, Cairns, Yeppoon and Gladstone?

Mr Connor: Discussions held with organisations of subcontractor groups in Mt Isa, Cairns and Rockhampton and with the Trustee in Bankruptcy have resulted in an agreement which I detailed in Parliament on May 15, 1996. Basically, the agreement gave affected subcontractors access to an immediate payment and will ensure uncompleted projects are finalised by disadvantaged subcontractors where possible.

245. High School, Burpengary

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the provision of a high school at Burpengary—

- (1) What is the current timetable position regarding the provision of the school?
- (2) When will a site be acquired for the school?
- (3) Will he guarantee that plans for the school will receive the highest priority?

Mr Quinn:

(1) The construction of a high-school in the Narangba/West Burpengary area is included on the 10 year indicative plan for capital works of the Department of Education.

(2) It is anticipated that proclamation of a suitable site will occur later this year.

(3) Planning for the construction of this school is a high priority within the Department. However, I can give no guarantee with respect to the date that construction will commence.

247. Wynnum State High School

Mr BURNS asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the Parents and Citizens Committee of the Wynnum State High School who are extremely upset that the school's planned home economics upgrade has been eliminated from the State's Capital Works Program and as the former Federal MP for the area had announced a grant of \$651,529 for Wynnum High home economics upgrade and the Parents and Citizens understood that it was a "specific purpose" payment and that it was irrevocable—

- (1) Why has his Government made such a blatant political decision to discriminate against students in a Labor electorate, given that the project had progressed so far that it has been suggested that up to \$100,000 has already been spent on planning and design?
- (2) As the existing facilities are grossly inadequate, with only one sink per classroom, forcing the 400 students using the facility to carry hot water across rooms with the result that the Occupational Health and Safety Adviser has raised serious concerns for the safety of the students, will he, as a matter of urgency, reverse this decision and provide the students of the school seeking jobs in the hospitality industry with the opportunity to train and work in safe, modern facilities that had been agreed to and funded by both State and Federal Governments?

Mr Quinn: (1) & (2) In recent weeks there seems to have been some confusion concerning Wynnum State High School and, more specifically, the possibility of upgrading its home economics block with funding provided by the Commonwealth. The source of this confusion can be traced back to last year's inexplicable decision by the previous Labor Government in Canberra to change the way in which projects were identified and approved under its Capital Grants Program for 1996.

Prior to the change, it was accepted practice that Queensland would submit a schedule of projects by December 31 each year, detailing estimated funding needed until the following June 30. This would be followed by a second schedule after the State Budget, detailing estimated expenditure for the full grant. A two part schedule was designed to accommodate the fact that Queensland is a high growth State with rapidly changing needs and enrolment patterns.

High growth makes it extremely difficult to forecast future requirements with any degree of confidence or accuracy, more than six months in advance. Until last year, the special situation of Queensland, in this

regard, was understood and accepted by the Commonwealth Government. This arrangement worked perfectly well until the former Minister for Schools, Vocational Education and Training, Ross Free, directed that a comprehensive schedule of all projects for 1996 be submitted by 31 December 1995. The State Government complied with this request, directing the Facilities Development Section of the Education Department to provide the information necessary to prepare a schedule.

There seems to have been no valid reason for his directive beyond the rather obvious fact that such information could be used to bolster the re-election chances of Federal Labor MPs, in Queensland, who were, even at this early stage, feeling decidedly nervous about their prospects. This blatant political interference by the Labor Party, in the efficient administration of Commonwealth grants, shows a total disregard for the many school communities, like Wynnum High, who have been cruelly misled as a consequence.

The major problem with this surprising directive, from Mr Free, was that the Queensland Education Department does not finalise its own capital works program until April or May of each year. In other words, the best it could provide by December was a preliminary schedule of projects, to be followed by a revised list after the State budget this year. As a consequence, a number of projects that met the criteria for the Grant, and that were scheduled for planning only, were placed on the list.

The Wynnum State High School, which was scheduled, by the Department, for planning only, in 1995-96 was placed on this list because the upgrade of the Home Economics block met the criteria for the Grant. The former State Minister for Education was warned of the risk associated with such a move, before the level of funding was advised and the project approved.

In a brief, prepared last October, the Department warned the then Minister, Mr Hamill, not to place undue reliance on this preliminary schedule, because of the likelihood of change. This crystal clear warning is noted in the following quote:

"As the final draft of the 1996-97 Capital Works Program is not expected to be finalised until early April 1996, a number of projects earmarked for Commonwealth funding under the December 1995 schedule may be withdrawn from the program due to funding issues or other circumstances.

Care would need to be exhibited by the Commonwealth in any announcements of proposed projects prior to the State Budget."

The former Minister must surely have understood the importance of the last sentence.

But such an understanding was not evident in the subsequent action of most Labor members. These people, your colleagues, ignored the advice of the Department.

Let me quote this brief passage from the *Wynnum Herald* of February 7, this year:

"Wynnum State High School is the big winner out of a Federal Government grant of more than \$900,000 to Bayside schools.

Federal Member for Bowman Con Sciacca announced that Wynnum High had received more than \$650,000 out of a Commonwealth capital grant.

The money will go towards building a catering kitchen in upgrading the home economics block."

Unfortunately for the P&C Association of Wynnum State High School, this project was not confirmed—and because of such blatant political opportunism, the Coalition Government has been left to clean up yet another Labor mess.

I am advised that the home economics block upgrade initially proposed for Wynnum State High School is one of 13 projects—worth almost \$6.5 million statewide—which the Department has been obliged to withdraw from its capital works list, because of changing circumstances. These are the same changing circumstances that were predicted, in October last year, in the brief to Mr Hamill.

I stress again that this was a departmental decision—not a personal decision by me—not a political decision by this Government—but a soundly based administrative decision made by the dedicated, expert staff entrusted in the Department with that responsibility.

As a responsible Minister, I am not prepared to interfere with the efficient administration of my Department, so that the irresponsible actions of Labor members can be redeemed.

In so far as future improvements to home economics facilities at the Wynnum State High School, the Honourable Member would be advised to refer to discussions that were conducted by the Metropolitan East region, with its high school principals. These discussions considered how all subjects could be made available to students, using facilities available in the region.

Following these discussions it was determined that the region would embrace the cluster concept. The cluster concept is designed to ensure that subjects which lead to vocational education are available to all students regardless of facilities available within their school.

The Principal of Wynnum State High School was involved in these discussions and selected two subjects which his school could provide to its particular cluster. These subjects were:

Business, Clerical and Retail
Engineering and Metals

Wynnum North State High School, another school in the Wynnum cluster selected:

Tourism and Hospitality
Arts, Media and Entertainment

It is therefore envisaged that the students of Wynnum State High School will access the home economics facilities at the Wynnum North State High School.

248. Education Department, Staffing Levels

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the facts that 80 per cent of recurrent expenditure in the Education Department relates to wages and salaries and that all departmental Budgets are being considered for possible savings—

Will he ensure that this will not result in reductions in staffing of deputy principals, classroom teachers, relief teachers, specialist teachers such as music, librarians etc, and essential support staff and teacher aides?

Mr Quinn: The policy of the Coalition Government is to place more resources through the school gate.

As staffing in schools is a critical factor in the delivery of quality education services, it will be my intention, where possible, to ensure that there are no reductions in staffing levels at Queensland schools.

However, the level of staffing in schools has, and always will be, subject to budgetary considerations.

249. Education Department Capital Works, Cleveland Electorate

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the proposal by the Education Department to defer \$23.3m in capital works from the 1995-96 Budget—

Which capital works in the Cleveland Electorate will be affected by this deferral?

Mr Quinn: The \$23.3 million in capital works outlined in the document tabled in Parliament on 30 April 1996 refers to the Building Better Schools (BBS) project. All projects within the BBS project are progressing but are at various stages of the capital works cycle, ranging from planning through to construction.

The deferral of capital works associated with this project has been brought about by the sometimes lengthy timelines experienced by the Department in:

- identifying projects
- finalising programs of work
- consulting with school communities
- appointing external project coordinators

The Honourable Member would also note that at the change of government, approximately only \$9 million, of the \$50 million 1995/96 Building Better School budget, had been expended by the Department.

The Capital Works deferred to 1996-97 in the Cleveland electorate, that are a part of this project, include:

- the construction of a covered area at Cleveland State School
- the construction of a covered area at Dunwich State School

250. Education Department Capital Works, Redcliffe Electorate; Humpybong Infant School

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Education—
With reference to his proposal to defer \$23.3m in capital works from the 1995-96 Budget—

- (1) Will these cuts affect the redevelopment program of Humpybong Infant School?
- (2) What other capital works in the Redcliffe Electorate, will be discontinued as a result of the Government slashing costs in Labor electorates?

Mr Quinn: (1) & (2) The \$23.3 million in capital works outlined in the document tabled in Parliament on 30 April 1996 refers to the Building Better Schools (BBS) project. All projects within the BBS project are progressing but are at various stages of the capital works cycle, ranging from planning through to construction.

The deferral of capital works associated with this project has been brought about by the sometimes lengthy timelines experienced by the Department in:

- identifying projects
- finalising programs of work
- consulting with school communities
- appointing external project coordinators

The Honourable Member would also note that at the change of government, approximately only \$9 million, of the \$50 million 1995/96 Building Better School budget, had been expended by the Department.

There are no plans to defer any capital works in the Redcliffe electorate, that are a part of this project.

251. Taxes

Mr HAMILL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts—

Is the Government considering the introduction of (a) a fuel tax, (b) increased tobacco tax, (c) financial institutions duty and (d) increased BAD tax?

Mrs Sheldon: The Government currently is reviewing initiatives as part of preparation for the 1996-97 State Budget, to be delivered in September 1996. All relevant funding issues will be considered in the preparation of the State Budget, including variations to State taxes such as the Coalition's election commitments to increase the payroll tax threshold by discrete amounts and phase out land tax over time. We have already delivered by legislation stamp duty relief on the refinancing of principal place of residence mortgages.

Decisions on individual components of the State Budget, such as expenditure initiatives or revenue measures, cannot be made in isolation and will be announced with the delivery of the State Budget in September.

253. Land Tax

Mr De LACY asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts—

Will she honour her promise to provide at least \$20m in Land Tax relief with effect this calendar year?

Mrs Sheldon: The Government remains committed to the gradual phasing out of land tax.

In this regard, the Government currently is reviewing both expenditure and revenue initiatives as we prepare the 1996-97 State Budget.

Decisions on individual components of the Budget, including the gradual phasing out of land tax, cannot be made in isolation and will be announced with the delivery of the 1996-97 State Budget in September.

254. Boating Fees

Mr DOLLIN asked the Premier—

With reference to a promise before the election by the Coalition to cut boat registration fees by up to more than half, with the fee for boats up to three metres set at \$40 and all other boats up to 20 metres set at \$70 and that drive fees and boating facility fees would be dropped—

Will the Coalition keep this promise; if so, when?

Mr Borbidge: As with all election commitments, the Coalition Government intends to deliver on the undertakings given. I have asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads to commence action on this matter, which represents a reduction in registration fees for all boat owners paying full registration. Given the revenue implications, proposals for concessional fees, and the administration arrangements necessary to change the computer and renewal notices, this initiative will be implemented in line with the upcoming State Budget.

255. Danpork Piggery, Warwick

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Environment—

With reference to an announcement by Danpork Australia that their plans to site a 10,000 sow piggery, one of Australia's largest, near Warwick have cleared all regulatory hurdles—

- (1) Has the piggery been licensed by the Department of Environment?
- (2) If so, what discharge/emission levels have been set for both air and water?
- (3) What controls have been required of the company to meet these levels?
- (4) Will he give a guarantee that these controls are adequate to address the discharges from a piggery of this size?

Mr Littleproud:

(1) The piggery has not been licensed by the Department of Environment under the Environmental Protection Act 1994. No application for an environmental authority (licence) has been made to the Department of Environment. A licence is not required until the activity actually commences and in addition, there is no current requirement for a piggery of this size to be licensed as the environmentally relevant activity does not commence until 1 July 1996 under the Environmental Protection (Interim) Regulation.

- (2) Given the answer to (1) above, not relevant.
- (3) Given the answer to (1) above, not relevant.
- (4) The Department of Environment will not issue an authority under the Environmental Protection Act 1994 unless it is satisfied that the requirements of the Act are met.

258. Walla Weir, Burnett River

Mr NUNN asked the Minister for Environment—

With reference to the proposal to erect the Walla Weir on the Burnett River at Johnson's Rocks upstream from Bundaberg and with regard to environmental concerns—

- (1) Has an environmental management plan been prepared for the project?
- (2) If so, does it address the concerns expressed by the University of Queensland lungfish expert Anne Kemp?
- (3) If not, will he require further studies to be undertaken?
- (4) Will he release the environmental management plan for public scrutiny?

Mr Littleproud:

(1) An Environmental Management Plan (the Plan) was prepared by the consultant (Kinhill Cameron McNamara) commissioned by the Department of Natural Resources as part of the impact assessment for the Walla Weir project. The most recent environmental management plan was included with the Impact Assessment Study Supplementary Report (dated November 1995). The Environmental Management Plan has been reviewed by the Department of Environment and other reviewers, and recommendations to revise and improve the Plan have been made as part of the Department of Environment review of the impact assessment.

(2) The Environmental Management Plan includes measures to manage impacts to aquatic flora and fauna, including lungfish, during both construction and operational phases of the weir. If the weir proceeds, Environmental Management Implementation Plans, prepared by the Department of Natural Resources to address the environmental management procedure requirements in the Plan, will need to be approved by the Department of Environment. These will include more specific operational controls including details on maintaining water levels in the weir storage during lungfish breeding season. Dr Anne Kemp of Queensland University is of the opinion that the effects of the weir on recruitment of juvenile lungfish into adult age groups remain unknown because it is not confirmed whether impoundments provide appropriate habitat for juvenile development. Specialists from the Department of Primary Industries Fisheries and Forestry who have conducted research into lungfish as part of the impact assessment for the weir considered that even in a worst case scenario of no recruitment of juvenile lungfish into the adult population (and this is not certain), this would not lead to extinction of lungfish in the Burnett River system. There is therefore a variance in the

expectations of "specialists" with regard to lungfish survival in the impoundment and the Burnett River.

(3) Notwithstanding the issues raised in (2) above, officers of the Department of Environment and the Department of Primary Industries Fisheries and Forestry have provided recommendations for further monitoring and environmental management of lungfish under the Environmental Management Plan and Environmental Management Implementation Plans if the weir proceeds.

These recommendations include: further baseline study on the conditions required for re-establishment and maintenance of lungfish breeding habitat in the storage; further investigation of the requirements of juvenile lungfish (about which there is limited information); ongoing monitoring of the lungfish population in relation to the construction and operation of the weir; and provision for lungfish movement through a fishlock in the weir.

(4) The Environmental Management Plan was included in a draft impact assessment report which was placed on public exhibition from 24 April to 29 May 1995. Numerous submissions were received. Following responses from government, community and industry, a supplementary report and revised plan were prepared. Advice of the availability of this documentation was provided to those parties who reviewed the earlier draft, and key conservation groups and other reviewers provided with a copy of the supplement and revised plan.

On this basis the draft Environmental Management Plan has already been available for public scrutiny on two occasions.

259. Dugong, Hinchinbrook Channel

Mr MILLINER asked the Minister for Environment—

With reference to a report prepared by Professor Helene Marsh for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park on dugong numbers on the Great Barrier Reef—

- (1) In giving the Port Hinchinbrook Resort its final approval did he consider this report?
- (2) If so, what controls has he put in place to ensure the dugong population in Hinchinbrook Channel is not impacted by increased boat traffic generated by the resort?
- (3) Is he comfortable with Mr Williams' prediction that boat traffic in the channel will double as a result of the resort?
- (4) Will he guarantee that the 12 knot speed limit to be imposed on these boats is sufficiently low enough to prevent injuries or death to dugong in the channel?

Mr Littleproud:

(1) No, the report was not considered as it was not available when approvals, such as the State Marine Park permit, were given in October 1994.

(2) Whilst the answer to (1) is no, the Deed of Agreement for Port Hinchinbrook requires the company to "comply with any management plan or draft management plan prepared by the Department and notified to the Company. Where the Company's

proposed activities may result in new or significantly increased commercial activities in national or marine parks, or in increased visitation to sites listed on any statutory register of heritage places, the Company and the Department will consider these proposals within the context of jointly developed . . . environmental resource management programs for these activities and sites" (Clause 19.2).

Approval has recently been given to commence a comprehensive planning program to develop a Strategic Plan for Hinchinbrook Channel; this plan will address all relevant issues including the dugong and will make recommendations to minimise any impacts on the dugong population in Hinchinbrook Channel.

(3) It is extremely difficult to predict the likely numbers of vessels using the channel as a result of the resort; any such prediction is no more than a guess.

(4) No such guarantee can be given. The speed limit in the Deed of Agreement is binding only on displacement vessels over 25 metres. However the Strategic Plan currently being developed for the Channel may also consider the regulation of other vessel speeds in specific areas.

260. Rural Fire Brigades

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport—

- (1) What is the 1995-96 Budget for Rural Fire Brigades?
- (2) How many Queensland Rural Fire Brigades are assisted by voluntary levies placed on residents by local authorities?
- (3) What are the names of these brigades?
- (4) Which shires currently strike a levy on their residents to support Rural Fire Brigades?
- (5) Which shires do not support such levies?
- (6) Does he intend to alter the existing 1995-96 Rural Fire Brigade Budget in any way; if so, in what regard?

Mr Veivers:

(1) Rural Fire Brigades are managed by the Rural Fire Division of the Queensland Fire Service. The budget for the Division for 1995/96 is \$7.924M. Individual Brigade budgets derived from fundraising activities and donations are not available.

(2) As at 7 May 1996 it has been reported that 35 Local Authorities have imposed levies on all or part of their Council areas. This covers 626 Rural Fire Brigade Districts located either wholly or partially within those Shires. Not all Brigades have requested assistance.

(3) The names of those Brigades are tabled.

(4) The list of the 35 Shires making contributions are also tabled.

(5) In many parts of Queensland, especially in the western areas, a levy is either irrelevant or impractical. The Rural Fire Division is aware that many Shires have chosen to provide financial

assistance from general revenue rather than strike a levy or provide assistance by way of Council services.

The absence of a levy in a Shire area cannot be taken to mean that the Shire does not support a levy. The Department of Emergency Services does not maintain a list of Shires which support Rural Fire levies.

(6) The 1995/96 budget of the Rural Fire Division has been reduced by \$50,000, such amount having been allocated as new initiative funding to special equipment and found to be in excess of this year's requirements.

No rural fires program will be adversely affected and all are on target for completion by the end of the financial year.

261. Housing Department Loans

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing—

- (1) When will he fulfil the Government's election promise to reduce interest rates his department charges for loans for home buyers?
- (2) Is his department charging 12.5 per cent and higher on these loans when bank loans for housing can be locked in at 8.5 per cent?
- (3) As loan repayments are based on a borrower's ability to pay, is the borrower's principal increasing on any loans?
- (4) How many loans have increased?
- (5) By how much?
- (6) Are these people building a debt rather than buying a home?

Mr Connor:

(1) I am not aware of a specific commitment or timetable for implementation with respect to reducing interest rates. However, I commend as essential reading the amendments to the Stamp Act 1894, during the last session of Parliament, and the implications of these amendments to make home loan interest rates less costly through increased competition.

(2) Yes, but only on 978 loans granted under the terms of Labor's thoroughly discredited and cancelled Home Ownership Made Easier scheme which offered 10-year fixed-interest loans at interest rates of 12.9% to 14.9%.

(3) Yes. Both under Labor's failed H.O.M.E. Scheme, and under another Labor scheme, the Deposit Assistance Loan, introduced in September 1994, and offered in conjunction with the Queensland Housing Loan, which was introduced at the same time.

(4) Of the current 4607 H.O.M.E. Loans, 2829 have a loan balance greater than originally advanced, while of the current 302 Deposit Assistance Loans, 241 have a loan balance greater than the original amount.

(5) For the 2829 H.O.M.E. loans, the average increase is \$5259 or 106.6% of the original balance, while for the more recent 241 Deposit Assistance

Loans the average increase in principal is \$244 or 102.1% of the original advance.

(6) Yes, and I am still trying to work out why the previous Labor Government would have introduced schemes which allowed family tragedies of this magnitude to have occurred.

263. Management of Behavioural Problems in Schools

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to continuing reports regarding inappropriate behaviour in Queensland schools—

- (1) What programs has he introduced to combat unacceptable classroom behaviour by students?
- (2) What specific programs does he intend to introduce into Rockhampton schools?
- (3) What funding will be made available to Rockhampton schools to cater for programs aimed at addressing school discipline problems?

Mr Quinn:

(1) The Government is currently investigating a range of possible alternative programs that could be introduced in conjunction with providing principals with additional powers to suspend students whose behaviour is unacceptable.

(2) & (3) These are matters that will be decided in the context of formulating the State budget.

264. Women's Health Centres

Ms SPENCE asked the Minister for Health—

Will he give an assurance not to cut the funding of independent, community based women's health centres?

Mr Horan: Of great importance to the Coalition Government is its recognition that ". . . at the heart of a healthy society is the family . . ."; thus the Coalition's mandate includes a commitment that ". . . health services will be structured towards ensuring family health."

In delivering on this commitment, the Coalition recognises that women are primary care givers and as such need to be supported and educated for this role. The Coalition also acknowledges the unique health needs of women with regard to pregnancy, childbirth, menopause and related conditions (such as post-natal depression) and is committed to cater for those needs in the most appropriate manner. The Coalition also promotes the use of the General Practitioner by families as a source for information and health care.

The eight women's health centres in Queensland are currently funded through the National Women's Health Program, a joint Commonwealth-State Initiative. Set up in 1989, this Program is due to expire in its present form in June 1997. Its future after that will be determined by Commonwealth and State evaluations of the Program (which are now

taking place), foreshadowed changes to Commonwealth funding systems, and the obligation of the Queensland and Federal Coalition Governments to meet their commitments to the Australian people. In all, the position will not be clarified until after the Federal budget comes down on 20 August 1996.

265. Suicide

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the fact that some studies have shown that people who attempt unsuccessfully to commit suicide are 30 times more likely to make a subsequent and successful attempt, and to the fact that the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care does not receive information about these attempts (other than by existing clients of his department) and therefore provides no counselling for them—

- (1) Does the department's Suicide Research and Prevention Program have a register of people who make such attempts?
- (2) If so, will he make this information available to the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care, so that these people can be given assistance should they wish it and their families be offered counselling of an appropriate kind, given that most of these people are not suffering from physical or recognisable psychiatric illness?

Mr Horan:

(1) I am advised that it does not. The Suicide Research and Prevention Program is based at Griffith University and funded in part by a grant from the Department of Health. It does not include a register of people who attempt suicide, although part of its work focuses on this group.

(2) Even if the University's Program had such a register, and even if that register were available to my Department, it would still not be the practice of my Department to provide information about individual clients to other agencies. This is unless it is required or authorised to do so by legislation or by the consent of the individual. To do otherwise would be to breach confidentiality and privacy provisions which operate within health services. Referrals are made to other agencies on an individual basis and with the individual's consent.

266. Environmental Education Centre, Griffith University

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the Goss Government's \$500,000 funding for Griffith University's much needed environmental education centre—

- (1) Does he support the construction of this centre?
- (2) Does he support the \$500,000 funding the Goss Government committed to the project; if not, where does he see funding for this project being found?

- (3) Will he meet with senior Griffith University staff handling the project to discuss the funding issue?
- (4) If the project does not proceed, what impact will this have on the availability of qualified environmental educators in the future?

Mr Quinn:

(1) The concept of the Centre reflects a whole-of-government approach to the environment, that will serve the needs of; and foster a link between, state government departments, the Brisbane City Council, Griffith University and the community.

I am committed to the improvement and preservation of our environment. It is important for Queenslanders to have the opportunity to be educated about the value of ecologically sustainable development.

(2) With respect to funding, the then Department of Environment and Heritage paid \$250,000 to the University for this project, in 1995. The previous Minister of that Department committed a further payment of \$250,000, which was scheduled to be paid in late 1996. The Department of Environment is reviewing this payment as a part of its overall budget considerations.

The Honourable Member would care to note that the Department of Education has never been involved in the funding of this project.

(3) As this matter is not a responsibility of my portfolio, it is not appropriate for me to discuss the issue of funding, with relevant University staff.

(4) The Department of Education operates presently several environmental education centres. If this project was not to proceed, for whatever reason, the Department would need to examine the role of the existing centres, in light of the need to provide comprehensive environmental education programs.

267. Kangaroo Point Boardwalk

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing—

With reference to Treasury documents indicating an intention to abandon phase 3 of the Kangaroo Point boardwalk—

- (1) Will he clarify the future of pedestrian and bicycle access to the area from the current boardwalk to the Story Bridge and beyond?
- (2) Will he support alternative pedestrian and bicycle access, if the boardwalk proposal is scrapped?

Mr Connor:

(1) I know of no Treasury document that indicates an intention to abandon Stage 3 of the Kangaroo Point Boardwalk. As part of a review of all potential Capital Works projects being considered by my Department, the Kangaroo Point Boardwalk has been discussed. I understand that the Lord Mayor of Brisbane has raised a number of issues in relation to further stages of the Boardwalk, and until these matters can be resolved and the scope of work for Stage 3 can be better clarified, the project has been deferred.

(2) Further to my answer to the first part of the question, if the range of matters to which I referred can be resolved with the Brisbane City Council, I would support continuation of further stages of the Kangaroo Point Boardwalk, when funds permit.

268. Education Department Capital Works, Sunnybank Electorate

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the proposal by the Education Department to defer \$23.3m in capital works from the 1995-96 Budget—

Which capital works in the Sunnybank Electorate will be affected by this deferral?

Mr Quinn: The \$23.3 million in capital works outlined in the document tabled in Parliament on 30 April 1996 refers to the Building Better Schools (BBS) project. All projects within the BBS project are progressing but are at various stages of the capital works cycle, ranging from planning through to construction.

The deferral of capital works associated with this project has been brought about by the sometimes lengthy timelines experienced by the Department in:

- identifying projects
- finalising programs of work
- consulting with school communities
- appointing external project coordinators

The Honourable Member would also note that at the change of government, approximately only \$9 million, of the \$50 million 1995/96 Building Better School budget, had been expended by the Department.

The Capital Works deferred to 1996-97 in the Sunnybank electorate, that are a part of this project, include:

- the construction of a covered area at Runcorn State School

270. Education Department Capital Works, Waterford Electorate

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the proposal by the Education Department to defer \$23.3m in capital works from the 1995-96 Budget—

Which capital works in the Waterford Electorate will be affected by this deferral?

Mr Quinn: There are no capital works in the Waterford electorate, that are a part of this project, that will be deferred to 1996-97.

271. Land Degradation from Acid Sulphate Soil

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Environment—

With reference to newspaper reports of a major research project in south-east Queensland which

shows that severe land degradation from acid sulphate soils is threatening large tracts of coastal wetlands, including Bribie Island in the Caboolture Electorate—

- (1) Is he aware of increasing community concern regarding acid sulphate soil and its potential outcomes including environmental degradation, fish kills, crop losses, and release of heavy metals?
- (2) Will he establish a specialist unit within his department to research and manage this problem, not only with respect to risks to the environment, but also to industry and local communities?

Mr Littleproud:

(1) Yes. Soils capable of acid production from sulphur compounds are present in most of the low-lying areas along Queensland's coastline. Bribie Island is one of the areas identified as being at risk. Where these soils are disturbed and the iron sulfides they contain are exposed to air, they produce sulfuric acid. This acidifies soil water, groundwater and eventually, surface waters. These acidic waters can cause a range of serious environmental impacts including chemical release of other pollutants, loss of habitat and the death of a range of aquatic life forms.

(2) No. Management of potential acidification resulting from the disturbance of acid sulphate soils is being addressed broadly across government. The Department of Natural Resources is undertaking research to identify the extent and location of acid sulphate soils, with the objective of developing guidelines to prevent environmental damage. The Department of Environment ensures that development proposals in susceptible areas investigate the possibility of acid sulphate problems and when necessary implement actions to prevent environmental damage.

The Queensland Government is working with other States to develop a National Acid Sulphate Soils Strategy, due for release in April 1997. The strategy will serve to raise public awareness of the need for proper management of these soils.

273. Education Department Capital Works, Whitsunday Electorate

Mrs BIRD asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the proposal by the Education Department to defer \$23.3m in capital works from the 1995-96 Budget—

Which capital works in the Whitsunday Electorate will be affected by this deferral?

Mr Quinn: The \$23.3 million in capital works outlined in the document tabled in Parliament on 30 April 1996 refers to the Building Better Schools (BBS) project. All projects within the BBS project are progressing but are at various stages of the capital works cycle, ranging from planning through to construction.

The deferral of capital works associated with this project has been brought about by the sometimes lengthy timelines experienced by the Department in:

- identifying projects
- finalising programs of work
- consulting with school communities
- appointing external project coordinators

The Honourable Member would also note that at the change of government, approximately only \$9 million, of the \$50 million 1995/96 Building Better School budget, had been expended by the Department.

The Capital Works deferred to 1996-97 in the Whitsunday electorate, that are a part of this project, include:

- the upgrade of a classroom at Proserpine State School
- the construction of a covered area at Bowen State School
- the construction of a covered area at Gumlu State School

275. National Institute of Indigenous Performing Arts; Indigenous Arts Festival

Mr FOLEY asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts—

With reference to the proposed location in Brisbane of the National Institute of Indigenous Performing Arts (NIIPA) supported by Labor Governments at Federal, State and local level, and to the decision by the Federal Coalition Government to locate NIIPA in Sydney rather than Brisbane—

- (1) Why did she fail to stand up for Queensland and argue for Queensland to retain this national arts centre?
- (2) Why did she fail to consult Queensland indigenous artists before abandoning NIIPA's location in Queensland?
- (3) Will she give an assurance to maintain the Indigenous Arts Festival announced by the Labor Government in 1995?

Mrs Sheldon:

(1) Not only did I stand up for Queensland as the appropriate location for the proposed NIIPA on 29 March 1996, I wrote a letter to the Federal Minister, the Honourable Senator Alston arguing that the New Farm Powerhouse site represented the best location for the new institute. I subsequently met with Senator Alston on 15 April to further outline the advantages of Brisbane over any other proposed sites for NIIPA. I also expressed to Senator Alston Queensland's concerns at the proposed Federal decision not to proceed with NIIPA in Queensland.

(2) Since 3 November 1995 there has been a Queensland Consultative Committee which has been advising both the Commonwealth Department of communication and the Arts and my Department about issues to do with the formation of NIIPA. I understand that this committee has advocated directly to the Commonwealth about the NIIPA proposal. I was able to reinforce my own advocacy to Senator Alston by reference to the views of the

local indigenous community as outlined by the advisory committee.

(3) The Coalition Government is committed to the maintenance of our unique indigenous heritage and culture. The Government will be studying a number of initiatives in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and culture in the 1996/97 budget.

277. Glenala State High School

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the staged development of Glenala State High School—

Will he give an assurance to the House that Stage 3 of the program will be funded as originally planned?

Mr Quinn: The redevelopment program at Glenala State High School is being funded by the reinvestment of funds from the purchase of the former Richlands State High school by TAFE Queensland.

The Department has always planned that Stage 3 of this redevelopment was to be funded to the extent of the money that remained available following the completion of the initial two Stages. I am happy to inform the Honourable Member that this is still the case.

It is important to note that cost increases in Stage 2 in particular will affect the residual amount available from the sale of the Richlands site. The Department of Education and the Glenala State High School community are exploring opportunities available to augment funding for Stage 3.

279. Payroll Tax Exemption

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts—

Will she honour her promise to lift the payroll tax exemption level by \$50,000 to at least \$775,000 effective this calendar year; if so, (a) how many businesses will become exempt from paying payroll tax and (b) what will be the cost in terms of reduced payroll tax receipts for 1995-96 and 1996-97?

Mrs Sheldon: The Government remains committed to periodic increases in the payroll tax threshold in order to reduce this cost imposition on business. However, decisions on individual components of the 1996-97 Budget, such as the payroll tax initiative, cannot be made in isolation. In this regard, the Coalition strategy for the implementation of this initiative will be announced with the delivery of the 1996-97 State Budget in September.

281. Tannum Sands High School Site

Mr HAMILL asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the Government's decision to relocate the proposed Tannum Sands High School from the Boyne smelters site (Lot 6 on R.P. 613528) which had been strongly favoured by the Member for Gladstone—

- (1) What is the real property description of the site which was selected for the school?
- (2) What is the area of the site?
- (3) What is market value of the site?
- (4) Who is the registered proprietor of the site?
- (5) Is the site serviced with water supply and sewerage?
- (6) If not, which agency will bear the cost of providing this infrastructure and at what cost?
- (7) Is the site accessed by suitable road infrastructure?
- (8) What is the nature of the existing road access?
- (9) What improvements, if any to the road infrastructure will be required to meet the needs of the school community?
- (10) Which agency will bear the cost of providing this enhanced road infrastructure?
- (11) Will the proposed high school be provided with an off-road bus set down area?
- (12) If so, which agency/agencies will provide a set down area and at what cost?
- (13) What is the cost of providing school infrastructure to accommodate year 8 and year 9 enrolments in 1998?
- (14) What is the projected enrolment for the school in 1998?
- (15) What is the expected saving in school transport costs and/or how many fewer students are expected to travel to other State high schools as a result of years 8 and 9 being offered at Tannum Sands in 1998?
- (16) How do these figures compare with estimates of school transport costs and enrolment impacts prepared by the Department of Education in consultation with the Department of Transport for alternative high school sites at Canoe Point and the Boyne smelters site?
- (17) Is the site that has been chosen for the new Tannum Sands High School the same site which the Department of Education investigated and rejected for the new high school on grounds that it (a) had "severe gullying", (b) was "well outside the developed area of Tannum Sands", (c) had inadequate road access and (d) did not sufficiently reduce the need for bussing of students?
- (18) On what basis other than political direction did the department change its view as to the relative suitability of the site when compared with the Boyne smelter site and the school reserve at Canoe Point?
- (19) Is the department to dispose of the existing school reserve at Canoe Point; if so, will he ensure that the Canoe Point land will be protected as an environmental reserve in line with community wishes?

Mr Quinn:

- (1) The real property description of this alternative site on Portion 37 is part of lot 37 on Plan CTN 1320, Parish of Iveragh, County of Clinton.

(2) The area of this site will be approximately 12.5 hectares.

(3) At this initial stage, an indicative value only, is available. This value estimates that the land is worth \$300,000 to \$325,000.

(4) Portion 37 is Crown land and thus the proprietor is the Department of Natural Resources.

(5), (6), (7), (8), (9) & (10) The management of infrastructure, including roads below the level of major arterial, water supply and sewerage is vested in local government. Discussions with the Calliope Shire Council have indicated, to date, that the Council is willing to advance the additional connections required for the specific high school purpose.

The Calliope Shire Council has indicated that it will extend water supply and sewerage services to the site. Similarly, the Council intends to construct additional, and extend existing, roads to ensure access to the proposed site. The Council also intends to incorporate the provision of a second road, within the requirements for future urban development of Portion 37.

The confirmation of the agreement by the Council to provide these services is a condition for acceptance of the site as being suitable for school purposes. Therefore, the Calliope Shire Council is the appropriate authority to provide advice on the estimated cost of the infrastructure in question.

(11) & (12) The Calliope Shire Council has indicated that it will provide off-road bus and car set down and parking for the new school site on Portion 37.

The School Safe program is available to provide financial assistance for Council, in this regard.

(13) The cost is estimated to be approximately \$7.47 million.

(14) The number of students in year 8 and year 9 who are expected to enrol, at this school, in the opening year is 322.

(15) It is expected that the saving to the government, in terms of transport subsidy costs, during 1998, will be in the region of \$256,000. This saving will increase annually as each year level is progressively incorporated at Tannum Sands State High School.

(16) No detailed estimates have been undertaken to evaluate the differential in student transport costs that may have resulted if either of the other sites was chosen.

The agreement by Calliope Shire Council to construct part of Coronation Drive, and connect Cremorne Drive to Coronation Drive, overcomes the distance factor that had previously affected consideration of the southern part of Portion 37.

(17) Portion 37 comprises in excess of 109 hectares. Previous investigation of a site on this land concentrated on land that was served by existing road frontages to Tannum Sands Road, or Dahl Road.

The difficulties associated with student travel distances, on these roads, were a predominant reason for the initial inclination of the Department to

reject this site. The willingness of the Calliope Shire Council to construct a new road, and road connections, has resulted in a suitable resolution of the distance problem.

The physical quality of the land comprising Portion 37, in its entirety, is variable. The new road, and road connections, has enabled the Department to access better, quality parts of the lot.

(18) At no stage, whatsoever, did the Coalition Government direct the Department of Education to make a specific decision with respect to a site for the proposed Tannum Sands State High School. The Government did, however, ask the Department to investigate the proposal presented by the Calliope Shire Council, in relation to this proposed school.

On investigation, the Department recommended the site selected as its preferred option.

This recommendation was influenced by the fact that Boyne Smelters Limited refused to accept a covenant to preserve the environmental amenity of the Canoe Point site, if an exchange was completed. The acceptance by the Government of community concerns regarding the environmental significance and sensitivity of the Canoe Point site, was also of significance. It is my understanding that these concerns were recognised by the previous Government.

(19) The Government has acted decisively to provide for a school at Tannum sands, without jeopardising the environmental values of the Canoe Point site. This, I might reiterate, was a decision that was in accordance with community wishes.

The decision to preserve the environmental value of the Canoe Point site, will inform consideration of any need for the Department to retain the site.

Any future dealings with this site will occur within the parameters of the Government Land Management System and will take account of the need to ensure that any future use of the site is appropriate.

283. North Queensland Power Supply; Tully/Millstream Hydroelectric Project

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Mines and Energy—

With reference to his reply to my Question on Notice (No. 2) received on Tuesday 30 April—

- (1) In view of the peak load of North Queensland, stated by him to be 810 mW and annual growth rate estimated to be 4.5 per cent and a present generating capacity of only 3.4 per cent of the State generating capacity, will he now acknowledge the desperate need for a North Queensland base load power station of at least 700 mW?
- (2) In view of the likely expanded power requirement for the North Queensland area resulting from downstream mineral processors such as Korea Zinc and other likely projects together with expansion of existing processors such as Queensland Nickel and MIM Copper, who will require certainty of electricity supply from local sources, will he acknowledge some

- future projects and expansion of existing processors could be in jeopardy if the Government does not guarantee a secure North Queensland power supply?
- (3) Will he put aside once and for all the failed concept of a reduced capacity Tully-Millstream power source and have his department investigate the options of (a) a coal fired, (b) a methane gas fired or (c) a natural gas powered base load station?
 - (4) Is he aware that at the opening of the Premier's office in Townsville recently the Chairman of Townsville Enterprise told the Premier that the absence of a base load power station was the greatest single inhibiting factor to further development in North Queensland?
 - (5) In view of the lead time required of 3—4 years for gas and 5 years for a coal fired power station, will he commit to an options study immediately?

Mr Gilmore:

- (1) North Queensland has adequate capacity to meet its electricity demands through local generation and transmission from central Queensland.
- (2) I am unaware of any projects which may be in jeopardy as the Member suggests. However, the electricity industry will work with the proponents of any new developments to ensure their electricity requirements are met.
- (3, 4, 5) Competitive bids have been sought for future generating capacity to meet Queensland's needs. These bids may include the provision of a base load or peaking power station using any of the fuel sources specified by the Member in his Question. Whether the outcome of the bidding process results in a new station in the Townsville region will depend in part on the availability to it at that location of a competitively priced fuel.

284. Department of Public Works and Housing; Q-Build and QFleet, Relocation

Mr MACKENROTH asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing—

With reference to his answer to Question (No. 51) regarding the reorganisation of his department—

- (1) Were any costs for the reorganisation paid for from any of the housing trust; if so, how much?
- (2) Whilst he claims the cost of relocating Q-Build and QFleet will be offset, what is the up front cost of this move?
- (3) Given his statement that units will absorb the cost of moves from their operational budgets, which operational programs or activities are being curtailed or scrapped to absorb the costs in each unit?
- (4) What reconfigurations of the databases of the former departments have and will be necessary to complete the creation of the Department of Public Works and Housing, including personnel, financial, asset and property management and program databases?

- (5) In each case, what is the cost and implementation timetables of database changes and mergers?
- (6) Are there any differences in the computer software used by staff from previously separate departments which will require retraining; if so, how much will this retraining cost?

Mr Connor:

(1) No costs for the accommodation relocations were paid for from the Housing Trust Funds. The amalgamation provided the opportunity to integrate and upgrade Housing computer systems which will achieve more efficient and effective management of the Department's resources. The cost for these activities is an estimated \$200,000 which will be levied against the Housing Trust Funds.

(2) There is no upfront cost for this move. The negotiated terms of the lease included: a cash incentive sufficient to relocate and fitout the offices of QFleet and Q-Build; and a rental reduction of approximately \$123,000 p.a., based on the current rental differential, for the two (2) units.

(3) No operational programs or activities will be curtailed to absorb the costs in each unit. Relocation and fitout for the offices of QFleet and Q-Build will be funded through lease incentives and operating costs will be reduced by some \$123,000 p.a.

(4) To date, there has been no decision to reconfigure databases. The Department will endeavour to utilise technologies to access and combine relevant information from existing databases in order to achieve integration of related information. In some cases, computer systems performing identical functions will be rationalised over time resulting in significant savings to the Department. This will be as a result of normal Information Strategic Planning activities of the Department.

(5) Referring to my answer to Question 4, I reiterate that to date there has been no decision to reconfigure databases.

(6) Computer software varies across the Department based on the requirement of each area. There has been no decision at this stage to change this. Since the creation of the Department of Public Works and Housing, gateway technologies have been utilised to provide electronic communications across the Department at a cost of approximately \$46,000 and as such, there has been no need to retrain staff. If a change to computer software is to be implemented, it will be as a result of the normal Information Strategic Planning activities of the Department. There is no general requirement for computer system retraining as a result of the creation of the Department of Public Works and Housing. Where system rationalisation does occur, the cost of training will be more than offset by the savings gained through eliminating duplication.

285. Entry Fee for Arts Council Performances at Schools

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) Is he aware that when Arts Council performances are staged at State schools, a

- small entry fee is sometimes charged to each pupil?
- (2) Is he aware that, either through poverty or (sometimes) through parental neglect a small minority of children are sent to school without the small sum necessary?
 - (3) Is he aware that this makes those children feel marginalised and humiliated?
 - (4) Will he take steps to ensure that our education system is in fact free, compulsory and secular, by ensuring that all children, without discrimination as to means, are able to attend these cultural events?

Mr Quinn: (1), (2), (3) & (4) I am fully aware of the School Touring Program coordinated by Queensland Arts Council and I concur with the Honourable member that such cultural experiences should be made available to all students.

The Queensland Arts Council is a non-profit organisation that relies on the sale of tickets to fund its \$2 million School Touring Program. The revenue from larger schools provides the Council with sufficient income to subsidise smaller schools and more geographically isolated schools. This subsidy allows all Queensland schools the opportunity to access high quality arts events for a standard rate of \$3.00 per student.

The Department of Education and the Queensland Arts Council recognises that there are cases where family circumstances can make the cost of these performances prohibitive. The Policy and Guidelines of the Department authorises specifically a school principal to assist in such a situation. This action should avoid any child having to feel marginalised, or humiliated because of financial circumstances.

The Queensland Arts Council also informs schools in their annual School Touring Directory that:

Where cases of genuine hardship exist principals may, at their discretion, allow families of three or more students to attend for a special rate of \$8.00. Principals also have the right to allow any student to view a performance free of charge if in their opinion they cannot afford to pay admission.

I am proud that the Department of Education and the Queensland Arts Council have been able to make arts events available to all children in Queensland, without discrimination as to means, or location.

286. Wilsonton State High School

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to his claim in question time on 1 May that he had given approval for the new Wilsonton State High School in Toowoomba—

- (1) What stage of planning has this project reached?
- (2) What are the predicted enrolments on which the school will open and what are the growth projections for each year up to 2002?
- (3) What facilities will be incorporated in the school?

- (4) What year levels will the school open with?
- (5) What will be the enrolment implications for Toowoomba North, Harristown and Rangeview State High Schools in each year from 1998-2002?
- (6) What staffing will the new school attract and what are the projected staffing implications at each of the other Toowoomba high schools?
- (7) When will the Wilsonton State High School principal be appointed?

Mr Quinn:

(1) Staff from the Darling Downs Regional Office will be consulting with staff from Central Office this week to begin the planning process.

(2) No work has yet been undertaken to ascertain predicted enrolments.

(3) The range of facilities required at this school will be decided in consultation with the local community.

(4) The year levels that the school will open with are a part of the planning process and are yet to be decided.

(5) As mentioned, no work has yet been undertaken to ascertain predicted enrolments, or the implication that these may have upon other Toowoomba state high schools.

(6) & (7) Staffing issues, including the appointment of a principal, have yet to be addressed.

287. Education Department Capital Works, Nudgee Electorate

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the proposal by the Education Department to defer \$23.3m in capital works from the 1995-96 Budget—

Which capital works in the Nudgee electorate will be affected by this deferral?

Mr Quinn: The \$23.3 million in capital works outlined in the document tabled in Parliament on 30 April 1996 refers to the Building Better Schools (BBS) project. All projects within the BBS project are progressing but are at various stages of the capital works cycle, ranging from planning through to construction.

The deferral of capital works associated with this project has been brought about by the sometimes lengthy timelines experienced by the Department in:

- identifying projects
- finalising programs of work
- consulting with school communities
- appointing external project coordinators

The Honourable Member would also note that at the change of government, approximately only \$9 million, of the \$50 million 1995/96 Building Better School budget, had been expended by the Department.

There are no capital works in the Nudgee electorate, that are a part of this project, that will be deferred to 1996-97.

289.Consumer Affairs Office, Bundaberg

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice—

With reference to the fact that Bundaberg is the commercial centre for the Wide Bay region and to the number of consumer complaints and inquiries received—

Will he site a Consumer Affairs office in Bundaberg; if so, would the office be established in 1996 to service the citizens of Bundaberg and districts?

Mr Beanland: Bundaberg is currently served by an Office of the Trade Measurement Branch of the Office of Consumer Affairs; the vacancy arising from the resignation of the officer in December 1995 has now been filled. Additional servicing of the Bundaberg area by the Consumer Affairs Office will be considered in the context of an overall state approach to service delivery by the Office.

291.Chalumbin-Woree Powerline

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Mines and Energy—

With reference to the Chalumbin to Woree powerline—

- (1) Will he guarantee that (a) there will be no toxic discharge into the waterways of that area as a result of the undergrounding of the power line, (b) the extra \$12m required to fund his residential route will not reduce any future funding commitments for the Far North and (c) the existing background magnetic field levels of residents in Sheehy Road, White Rock and Kite Close, Fairview, will not be increased in any way whatsoever as a result of the selection of the residential route?
- (2) Why has he continued to ignore the community request for an urgent meeting, despite the community having received an acknowledgment in writing from the Member for Mulgrave, Mrs Naomi Wilson that his office received the community's request in March and despite two separate additional requests?
- (3) As three years ago SPAG researched an alternative route which did not affect World Heritage land, nor did it pass anywhere near existing residential areas, why had this proposal not been considered as a viable alternative by Powerlink?
- (4) Why isn't the temporary line being run down the middle of the cane strip instead of only 10 metres away from the edge of Sheehy Road where children play and people walk their dogs?
- (5) Why is it only 30 metres from the residential homes when it could be 100 metres away if it went down the middle of the cane fields?
- (6) Can Powerlink guarantee that living 30 metres away from a high voltage powerline will not affect the health of young children?
- (7) Will he explain why the Government insisted that the line be moved from a rural to a residential area when Powerlink have a policy of

avoiding constructing high voltage lines through residential areas?

- (8) If the community of Edmonton have objected to the overhead line on the basis of visual pollution, will he explain the reasons why he has changed it and the view of the line which residents of Fairview, Southern Bayview, Hollywood Boulevard and Golflinks Road are going to get, and when will he admit that the residents of these areas will be a lot closer to the line than Edmonton people?
- (9) Will he explain about the public consultation that went on three years ago?
- (10) Is it true that the line was shifted out of the present area as a result of this process?
- (11) Why has it been put back when the community overwhelmingly rejected this route?
- (12) What is the Government's reason to think that it is more important to protect a few cane farms rather than the residents of the community?
- (13) When will the Coalition Government remove the temporary 132kV line and how can the residents be sure that they won't leave the line there for the next seven years?
- (14) Why waste half a million dollars on a line which will only be in place for a few months?
- (15) What guarantees have the community got that the Kowinka St 132kV line will be removed?
- (16) As it is reported in the media that the Premier and Mrs Wilson said that the line would not run down Sheehy Road, why has the Government gone back on their promise?
- (17) Why is the Government spending about \$10-15m more of taxpayers money, putting the line underground as running the line south of Edmonton would be so much cheaper.
- (18) Is the proposed route fraught with engineering problems, such as slinging a high voltage line on temporary wooden poles so that it can run underneath the existing Kowinka St line?
- (19) Is there is no company in Australia which has the expertise to service underground cables in the event of any faults?
- (20) Will Powerlink acknowledge the draft local laws of Cairns City Council and undertake to run the powerline down the centre of the cane strip south of Sheehy Road?
- (21) Where will the additional money come from to run the underground cables and will Cairns people be charged extra costs in their electricity accounts?
- (22) When will the line through Trinity Anglican School be removed and will he give a cast-iron guarantee that the line will be removed?

Mr Gilmore:

- (1)(a) Powerlink is now planning to use a solid dielectric cable rather than an oil filled cable, thereby eliminating the risk of discharge of low toxicity insulation oil. The cable-laying process will be preceded by soil tests and if necessary, appropriate de-watering during construction to avoid water

discharge from exposed acid sulphate soils. (b) The funding for the entire project will be provided by Powerlink Queensland in the same way it funds its other capital projects. (c) The underground cable has been designed to ensure it causes negligible magnetic field levels at the location of residences in these areas.

(2) As the transmission line lies adjacent to my electorate I have had the opportunity to discuss the approved route with local residents, councils, various committees and associates. These discussions have been managed through both Ms Wilson's and my electoral offices. A meeting was organised by South Side Powerline Action Group and held on 30 April 1996, at the same time as Parliament sat making it impossible for either myself or Ms Wilson to attend.

(3) No possible route exists between the Tablelands and the coast which does not pass through the World Heritage listed Wet Tropics. SPAG alternatives provided during the community consultation period addressed coastal options only. One of these was similar to the overhead route considered by Powerlink Queensland in the preliminary Environmental Impact Assessment. The other two would have affected rural residential areas in the Little Mulgrave or in Maitland Road.

(4) The selected route in the canefield to the south of Sheehy Road has been chosen on the basis of using underground cable for this segment of the line, which Powerlink is aiming to have installed by the summer of 1997/98. However, Powerlink has recognised that due to the long delivery times associated with a custom-designed high voltage cable, the target completion date may slip.

Powerlink has therefore developed some fallback options should this eventuate. One such option involves installing a temporary (less than 12 months) woodpole line in this section. This is only a fallback option, and will only be implemented as a last resort if Powerlink believes there is a serious threat to the security of supply into Cairns in the 1997/98 summer. If built, such a temporary line would be located south of Sheehy Road and would be removed immediately the permanent underground cable was installed.

(5) Underground supply cables at this voltage are normally installed below roadways. In this case, because of some residents' concerns about magnetic fields, Powerlink Queensland have taken the prudent measure of locating the line in the canefields south of Sheehy Road to ensure that magnetic fields from cables near residences are negligible.

(6) The consensus of scientific opinion, as reflected in the nearly 70 reviews over the past 20 years of all of the scientific literature is that a link between the fields from high voltage powerlines and children's health has not been established. Powerlink Queensland supports ongoing research in the area. In the meantime, Powerlink applies a policy of "prudent avoidance" when siting new lines. Powerlink advises that the magnetic fields from the underground cable will be negligible at the locations of these residences.

(7) The line route has been approved on the basis of public and agency response to Powerlink Queensland's preliminary environmental assessment report. In particular, the Wet Tropics Management Authority strongly criticised the overhead route via Edmonton because of its "significantly greater impact" on World Heritage Area values. The finally selected route minimised the adverse impacts on the World Heritage Area, and the underground section of the route ensured minimal visual impact for residents and for the southern gateway to Cairns, an important tourism centre.

(8) Edmonton residents, the Wet Tropics Management Authority and the Trinity Inlet Management Committee all objected strongly to the visual effect of the line crossing the hillslopes of Mt Isley which constitutes a scenic backdrop to this whole area. For Bayview Heights residents the existing 132kV line down the hillside and through the residential area will be removed in 6-8 years leaving only 5 or 6 spans of the new line on the hillside. The new overhead line section into Woree constructed on special compact design towers will not be visible to the majority of Hollywood Boulevard residents. Powerlink Queensland has offered assistance to residents in the form of screening vegetation.

(9) Three years ago Powerlink Queensland went through an extensive community consultation program to select a preferred corridor. The local community overwhelmingly rejected an overhead option through Cannon's Farm and along Sheehy Road. The corridor favoured then was an overhead line looping south of Edmonton through cane farming land and outside the Council's residential development zone. Subsequent community input late last year and early this year to Powerlink Queensland's preliminary environmental assessment report showed strong criticism to that route, particularly from the Wet Tropics Management Authority.

(10) Refer question 9.

(11) The final route announced in March combined the best features of the previous overhead option and a proposal involving an underground section. While the option canvassed 3 years ago contemplated an overhead line south of Sheehy Road, the route approved recently involves an underground cable along this section. This is substantially better in terms of visual impact and results in negligible magnetic fields at the locations of residences.

(12) The line south of Sheehy Road is underground and the magnetic fields will be negligible at the location of residences. In fact, as part of the total project, two existing overhead lines through residential areas will be removed—one which passes through White Rock and the other which passes through Bayview Heights. The overall community impact is a major reduction in high voltage power lines in residential areas.

(13) As indicated in the response to question (4), there may be no need to construct a temporary woodpole line and this is only one of several fallback options. In the event it is constructed, it would be

removed immediately the permanent underground cable is installed.

(14) This investment would only be made if the security of supply to Cairns was in jeopardy and only if other fallback options were not actionable first.

(15) The removal of the existing Kowinka Street 132kV line was announced with the route decision in April, and this was clearly stated in the information leaflet provided to residents at that time.

(16) Ms Wilson made her statement whilst several options were being considered, one of which proved to be a superior solution which took the line under canefields south of Sheehy Road.

(17) The additional cost is considered justified because this is the lowest cost option that meets the environmental concerns of the sensitive Wet Tropics and minimises the usual impact on the southern gateway to Cairns, a major tourist destination.

(18) In the event that a temporary woodpole line is needed, its erection presents no special engineering challenges.

(19) In the event of a fault, cable maintenance will be carried out by the firm installing the cable. This may be an Australian firm or it may be an overseas firm depending upon the outcome of a competitive tendering process.

(20) Powerlink Queensland will construct the new line with due regard to its statutory and legal obligations.

(21) Powerlink Queensland will fund this project in the same way it funds all its transmission projects ie. from retained earnings and borrowings. The Government is committed to a policy of electricity tariff equalisation across the entire State. The people of Cairns pay the same for electricity as other Queenslanders.

(22) The existing line across the Trinity Anglican School grounds will be removed as part of this project as soon as the replacement line into Hartley Street substation is commissioned. This is schedule for late 1997. This undertaking was clearly stated by Powerlink.

292. Bradken Foundry

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Environment—

With reference to concerns raised by residents in Runcorn regarding emissions from the Bradken Foundry on Beenleigh Road which have been relayed by me to his department—

What actions has his department taken to investigate these concerns and what have been the results of any tests which may have been undertaken?

Mr Littleproud: Officers from the Department of Environment have consulted with ANI-Bradken regarding a complaint made in January 1996 about dust and noise emissions from the factory. My Department has taken a number of dust samples in relation to the complaint. These have been submitted to a private laboratory for analysis, the results of which are due at the end of May.

ANI-Bradken is addressing dust emissions through a staged proposal to seal external roads to the site, and noise emissions by a noise reduction fence barrier constructed in April this year.

ANI-Bradken has applied for a licence under the Environmental Protection Act 1994 and has been working cooperatively with my Department in minimising environmental impacts from the site.

Officers from my Department will continue to monitor ANI-Bradken's progress in improving environmental management on the site.

293. Education Department Capital Works, Maryborough Electorate

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the proposal by the Education Department to defer \$23.3m in capital works from the 1995-96 Budget—

Which capital works in the electorate of Maryborough will be affected by this deferral?

Mr Quinn: The \$23.3 million in capital works outlined in the document tabled in Parliament on 30 April 1996 refers to the Building Better Schools (BBS) project. All projects within the BBS project are progressing but are at various stages of the capital works cycle, ranging from planning through to construction.

The deferral of capital works associated with this project has been brought about by the sometimes lengthy timelines experienced by the Department in:

- identifying projects
- finalising programs of work
- consulting with school communities
- appointing external project coordinators

The Honourable Member would also note that at the change of government, approximately only \$9 million, of the \$50 million 1995/96 Building Better School budget, had been expended by the Department.

The capital works deferred to 1996-97 in the Maryborough electorate, that are a part of this project, include:

- the upgrade of a classroom at Sunbury State School
- the construction of additional covered area at Gundiah State School.

296. Department of Housing, Staffing (Book 6)

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing—

With reference to the Department of Housing, John Collins Review—

- (1) How many permanent positions are filled by personnel acting in these capacities?
- (2) Where are these positions located?
- (3) Will he provide a comprehensive list of all these positions and how long have these people been acting in these positions?

(4) When will these positions be filled with permanent appointments?

Mr Connor: I am pleased that the Member for Mackay has raised this question as it gives me an opportunity to explain to the House the unfortunate position in which the previous Government left the Housing Program. The previous Government made much of the decentralisation of housing services. However, I have discovered that this decentralisation was largely unresourced. I have seen the report that the Member for Mackay has mentioned. However, this report falls short of resolving how we will pay to rectify the mess left by the previous Government.

(1)Of the 250 staff in Area Offices, 40% are temporary staff, some having been temporary for

over 5 years. Of those staff who are permanent public servants, many are no longer in the position they were appointed to. In fact, thirty staff are relieving in other positions and some have done so for up to 4 years.

(2)Every Housing Area Office is affected.

(3)The attached table gives a breakdown of temporary and permanent positions across all the Area Offices.

(4)Resolving this situation will not be easy. Clearly, the previous Government put the Housing Program on an expansion course that it knew it could not sustain or fund in the longer term.

TABLE 1

CUSTOMER SERVICE DIVISION AREA OFFICE TEMPORARY STAFF PROFILE					
Area Office	ASL	Term Of Longest Temp (mths)	Term of Longest Relief(mths)	Temp Staff > 2 Years	No of Temp Staff
Capalabla	9	24	0	2	3
Central Qld	18	22	7	0	8
Chermside	12	60	17	2	5
Far North Qld	19	23	0	0	6
Fort Valley	11	8	13	0	1
Gold Coast	17	60	13	2	11
Inala	14.5	25	17	1	7
Ipswich	17.5	60	6	2	5
Mackay-Whit	11	39	0	1	5
North Qld	12	37	0	3	6
North West Q	7	22	0	0	5
Redcliffe	13.6	67	36	2	3
Stones Corner	16	40	52	1	5
Sunshine Coast	14	24	0	2	5
Sth West Q	14	50	0	1	2
W/Bay-Burnett	17	48	0	5	9
Woodridge	23	60	17	5	11
TOTAL	245.6			29	97
Avn		36	10		

Notes:

Column 1 refers to the number of funded and approved positions (this number varies as additional positions are approved or positions are deleted. Includes a combination of permanent public service positions, crown employee establishments and approved temporary positions).

Column 2 refers to estimated length of service provided by longest serving temporary employee.

Column 3 refers to estimated length of time an employee has been relieving in a permanent position of which the substantive employee is seconded elsewhere.

Column 4 refers to approximate number of temporary staff who have been engaged > two years (either in the Area Office or previously with the Public Rental Division prior to decentralisation).

Column 5 refers to the approximate number of temporary employees (includes traineeships) engaged in an Area Office today. (These figures vary each pay period depending on staff movements).

298. Moreton Bay Marine Park Authority

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment—

With reference to the Government's plans prior to the change of Government to establish a Moreton Bay Marine Park Authority to oversee and coordinate the management of this valuable waterbody vital for its environmental, commercial and recreational values—

(1) Does he intend to establish this authority; if not, what mechanism does he intend to put in place to coordinate decision making in the bay?

- (2) Does he intend to put in place a marine park management plan to complement the zoning and strategic plan; if so, what degree of public consultation does he have planned and what timetable is he working to?
- (3) What funding is presently allocated to this work?

Mr Littleproud:

(1) No, it is not our intention to establish a Moreton Bay Authority. The Moreton Bay Strategic Plan will become a Regional Coastal Management Plan under the Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995. The mechanisms proposed under the Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995 will provide the necessary method for coordinating decision making in Moreton Bay.

(2) The Moreton Bay Marine Park Draft Zoning Plan is to be presented to Cabinet after it is finalised. This zoning plan, while complementing the Moreton Bay Strategic Plan, will be a more detailed instrument specifically concerned with the day to day management of the Marine Park. There will also be scope for site specific management plans to be developed as necessary. There has been extensive public consultation undertaken during the drafting of the Zoning Plan. In addition, further consultation with key stakeholders such as conservation groups, industry associations and Government bodies has been carried out.

(3) This is being considered in current, ongoing Budget discussions.

299. Comalco Refinery, Gladstone

Mrs BIRD asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts—

With reference to her comments in Parliament on Tuesday 30 April 1996 that she was working to get a Comalco Refinery at Gladstone—

- (1) Will she indicate what efforts she has made in this respect?
- (2) Has she personally had negotiations with Comalco prior to 30 April 1996?
- (3) Has she offered any incentives to Comalco to win the refinery for Gladstone?

Mrs Sheldon:

(1) An Interdepartmental Committee comprising representatives of a number of Government Departments has been established to review the proposed Comalco alumina refinery project and to identify possible areas where facilitation assistance by Government could be provided, for example in assisting Comalco address any environmental issues. Treasury officers, in conjunction with officers from other relevant Departments, undertook detailed comparative analyses of the strategic and commercial competitiveness of the specific financial attractiveness of alternative locations. Whilst the Government has and will encourage Comalco to establish its refinery project in Queensland, the final decision as to location will of course be made by Comalco based upon its own commercial assessment of the optimal location.

At the same time, efforts have been made to enhance the commercial competitiveness of gas delivered to Gladstone—gas being a critically important input for the refinery—and the decision on the sale of the State Gas Pipeline, which will reduce gas transportation tariffs very significantly, is particularly relevant in this respect.

(2) I have met personally with representatives of Comalco to discuss the proposed alumina refinery and related issues. It would not be appropriate for me to reveal the details of private meetings involving potentially sensitive commercial arrangements.

(3) I have not offered any specific financial incentives to Comalco to site its proposed refinery at Gladstone, which I understand is one of the several Queensland locations under active consideration by Comalco at this time. Comalco has advised that it will select a site based on the return on investment that the proposed refinery would produce at that location which will require an estimation of the capital and operating costs of each possible location. Whilst Gladstone is a strong contender for the project, given its existing port facilities, social and industrial infrastructure, industrial relations environment and synergies with existing industries (including other interests of Comalco's), the ultimate decision as to location rests with Comalco.

301. Redevelopment of Roma Street Rail Yard Site

Mr FOURAS asked the Minister for Environment—

With reference to the highly acclaimed proposal of the Goss Government to turn the Roma Street railyard site into a world class inner city park—

- (1) Is he committed to the environmental benefits of this proposal?
- (2) Does he support the level of funding allocated to this project by the Goss Government?
- (3) Will he give a commitment to not increase the commercial content of this proposal in the interests of retaining the park as a people's park?

Mr Littleproud:

(1) I am not sufficiently aware of the details of the proposal to answer this question. However, the Roma Street railyard site is not entered in the Queensland Heritage Register. Therefore there is no statutory requirement to consult either the Department of Environment or the Queensland Heritage Council regarding the future development of the railyard. However, it is understood that Q-Rail has recognised the cultural heritage significance of Roma Street station building and has commissioned a conservation plan to guide the future care of that building.

The provisions of the Contaminated Land Act 1990 will continue to apply to the Roma Street railyard site.

(2) The question regarding funding for the Roma Street railyard project should be addressed to my

colleague, the Honourable R T Connor, Minister for Public Works and Housing.

(3) The question regarding the proportion of commercial content in any future development of the Roma Street railyard site should also be addressed to my colleague, the Honourable R T Connor, Minister for Public Works and Housing.

302. Proserpine Rock Wallaby

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Environment—

With reference to studies and management planning undertaken by his department into the habitat needs of the rare Proserpine Rock Wallaby—

Does he intend to (a) support his department's recommendations particularly, those relating to the purchase and protection of key habitats and corridors linking those habitats, (b) work with the Whitsunday Shire Council to ensure their strategic plan encompasses his Department's recommendations and (c) provide a level of funding that will ensure the needs of this rare wallaby are met?

Mr Littleproud: The Proserpine rock wallaby was brought to scientific attention in 1976 and investigations of the species' distribution, habitat preferences and threats have led the Department of Environment to assess its conservation status as endangered. The Department of Environment is implementing a recovery plan for this species. The plan involves the development of management strategies to identify and protect areas of the species' critical habitat. A recovery team has been set up consisting of elected Councillors of the Whitsunday Shire Council, staff of the Department of Environment and a representative of the Wildlife Preservation Society.

Initial mapping of the species' critical habitat identified approximately 650 ha of Unassigned State Land adjacent to Dryander National Park which was added to the National Park estate in 1995. In addition to this gazettal, two blocks of Unassigned State Land, of 7.7 ha and 40 ha, containing critical habitat have been identified on Mandalay Point. Negotiations with the Department of Natural Resources are being undertaken currently to determine the future use and management of these areas. Also, an area of identified critical habitat on the Clarke Range, which was part of an application to freehold two grazing leases, has been retained by the Government following negotiations. Future use and management of this area is being discussed with the Department of Natural Resources.

Acquisition of additional areas of critical habitat as National Park are not currently being considered, with the emphasis being placed on ensuring the effective protection of the species across all land tenure types. The best way to achieve this is through a locally based recovery planning program.

As I mentioned, the Whitsunday Shire Council is closely involved with the implementation of the Proserpine rock wallaby recovery plan and I see no reason why this relationship should not be

maintained in the future. This Government is committed to community involvement in the protection of the State's threatened species. Recent development proposals demonstrate that negotiation between the Department of Environment, Council and developers can achieve a positive outcome for the conservation of the species.

The Department of Environment directs substantial staff and other resources to the protection of this species. Additional support has also been attracted from the Australian Nature Conservation Agency through its Endangered Species Program.

304. Security Providers

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice—

With reference to his decision to appeal against the sentence imposed upon a security guard found guilty of showing pornographic material to a four year old child, a sentence described by him as "manifestly inadequate"—

- (1) Does he agree that persons licensed as security providers should be of unquestionable character?
- (2) Will he consider amending the Security Providers Act 1993, to provide that the test of appropriateness to hold a licence be that the person has been found guilty of an offence rather than convicted of an offence?

Mr Beanland:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Trial Judge in this case applied the provision of the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 in not recording a conviction. I am currently considering amendments to the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 and will consider this issue in that context.

305. Oil Spill, Townsville

Mr MILLINER asked the Minister for Environment—

With reference to an oil spill incident in Ross Creek in Townsville recently—

- (1) Has he yet identified the source of the oil and the name of the culprit?
- (2) Is this firm currently licensed under the Environmental Protection Act; if not, why not and when will it be licensed?
- (3) If there has been a breach of the Environmental Protection Act, is prosecution intended; if not, why not?
- (4) As this is only the latest in a series of these spills, what action has he taken to prevent further such leaks?

Mr Littleproud:

- (1) Departmental officers investigating the oil spill believe they have identified the source, based on inspections, interview and forensic sampling. Oil fingerprinting has been used to identify the possible sources of oil, and this information has been very useful. The information strongly suggests that the

source is the Queensland Rail facilities maintenance depot in the centre of Townsville, adjacent to Ross Creek. Queensland Rail has carried out its own investigation, and has reached this same conclusion.

(2) Queensland Rail has held a licence under the repealed Clean Waters Act for the discharge of treated wastewater from its rollingstock maintenance facility in Townsville for many years. The treatment process used to remove oil and other contaminants has generally functioned very well since an upgrade in the mid-eighties. Queensland Rail is currently preparing a submission for an environmental authority (licence) under the Environmental Protection Act 1994 for all of its Townsville operations, as it has been doing for its facilities across the State.

(3) Departmental officers are investigating circumstances concerning the spill. If there has been a breach under the Environmental Protection Act, there are several options available as indicated in the Enforcement Guidelines for the Department. These could include the use of an environmental protection order, an environmental management program, or an environmental investigation (ie. environmental audit), all of which could be used to ensure that the chance of a recurrence of the spill is minimised. The "big stick" approach of prosecution should only be considered as a last resort. We are in the business of preventing pollution on a long-term basis through cooperative means.

(4) Queensland Rail took immediate measures to secure and improve the operation of the treatment plant concerned, and provided assistance to Departmental officers in their investigations of the matter. The Department has been provided with a report by Queensland Rail on matters needing attention. These matters will be followed up by Departmental officers. Closure of this operation in the centre of Townsville is planned, with all operations to eventually go to the new site at Stuart, where new state-of-the-art maintenance facilities are nearing completion. A new treatment plant there is now being commissioned, and treated wastewater generated will be discharged to Townsville City Council sewer under a trade waste agreement. The need for a treatment system adjacent to Ross Creek, and any wastewater discharge to Ross Creek, will thus be eliminated.

As Ross Creek receives urban drainage from a large part of Townsville City, and carries considerable marine traffic, there will always be the potential for spills of some type to occur. The Environmental Protection Act is assisting the Department and Townsville City Council in managing potential sources of pollution in the Ross Creek catchment, through the licensing of premises such as motor vehicle workshops.

306. Bunya Mountains National Park

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Environment—

With reference to his recent reported intention to downgrade the State Forest areas to be added to

Bunya Mountains National Park from National Park to Conservation Park—

- (1) Did he receive advice from his department that these areas did not qualify for National Park status; if so, on what criteria did they fail to qualify as National Park?
- (2) If, as reported, an additional fire risk is perceived, why isn't the fire management plan for the park adequate for the task?
- (3) What are the details of the grazing leases that presently exist on this Conservation Park area?
- (4) Have any of these leases been extended since the change of Government or does he have plans to extend them?

Mr Littleproud:

(1) The local community expectation is that grazing will continue within the State Forest areas proposed for conversion. For grazing to be permitted under the Nature Conservation Act 1992 in this case, gazettal as Conservation Park is appropriate. The proposed transfer of the State Forest areas is under review.

(2) Whether the area is dedicated as either National Park, Conservation Park or remains as State Forest, fire would be managed in accordance with a Fire Management Plan through scheduled burning programs.

(3) There are currently six Special Leases for grazing and two Stock Grazing Permits situated within the State Forest areas proposed for conversion, with a range of expiry dates between December 1997 and June 2007.

(4) All negotiations with lessees/permittees to date have been on the basis of reissuing renewable grazing tenures within the conversion areas on similar terms and conditions as they currently enjoy.

307. Use of SEQEB Powerpoles for Telecommunication Cables

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Mines and Energy—

- (1) What financial agreements does the South East Queensland Electricity Board (SEQEB) have with the Telecommunication carriers to allow telecommunication cables to be attached to SEQEB powerpoles?
- (2) As overhead communication cables are environmentally and aesthetically unacceptable to residents throughout the metropolitan area, will he prohibit overhead cable being attached to SEQEB powerpoles by rescinding agreements?

Mr Gilmore:

(1) The South East Queensland Electricity Corporation (SEQEB) has in place a Facilities Access Agreement with Optus Networks Pty Ltd (Optus) for the use of SEQEB's overhead facilities. The agreement sets out the contractual and technical conditions on which Optus may utilise these

facilities. The financial arrangement between the two parties has been commercially negotiated and is contractually confidential.

SEQEB does not have an agreement with Telstra for the use of SEQEB's overhead facilities for broadband telecommunications services. Telstra, however, is seeking such an agreement and negotiations are currently occurring between Telstra and SEQEB.

A long standing agreement is in place with Telstra and all Australian electricity utilities (originally negotiated on the utilities' behalf by the Electricity Supply Association of Australia) for the joint use of overhead assets. This agreement is confined to telephony networks.

(2) SEQEB has a legally binding contractual agreement with Optus. It is not proposed to seek to terminate the agreement.

It should be clearly understood that a principle factor in SEQEB reaching this negotiated agreement with Optus was legal advice that Optus has the right to utilise these facilities under their "common carrier" privileges of the Commonwealth Telecommunications Act 1991. It is understood that Optus and Telstra, as carriers, have legislative powers to make use of SEQEB assets, irrespective of an agreement being in place.

308. School Guidance Officers, Mount Gravatt

Ms SPENCE asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to his pre-election promise to double the number of school guidance officers in his first term of office—

- (1) Will he outline the Government's timetable for implementing this undertaking?
- (2) When will the schools in the Mt Gravatt electorate be likely to receive additional guidance officer time?
- (3) How much additional guidance officer time can each of the schools in the Mt Gravatt electorate expect to receive during the next 12 months?

Mr Quinn: (1), (2), (3) & (4) The Government is committed to increasing the number of guidance officers and other support staff available in Queensland schools.

Officers in my Department have been engaged in preparing plans for the implementation of this initiative and cabinet is to consider a submission on this subject, today.

The undertaking that has been given is a significant one, which has considerable implications across many areas of responsibility within the Department. At this stage because of the complexity of planning, the implementation timetable has not been finalised. Therefore, unfortunately, the answers to this question are not yet available.

I will be happy to advise the Honourable Member of details requested, when they become available.

311. Anti-uranium Protest, Brisbane; Peaceful Assembly Act

Mr FOLEY asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice—

- (1) Is he aware of Queenslanders' statutory right to peaceful assembly under the Peaceful Assembly Act 1992?
- (2) Is he aware of conflict between police and anti-uranium protesters in the streets of Brisbane on 26 April 1996?
- (3) Will he investigate this incident and report to the Parliament as to whether the provisions of the Peaceful Assembly Act were properly observed by police?
- (4) Is he aware of the misleading statement by a senior police officer on the Channel 7 News of 27 April that demonstrators needed a permit from the District Superintendent of Traffic before marching on a road?
- (5) What action will he take to ensure that the Peaceful Assembly Act is respected by police attending demonstrations?

Mr Beanland:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) I am aware of an incident on the 26th April 1996 whereat the police arrested eight protesters who participated in an impromptu street march for which no notification had been given in accordance with the provisions of the Peaceful Assembly Act 1992. The arrests were in relation to charges under the Traffic Act 1949, the Police Service Administration Act 1990 and the Vagrants, Gaming and Other Offences Act 1931.
- (3) No. If the Honourable Member is suggesting any official misconduct by police officers then the Member should bring the matter to the attention of the Criminal Justice Commission.
- (4) I am aware of certain comments by a senior police officer reported on the Channel 7 News of 27th April 1996. These comments were inaccurate. The police officer should have indicated that the march organisers had not notified the Commissioner of Police of the proposed public assembly in accordance with the Peaceful Assembly Act 1992. The actions of the marchers on that day were not in accordance with the provisions of the Peaceful Assembly Act 1992.
- (5) The Queensland Police Service is well aware of the provisions of the Peaceful Assembly Act 1992 and operates in accordance with the provisions of that Act.

312. Port of Brisbane Rail Link

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

When will work recommence, to enable the completion of the standard gauge railway line to the Port of Brisbane which, although 90 per cent constructed, lacks vital connections to enable trains to use the line?

Mr Johnson: Work on construction of the Standard Gauge railway line to the Port of Brisbane has not stopped. The bulk of the work on construction of earthworks, bridging, drainage structures, track and telecommunications is complete. Progress on the signalling works has been significantly slower than expected because of a world-wide shortage of experienced signalling personnel. This shortage has been a major problem for both Queensland Rail and their signalling contractors.

The signalling works between Dutton Park and Cannon Hill were commissioned earlier this year. Minor signalling field works are still continuing while signalling design and checking works are being progressed. It is anticipated that the new track to the port can be commissioned late in 1996.

313. Queensland Ambulance Service, Far North Queensland

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport—

With reference to the Queensland Ambulance Service, Far North Queensland Region—

- (1) What ambulance stations are included in this region?
- (2) What are the staffing levels at each of these ambulance centres?
- (3) How do these compare with those which applied in 1990?
- (4) Is it proposed to increase staffing levels at any of these centres?
- (5) If so, which ones?
- (6) How many stations currently have temporary or acting staff?
- (7) Which stations are these and what are the classifications of these vacancies?
- (8) When will these vacancies be filled?
- (9) How many ambulance vehicles are there in the region and where are they located?
- (10) What is the current overtime situation in the region?
- (11) Which stations are using overtime?
- (12) What is the average weekly overtime being used in each of these stations?
- (13) What steps are being taken to ameliorate this situation?

Mr Veivers:

(1) At present there are 24 QAS stations, including a joint QAS/QFS communications centre in the Far Northern Region. I have included for tabling a list of these stations (Table A).

(2) The staff establishment of the Far Northern Region is 161.

Table A includes a list of the staff establishment of each of these stations.

(3) Table A includes a comparison table of staff establishments between 1990 and 1996.

(4) There is currently no proposal to increase the staffing levels in the Far Northern Region.

(5) None.

(6) There are currently 7 stations which employ temporary or acting staff.

(7) The classifications and stations of these vacancies are:

Cairns Communications Centre—3
Communications Centre staff

Cairns Station—2 positions, Officer-in-Charge and Operations Coordinator

Edmonton Station—1 Qualified Ambulance Officer

Tully Station—1 Qualified Ambulance Officer

Mareeba—1 Qualified Ambulance Officer

Mount Garnet—1 Qualified Ambulance Officer

Atherton—1 Qualified Ambulance Officer.

The reasons for the temporary acting vacancies include coverage for personnel on long term sick and workers' compensation leave, coverage for personnel relieving in higher duties or in the case of Tully, a hard to fill position.

(8) The duration of these vacancies depends mainly on the duration of the personal needs of the officers on sick and workers' compensation leave. All vacancies occurring as a result of personnel leaving are advertised and filled as soon as possible.

(9) There are 64 ambulance vehicles in the Far Northern Region. Table A includes a list of the locations of the vehicles.

(10) Overtime in the Far Northern Region is currently \$188,000 to date.

(11) All stations in the region incur overtime due to a number of operational imperatives including after hours emergency availability, coverage of sick leave, attendance at sporting events and continuation of shifts.

(12) A station breakdown of the average weekly overtime expenditure for the Far Northern Region is included in Table A.

(13) The expenditure of overtime within the Far Northern Region is well within budget. Any front line pre-hospital emergency service will incur overtime as it is a reactive service responding to the needs of the Queensland community.

TABLE A

Station	Staff Establishment 1996	Stations 1990 Staff Establishment	Stations 1996 Staff Establishment	Vehicle Allocation 1996	Average Weekly Overtime Expenditure (\$)	Comments
Regional Office	8	N/A				This includes the Assistant Commissioner, Superintendents, marketing Manager and Regional Training Staff.
Cairns, including						
Comms Centre	53	38	53	10	1,783	
Bamaga	2	1	2	2	38	
Edmonton	4	4	4	2	59	
Gordonvale	6	6	6	2	95	
Mossman	6	7	6	3	92	
Port Douglas	2	1	2	2	43	
Smithfield	5	4	5	2	102	
Thursday Island	5	4	5	3	63	
Yarrabah	2	Nil*	2	2	21	* No QATB Station
Weipa	3	Nil*	3	2	32	* No QATB Station
Babinda	3	3	3	2	52	
Cardwell	2	1	2	2	49	
Innisfail	14	13	14	*4	458	* Includes an Emergency Support Unit
Silkwood	1	1	1	1	NIL	
South Johnstone	2	2	2	2	12	
Tully	9	9	9	4	364	
Atherton	11	12	11	4	272	
Dimbulah	2	1	2	2	16	
Kuranda	2	Nil*	2	1	14	* No QATB Station
Malanda	2	1	2	1	34	
Mareeba	11	13	11	4	375	
Mount Garnet	2	2	2	2	9	
Ravenshoe	2	2	2	3	NIL	
Millaa Millaa	2	2	2	2	11	

314. Proposed Road Corridor, Brisbane-Sunshine Coast

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

With reference to media reports of Government plans to link Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast with a second road corridor to the east of the existing Bruce Highway—

- (1) Will he confirm that officers of the Main Roads Department have proposals or plans for such a corridor?
- (2) What other options are being considered for a second transport corridor linking Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast?
- (3) Is he aware of the environmentally sensitive nature of much of the area through which any eastern corridor would pass?
- (4) What is the present estimation of the year in which a second corridor will be required?

Mr Johnson:

- (1) The Department of Main Roads has no proposals or current plans for a second road corridor to link

Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast. However, there is a proposal for a Bells Creek Arterial Road linking Golden Beach with the Bruce Highway which has been in the planning phase for many years and is shown on the Caloundra City Council's Strategic Plan. In addition Caboolture Shire Council was advised of the possible future State-controlled road from Deception Bay to Bribie Island in December 1994. It should be emphasised, there are no plans to link these possible future roads.

(2) A second transport corridor linking Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast is not being considered. However, any major urban development beside the Bruce Highway is likely to require supporting arterial roads.

(3) I am aware of the environmental sensitivity of the area east of the Bruce Highway.

(4) There are no plans or timeframes for a second corridor.

315. Departmental Budget Allocations

Mr HAMILL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts—

With reference to the answer she provided on 30 April to Question on Notice No. 49—

As her answer reveals that she has varied departmental budgets from the allocations confirmed by the previous Government's budget review at 31 January, what are the new initiatives which have been funded or programs curtailed to produce the following changes to departmental budgets (a) Administrative Services +\$4m, (b) Business Industry and Regional Development -\$3m, (c) Education -\$9m, (d) Family and Community Services -\$3m, (e) Health +\$6m, (f) Lands -\$3m, (g) Minerals and Energy -\$1m, (h) Primary Industries +\$31m, (i) Transport -\$45m and (j) Treasury -\$6m?

Mrs Sheldon: Question on Notice No. 49 asked for estimated consolidated revenue allocation and the proportion of that allocation expended by each department as at 31 December. Consequently, the figures provided on 30 April were the Approved Revised Budget figures as at 31 December, when the current Opposition was in power.

Similarly, Department Budget allocations as at 31 January would have been approved by the previous Government. Explanations of the variations between allocations as at the end of December and January would be contained in relevant Cabinet Budget Review Committee documentation, to which I do not have access (but to which the Opposition should have access).

316. Police Presence at Demonstration, University of Queensland

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing—

With reference to the recent suppression of a peaceful demonstration on the University of Queensland campus by fifty police officers—

- (1) Was he or his office contacted by any member of the student union and asked for police assistance, if so, by whom?
- (2) When was this call received, and was this the only contact with the union?
- (3) Did he or his office contact police regarding this matter; if so, when and what was the nature of this phone conversation?
- (4) Had he or his office had any contact with police on this prior to receiving the phone call from the student union?
- (5) How does he explain the large numbers of police who appeared at the demonstration on campus?

Mr Cooper:

(1) Contact was made with my office by a Matthew Kavanagh, Vice-President of the Student Union. This phone call was received by a junior Administration Officer who passed on Mr Kavanagh's concern to Detective Inspector R D Pickering of the Office of the Assistant Commissioner of Police, Metropolitan North Region.

(2) The Administration Officer took the call immediately prior to passing on the information to

Detective Inspector Pickering. The Police Ministerial Liaison Officer returned Mr Kavanagh's call upon his return to the office. At this point in time the police were in attendance at the Student Union building. Mr Kavanagh did ring my office again later in the day after the police had left the Campus.

(3) Yes. As contained in the answer to Question 1 a junior Administration Officer—acting in good faith—passed the concerns of Mr Kavanagh to the Office of the Assistant Commissioner of Police, Metropolitan North Region. This contact was made immediately in a positive attempt to respond to a genuine call for assistance. As a result of the conversation with Mr Kavanagh the Police Ministerial Liaison Officer contacted the Police Commissioner's Office who advised him to pass on the information to Detective Inspector Pickering, Metropolitan North Region.

(4) No.

(5) The initial response by police was to assess the situation. A Toowong Divisional unit was the first police vehicle to attend the scene. Their immediate assessment of the situation indicated that some 200 plus students were present and advancing on the Administration Building. The Regional Duty Officer, Inspector J.K.V. O'Gorman, monitored a request on the police radio for further assistance and consequently units were deployed from Toowong, Red Hill, City, Fortitude Valley and Traffic divisions. All police who attended the Campus other than the initial unit, did so in response to an assistance call received over the police radio. A further request was relayed for assistance from the Public Safety Response Team (PSRT).

The fact that so many police patrols were able to respond demonstrates the operational policing ability of patrols within the Metropolitan North Region. There was certainly no prior arrangement with respect to this matter.

While 22 members of the PSRT responded, only 7 members actually entered the university campus and they did so to provide protection to officers and equipment while the rest remained on standby.

I am advised that Professor John Hay the Vice Chancellor of the University of Queensland wrote to the Commissioner of Police on the 10 May 1996 and stated in that letter that he had no complaints about how police had carried out their duties when they had visited the university, adding that this had been done "in a professional and efficient manner".

317. Queensland Housing Commission

Mr MACKENROTH asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing—

With reference to the years 1987-88 and 1988-89—

How many Queensland Housing Commission homes were built in (a) Government electorates and (b) non Government electorates?

Mr Connor: During the period 1987/88, 1988/89, the Queensland Housing Commission built 1797 houses in Government electorates and 2509 houses in non Government electorates.

Expressed in percentage terms, this translates into approximately 40% of dwellings built in Government electorates and 60% in non Government electorates.

During this period, the Government held approximately 60% of the seats in the Legislative Assembly.

The process used for allocating capital works resources across the State included reference to the wait list, reference to the existing stock profile, and local intelligence about fluctuations in employment and industry.

318. Health Services, Townsville/Thuringowa

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the effects of de-regionalisation in the Townsville/Thuringowa area—

- (1) How many permanent classified nursing and administrative positions have been, or will be, lost as a result of the Government's organisational changes?
- (2) How many people have been, or before the end of the 1995-96 (a) will have been dismissed, (b) have taken VERs and (c) accepted a position at a lower classification?
- (3) How many temporary people were employed in the nursing and administrative classifications when the Government came into office and how many are employed today?
- (4) How many level 4 nursing positions existed prior to the change of Government and how many will exist after his organisational changes have been implemented?
- (5) How many level 3 nursing positions existed prior to the change of Government and how many will exist after his organisational changes have been implemented?
- (6) What pre-existing in-house services have been, or are proposed for, out-sourcing in all areas of hospital based services in the Townsville/Thuringowa area?

Mr Horan:

- (1) No nursing positions, classified or otherwise, have been or will be lost as a result of the Government's organisational changes. Twelve classified administrative positions have been abolished and a further two have been redesignated to the District Health Services Support Unit.
- (2)(a) No employee has been or will be dismissed. However, one person on contract was paid out under the terms of their contract.
- (b) No employee has been offered a VER. A small number of VERs may be offered prior to the end of the 1995/1996 financial year.
- (c) No employee has been offered or accepted a position at a lower classification.
- (3) I am advised that, within the Townsville/Thuringowa area as at the change of Government, 112 nursing and 42 administrative positions were filled with temporary employees. As

at 15 May 1996, 94 nursing and 28 administrative positions are filled with temporary employees.

(4) The number of Level 4 nursing positions is and will remain at four. This is the same as existed prior to the change of Government.

(5) The number of Level 3 nursing positions has increased by one to 63 since the change of Government. It is expected that this number will remain at 63.

(6) There are no pre-existing, in-house, hospital based services which have been outsourced in the Townsville/Thuringowa area. No proposals for outsourcing form part of Coalition policy, nor have any such proposals been presented to me by Queensland Health.

320. Sale, Toorak House

Mr NUNN asked the Minister for Environment—

With reference to the recent sale of the heritage listed Toorak House to an overseas buyer—

- (1) Has an application, or inquiries, been received by his heritage section to undertake significant work on the house?
- (2) Does this work involve removal of significant trees, alteration of the driveway and removal of the kitchen wing?
- (3) What other alterations have been applied for?
- (4) When will the Heritage Council consider this application?
- (5) Will he oppose these changes in consultation with the Heritage Council?

Mr Littleproud:

- (1) I am advised that an application for Heritage Council approval has been made under Section 34 of the Queensland Heritage Act 1992 for works to Toorak House and grounds.
- (2) Yes
- (3) I am advised that the application also includes the construction of a new boundary fence and retaining wall, installation of a new kitchen and toilet in the main house and work on the verandah.
- (4) The application has been included on the agenda of the Heritage Council meeting of 24 May 1996.
- (5) It is solely the role of the Queensland Heritage Council, an independent body established under the Queensland Heritage Act 1992, to make decisions on development applications, except where a Government unilaterally declares itself exempt from these provisions, as the Labor Government did in respect of the Treasury Casino project.

321. Schoolsafe Subsidy Scheme

Mr ELDER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

With reference to the 1995-96 Schoolsafe Subsidy Scheme and the package of works that I approved as Minister for 116 schools at a cost to Queensland Transport of \$2,346,475—

- (1) Why has no work proceeded on any of these projects aimed at saving lives of Queensland school children during his first three months as Minister?
- (2) When will work commence on the projects, as approved by myself as former Transport Minister?
- (3) Will he assure the parents and teachers of Queensland that all the projects approved by myself will be funded by the Government?
- (4) What other projects within his department, initiated by the former Labor Government, are still affected by the freeze or have been scrapped?

Mr Johnson:

- (1) Funding for these projects was subject to review along with all other promises made by the previous government at the July election. The government is committed to addressing safety issues around schools and ensuring that other parts of the journey to school are also safe. The availability and targeting of funds was reviewed in this context.
- (2) Delivery of projects under the Schoolsafe Subsidy Scheme is undertaken by local governments who determine the exact timing of construction subject to their overall work programs. Should construction be delayed until 1996-97, arrangements will be made to allow local governments to carry funding over.
- (3) I have written to local government confirming approval of the 116 projects approved by the previous Minister.
- (4) All new programs of the previous government, except where funds had already been committed, are under review.

322. Tully Millstream Hydroelectric Project

Mr BEATTIE asked the Premier—

With reference to his Plan B for the Tully Millstream project in which he proposed a dam wall further downstream of the current proposal and no flooding of any part of the wet tropics world heritage area—

- (1) At what stage of planning is this alternative proposal?
- (2) When does he intend to publicly release this plan?
- (3) What discussions have occurred with the Federal Government, particularly Senator Hill as Environment Minister, on this new plan?
- (4) What is the Commonwealth's position on this new plan?
- (5) What discussions on the plan have occurred with the environmental movement particularly the Rainforest Conservation Society on the plan?
- (6) If no discussions have occurred does he intend to involve the environmental movement in consultation on the proposal?
- (7) Does he intend to consult with the Board of the Wet Tropics Management Authority on this new plan?

Mr Borbidge:

- (1) The Government has commissioned independent experts Peter Garlick & Associates Pty Ltd to develop a range of alternative configurations for hydroelectric power in the region of the existing Kareeya Power Station. A formal plan has not yet been developed.
- (2) The Government will fully examine the expert's report before considering what further action is appropriate.
- (3) Formal discussions with the Federal Government on this matter have not yet commenced.
- (4) Senator Hill has indicated publicly that the Commonwealth would take environmental impacts into consideration in its assessment of any hydroelectric scheme in the Tully Millstream region.
- (5) Formal discussions with the environmental movement including the Rainforest Conservation Society have not yet commenced.
- (6) This Government will consult stakeholders on any hydroelectric plan formulated for the Tully Millstream region.
- (7) See answer to 6.

323. Conservation of Wetlands

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment—

With reference to the three principal objectives of his proposed strategy for the conservation and management of Queensland's wetlands and as these three objectives are to provide a framework for subsequent initiatives and vector control appears prominently in two of the objectives—

- (1) What particular vectors are of concern?
- (2) What measures would he envisage using to control these vectors?
- (3) Does he see such measures being used on Ramsar listed wetlands such as Moreton Bay?
- (4) Does he see such measures being used in wetlands on national parks, conservation parks, nature refuges or areas proposed for reservation under such tenures?
- (5) Does he regard the wetland impacts of the proposed Port Hinchinbrook development at Cardwell being justified by "overriding public interest" as outlined in objective 1?

Mr Littleproud:

- (1) Those species of mosquitoes found in fresh and saltwater recognised by the Department of Health as transmitters of arboviruses.
- (2) At present, the most cost effective control methods rely on the application of chemical larvicides and insecticides with minimal residual toxicity. Other control methods, notably biological controls and physical habitat modification, are being developed. However, in dealing with vectors for significant disease causing organisms, these control methods are not yet adequate.
- (3) The International Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (the Ramsar Convention)

recognises the principle of "wise use". Wise use of wetlands is defined as their sustainable utilisation for the benefit of human kind in a way compatible with the maintenance of the natural properties of the ecosystem. Vector control may be required in parts of Moreton Bay, particularly if a risk exists to human health. This approach is consistent with the principle of 'wise use'.

(4) The conservation of nature is the priority consideration in the management of protected areas. Should a public health risk exist as a consequence of vector breeding in such areas, options for control which minimise other adverse environmental impacts would be considered as a last resort.

(5) The Coalition supports the decision of the former Goss Government that the environmental impacts of the Port Hinchinbrook development are manageable provided that the developer meets the conditions set down in the Deed of Agreement and any environmental requirements as may be determined by the relevant Federal Ministers. The Deed of Agreement includes an insect management plan.

324. Suicide Prevention

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to his department's strategy for prevention of suicide, particularly as it relates to youth suicide—

- (1) Is he aware that many adolescents who have suicidal feelings are people who suffer from depression, or who are prone to binge drinking, but otherwise do not manifest any kind of mental illness?
- (2) Is he aware that suicidal young people generally do not regard themselves as mentally ill?
- (3) Is he aware that his department's strategy is delivered primarily through a system of centres with titles like "The (insert name of relevant suburb) child and adolescent mental health centre"?
- (4) Is he aware that these signs present an initial negative experience for young people who present, or might otherwise present, for counselling for their suicidal feelings?
- (5) Will he therefore consider changing the names of these centres in order to maximise their capacity to reach young people at risk of suicide?

Mr Horan:

(1) Research indicates there are a number of risk factors which may indicate a person's susceptibility to suicide. These are not limited to mental illness, but include social and behavioural factors. While these indicators are helpful, there is no conclusive evidence that they help in clearly identifying specific individuals who are at risk. Identification of risk factors therefore forms only one part of providing effective intervention strategies.

(2) Young people generally do not readily identify with having mental health problems or mental illness. One of the issues in reaching out to young people at

risk is about helping them to identify where mental, emotional and physical health problems exist and then assisting them to address these issues.

(3) Child and youth mental health services are specialist services primarily targeted at those with severe and complex disorders. A small proportion of young people at risk of suicide will access these services. These services however are not the primary focus for the departmental response to youth suicide. A range of strategies are in place, involving a number of services and programs. An example of such a strategy (under evaluation) is the Young People At Risk Pilot, being conducted in four sites in Queensland. A number of preventive programs run by non government organisations, such as the Brisbane Youth Service and the Aboriginal and Islander Health Service are also funded by the department and other services in Queensland Health also play an important role.

(4) Queensland Health has conducted an extensive review of specialist mental health services for children and youth. During this process, the issue of service title caused much debate, and feedback about the title was obtained from young people. Some young people may be "put off" by the term "mental health". However, the target group for these specialist clinical services (those with serious mental health problems and mental illness) found the use of the term was important in identifying services appropriate for their needs. The continued and consistent use of the term "mental health" by all States and the Commonwealth is part of an intentional national strategy. The intent of this strategy is to reduce stigma and raise the acceptability of mental health issues in the community.

(5) It is intended to keep "mental health" in the title for the reasons cited in (4). However, it is intended to move away from "adolescent" to "youth" in centre names, as consultation both in Queensland and nationally has indicated negative community and patient feelings towards the term "adolescent".

325. Power Supply, Bulimba

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Mines and Energy—

- (1) Have expressions of interest been received for power generation within the Bulimba electorate; if so, how many and what capacity?
- (2) What companies have submitted expressions of interest and for what type of power generation, e.g. gas fired coal etc?
- (3) Has his department any plans to generate power within the Bulimba electorate?

Mr Gilmore:

(1) Expressions of interest have been sought for the provision of additional capacity of 400 mW in 1999 and a further 200 mW in the year 2000. The final closing date for such bids is 18 June 1996.

(2) See my answer to Part (1).

(3) The outcome of the bidding process will not be known before the Tender Assessment Panel completes its assessment.

326. Mr R. Speirs

Mr FOURAS asked the Minister for Environment—

With reference to the recent move in the Department of Environment of Mr Bob Speirs from Regional Director South East Region to a special project role for a five month period—

- (1) Has Mr Speirs been directed to investigate revenue earning measures from national parks?
- (2) Do these measures include charging for entry to parks, private operation of campgrounds and picnic grounds and commercial lodges on parks?
- (3) What other measures will Mr Speirs be investigating?
- (4) Have other staff been allotted to assist Mr Speirs; if so, how many and for how long?
- (5) What funding has been allotted to Mr Speirs for this work?
- (6) Who is Mr Speirs reporting to while on this work?
- (7) What role did he play personally in directing that this work be undertaken?

Mr Littleproud:

(1) Following discussions between senior officers of the Department of Environment Mr Speirs was invited to undertake special duties in the Department's Central Office.

(2) The proposal to charge entrance fees to national parks was initiated by the previous Government.

Mr Speirs is one of a number of officers currently involved in developing initiatives for the 1996 budget. The Honourable Member will learn of the Department's initiatives when that budget is presented in Parliament later this year.

(3) Refer to (2) above.

(4) Two officers have been allocated for a period of five months to assist Mr Speirs.

(5) Funding to cover salaries and associated matters has been allocated.

(6) Like all officers he works under the direction of the Chief Executive Officer of the Department. On a day to day basis Mr Speirs reports to the Executive Director (Conservation).

(7) Refer to (1) and (6) above.

327. Child and Adolescent Mental Health Centre, Townsville

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Centre, corner Palmerston and Cambridge Streets, Townsville and in particular, to the following disastrous staffing arrangements (a) the service director's position has been vacant for 32 months, (b) the consultant psychiatrist is on sick leave until 1 July 1996 (he usually works three days a week), (c) Dr Mike Stones and Dr Mike Likely are assisting while the consultant psychiatrist is on sick leave; Dr

Stones works 4 hours each Friday morning, and Dr Likely works 4 hours each Monday morning, (d) full-time medical officer's position vacant since December 1995, (e) part-time medical officer's position vacant for over two years, (f) physiotherapist (part-time) vacant and (g) on staff: psychologist (1), social worker (1), speech pathologist (1), child therapist (1), registered nurse (1), psychiatric registrar—but needs to work under supervision; a psychiatrist is flown in from Brisbane once a fortnight to give professional supervision but this visiting doctor has no client contact and also to the fact that waiting time for an appointment is now 6 months and that referrals must now be by a GP—

Given that the issues of juvenile crime and discipline in schools are supposedly matters of high priority yet families who seek help for their children are not able to receive adequate assistance, will he outline any plans which he has initiated or which he plans to initiate to restore critical services at the centre?

Mr Horan: The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) in Townsville has experienced ongoing difficulties in recruiting appropriately qualified clinical staff.

The Director's position and part-time psychiatrist position have been advertised on several occasions, but no applications have been received. However the service has been successful in recruiting a full-time locum child psychiatrist for six months who will provide coordination and leadership to the clinical team. A starting date of the end of June is being negotiated.

The Director's position is now covered by the Department's Medical Workforce Incentive Package, which should improve future recruitment prospects.

In the interim a number of arrangements have been made to provide appropriate clinical cover. Dr Stones and Dr Likely will commence their sessional activities from 17 May 1996. Professional supervision is being provided from Dr John Warlow, who is flying from Brisbane for the next eight weeks to undertake the necessary clinical supervision for the staff.

The recruitment of psychiatrists and medical officers to work in child and youth mental health services is a problem throughout Australia, with the majority of child psychiatrists preferring to work in the private sector. This issue was identified in the recent Queensland Health review of child and youth mental health services. A number of initiatives have now been established, with the aim of strengthening the recruitment of child psychiatrists in the future and fostering improvements in service targeting and quality. These include:

the establishment of a Chair of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the University of Queensland to provide academic, training, research and service leadership to the field;

three new psychiatric registrar training positions to increase the number of available child psychiatrists;

a Statewide professional development strategy for the existing workforce.

The lack of such initiatives over the last six to seven years characterised Regionalisation, the imposition of which, on a tried and successful health system, was overseen by you as Health Minister. Under the administration of you and your successors, and specifically during the Health Ministries of your now leaders, Messrs Elder and Beattie, funding for mental health services were bled by the regional system. For example, between 1992/93 and 1993/94, \$1.8 million of new funding was provided to Regional Health Authorities by Mental Health Branch, and yet mental health expenditure only increased by \$0.5 million. With Queensland's population growth, this actually resulted in a per capita fall in mental health expenditure by over 2%.

This Government is committed to ensuring mental health services, including those for children, adolescents, and families, are improved. I also guarantee that funds allocated to these services will go to delivering services, and no longer be siphoned into other areas.

328. Central Business District Auction, Heritage Listed

Mr MILLINER asked the Minister for Environment—

With reference to the upcoming auction of 8 buildings in Brisbane's biggest Central Business District retail amalgamation fronting the City Mall and bounded by Edward and Adelaide Streets and as the zoning is central business, allowing development of a building up to 120,000 square metres floor space, and as a number of the buildings have heritage values—

- (1) Which of the buildings are on the Queensland Heritage Register or are proposed for inclusion?
- (2) Which of the buildings are listed with the Brisbane City Council as having heritage significance?
- (3) Are any of the buildings or the precinct listed with the Australian Heritage Commission?
- (4) Have the present owners been in contact with the heritage section of his department; if so, what was the nature of their query?
- (5) Are there any heritage issues in dispute between the owners or prospective developers of the site and his heritage section?
- (6) Has he or any member of his office been approached by the owner of the complex or the prospective developers?
- (7) What was the nature of their queries and the outcome of the discussions?
- (8) Has he or any member of his staff had discussions with any member of the Heritage Council regarding the heritage significance of the site or its proposed redevelopment?
- (9) Will he ensure that any redevelopment of the site will protect its heritage significance?

Mr Littleproud:

(1) There is one building on this site which is currently provisionally entered in the Queensland Heritage Register. This is the Wallace Bishop Building, 226-232 Queen Street.

I am advised that the Heritage Council has received an application under s.24 of the Queensland Heritage Act 1992 proposing the Entry of the Shingle Inn, 258 Edward Street in the Queensland Heritage Register. I am advised that this application has not yet been assessed and considered by the Heritage Council.

(2) No buildings on this site are listed in Section 22 of the Brisbane Town Plan—Heritage Buildings.

(3) One building on this site is entered in the Register of the National Estate compiled by the Australian Heritage Commission. This is the De Groens Building, 224 Queen Street.

(4) I am advised that agents acting for the present owner of the site have held discussions with officers of the Cultural Heritage Branch of the Department.

The discussions related to the appeal Howard Chai Pty Ltd -v- Queensland Heritage Council before the Planning and Environment Court [P & E Appeal No. 186 of 1993] against the decision of the Queensland Heritage Council on 27 May 1993 to permanently enter the Wallace Bishop Building, 226-232 Queen Street, in the Queensland Heritage Register.

(5) There is an appeal before the Planning and Environment Court against the decision of the Queensland Heritage Council on 27 May 1993 to permanently enter the Wallace Bishop Building, 226-232 Queen Street, in the Queensland Heritage Register.

I am advised that a report prepared on behalf of the owners has been submitted to the Queensland Heritage Council with a request that it reconsider its position in relation to the current appeal before the Planning and Environment Court. I am advised that this matter is still under consideration by the Queensland Heritage Council

(6) & (7) I have not personally been approached by the owner of the complex or the prospective developers and to my knowledge and the knowledge of the staff of my office there have been a small number of telephone inquiries which have been of a general nature and no detailed discussions have taken place in relation to this matter.

(8) No member of my staff has had discussions with any members of the Heritage Council regarding this matter. However, following upon a media inquiry, discussions were held with staff of the Cultural Heritage Branch of my Department to enable the inquiry to be addressed.

I am advised that officers of the Cultural Heritage Branch briefly discussed the cultural heritage significance of the Wallace Bishop Building, 226-232 Queen Street, with members of the Heritage Council at its meeting on 26 April 1996 in relation to the submission made on behalf of the owner of the development site.

(9) It is the role of the Queensland Heritage Council as an independent body established under the Queensland Heritage Act 1992 to consider such matters.

329. Unemployment, Bundaberg

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations—

With reference to the high unemployment levels in the Bundaberg region especially youth unemployment—

- (1) Will extra funds be provided to the Bundaberg Campus of the Wide Bay Institute for special programs for the unemployed?
- (2) Will he take positive steps to introduce new courses and programs of a State wide basis in Bundaberg to acknowledge the special needs in Bundaberg?
- (3) Will he take immediate steps to have the city centre TAFE site redeveloped for a high rise hotel and possible training in hospitality with the hotel management?
- (4) Will he ensure the Youth Conservation Corps program is retained and increased in the Bundaberg district due to our high youth unemployment?
- (5) Will he ensure that the horticultural building project is commenced in 1995-96?
- (6) Will he give special consideration to BACAS (Bundaberg Area Group Apprenticeship Scheme) and the Bundaberg Skills Centre (Skillshare) for extra training programs in our region?
- (7) What is the number of apprenticeships and traineeships provided by Government departments in 1994-95 and 1995-96 in Bundaberg?
- (8) Will extra apprenticeships and traineeships be provided in Government departments in Bundaberg in the future because of the high youth unemployment levels; if so, how many extra apprenticeships and traineeships will be provided?
- (9) Will he initiate discussions with Commonwealth Department of Employment, Education and Training for special consideration of employment initiatives in Bundaberg?

Mr Santoro:

- (1) Employment programs are currently under review by both the Federal and State Governments. Once results are known, I will be in a better position to prioritise needs.
- (2) The Bundaberg College of the Wide Bay Institute of TAFE plans to introduce a number of new programs in 1996/97, including the areas of hospitality, sports coaching, quality management and workplace assessor training.
- (3) The City Centre Campus of the Bundaberg College of the Wide Bay Institute of TAFE is surplus to requirements. Procedures for the disposal of land surplus to requirements are being applied. The use to which the site is put subsequent to its disposal is a matter for the purchaser.

(4) The Youth Conservation Corps is the responsibility of my colleague the Honourable Brian Littleproud MLA, Minister for Environment, but I am informed that the Youth Conservation Corps is continuing with 2 planned projects in the Bundaberg region.

(5) An allocation of \$2.5 million has been made for the construction of a horticulture centre at the Bundaberg College of the Wide Bay Institute of TAFE. The horticulture centre has a planned completion date of September 1997.

(6) DTIR provides opportunities for public and private training providers and community organisations to submit offers to deliver accredited training programs under the Competitive Funding Program. As training needs are identified in regional areas, tenders are sought from public and private training providers and community organisations to deliver the training programs. Community organisations such as BACAS and the Bundaberg Skills Centre can also apply to provide training through several Departmental programs.

(7) There were twelve (12) traineeships and one (1) new apprenticeship approvals with Government departments in 1994-95. As of 15 May 1996, there have been four (4) traineeship new approvals with Government departments in the 1995/96 financial year and no new apprenticeships contracted in the Bundaberg district. In addition, the Department of Public Works and Housing has recently engaged 3 new apprentices who are located in the Bundaberg district, however their indentures are contracted with the Department of Public Works and Housing in Brisbane.

The Wide Bay Local Service Delivery Area has targeted Bundaberg for extra promotional activities. This has identified at least 4 additional traineeship opportunities with the Department of Environment and Queensland Police.

(8) New traineeship models in Education and the Environment and the conversion of some apprenticeships to Competency Based Training will provide increased opportunities for training and employment. My Department's Wide Bay office will continue to target promotional activities at Departments in the Bundaberg region to encourage them to take advantage of the initiatives to engage extra apprentices and trainees.

(9) The Wide Bay Local Service Area meets monthly with DEETYA to share information on funded training arrangements and to consider special employment initiatives. The Area Consultative Committee also provides a forum to consider employment initiatives. Once the future direction of DEETYA is known, my Department will hold discussions with its Commonwealth counterpart on how best to jointly respond to areas experiencing high youth unemployment.

330. Water Quality, Currumbin and Tallebudgera Creeks

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Environment—

With reference to water quality monitoring carried out in Currumbin and Tallebudgera Creeks under the previous Government's clean waters plan—

- (1) Will funding continue to be made available for water quality monitoring in Currumbin and Tallebudgera Creeks?
- (2) Will he provide details of any funding for this program?
- (3) How often will monitoring be carried out?

Mr Littleproud: (1), (2), (3) The water quality of Currumbin and Tallebudgera Creeks is currently monitored at weekly intervals as part of the Department of Environment's statewide water quality monitoring program. Ongoing funding for this monitoring is one of the many issues being considered in the context of the forthcoming budget, and will include assessment of previous results and the need for ongoing monitoring.

331. Public Housing, Nudgee Electorate

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing—

With reference to the housing resource service and the valuable advice and assistance provided to tenants and lessors in my electorate by the outer northern housing service—

- (1) Is the funding for the housing resource service to be maintained or increased above current levels for the 1996-97?
- (2) What amount of funding will be provided to the outer northern housing service for the 1996-97?
- (3) As funding for the housing resource service is obtained from the Residential Tenancies Authority, is he considering changes to the scope or structure of the authorities responsibilities; if so, what changes is he proposing?

Mr Connor:

(1) and (2) There are 26 services throughout Queensland, including the Outer Northern Housing Service funded under the Housing Resource Service (or HRS) program. These services offer advice, referral and assistance to people seeking housing with particular emphasis on tenants in the private rental market.

All services have submitted budget bids to the Department for the 1996/97 financial year and these bids are currently being assessed. A complete budget bid for the HRS program has not as yet been finalised for 1996/97. I am therefore not in a position at this time to give the Member the specific details he has requested.

(3) I have asked the Board of the Residential Tenancies Authority to continue with the review of the Residential Tenancies Act 1994 that was begun under the previous government. The terms of reference for the review cover the role and responsibilities of the Authority. Pending finalisation of the report of that review, it would be premature to speculate on any possible changes that might be recommended by the Board of the Authority.

332. Hotel Trading Hours, Maryborough

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry—

With reference to late hour trading to 3am by certain hotels in Maryborough which is contributing to an upsurge in crime in our city where at 3am in the morning drunken and drug affected patrons are tipped out on to the streets and into the community resulting in bashings, petty thieving, broken bottles and blood splattered streets—

Will the Government be reviewing this legislation with the view to bringing about earlier closing times?

Mr Davidson: At this stage the Government is not intending to review the Liquor Act with a view to earlier closing times of licensed premises.

In determining whether extensions of trading hours should be granted the Liquor Licensing Division must as provided in the Liquor Act seek the comments of both the Assistant Commissioner of Police for the area concerned and the local authority.

In the Maryborough area there are only four General Licences with the authority to trade until 3am on a permanent basis. An application was recently refused for a particular hotel to trade through to 5am, Wednesdays to Saturdays. This decision has been appealed to the independent Liquor Appeals Tribunal and I am informed that at that recent hearing a delegate of the Assistant Commissioner of Police for the Maryborough area advised the Tribunal that the Police Service had no objections to the hours being sought.

The Member for Maryborough should also note that there are processes in place to investigate complaints about the trading practices of premises, particularly those operating in the early hours of the morning and I can assure him that those premises who are found not worthy because of poor practices can expect to have their hours curtailed on an individual basis.

333. Advertising of Vacancies, Chief Executive Officers

Ms BLIGH asked the Premier—

With reference to the resolution of the Parliament that all vacant Chief Executive Officers positions be advertised and selected on merit as soon as possible—

- (1) Have all such positions now been advertised; if not, which positions are outstanding, why are they outstanding and when will they be advertised?
- (2) Will he provide details of the proposed selection process for each Chief Executive Officer position including (a) the position description for each position, (b) precise composition of each selection panel, including number of members, names and current position of panel members and
- (c) proposed timetable of interviews and appointment for each position?

Mr Borbidge:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The selection processes for the CEO positions have, and will be, in accordance with the Recruitment and Selection Standard.
- (a) The position description for each position has been available on request from the Office of the Public Service. I table a copy of each of the position descriptions of the advertised CEO positions.
- (b) The composition of each selection committee will be as prescribed by the above Standard. I comment on the positions which report directly to me, namely, the Directors-General of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the Office of the Public. I chaired both panels. The other panel members for the positions were:
- Office of the Public Service
- Mrs Betty Byrne-Henderson AM
- Mr Loftus Harris, Director-General, Department of Tourism, Small Business and Industry
- Department of the Premier and Cabinet
- Mrs Betty Byrne-Henderson AM
- Mr Kevin Wolff, Director-General, Office of the Public Service
- (c) I understand my Cabinet colleagues are in the process of forming selection committees which will include a representative of the Office of the Public Service/Public Sector Management Commission to ensure due process. I anticipate announcements with respect to successful applicants, will be made, as and when Governor in Council approves appointments.

334.Strip Searches, Mackay Watchhouse

Ms SPENCE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing—

With reference to the recent allegations that police officers in Mackay are carrying out unnecessary strip searches on women who are arrested for minor offences—

- (1) If these allegations are confirmed would they constitute a violation of the women's civil rights?
- (2) What investigations are being undertaken into these allegations?
- (3) Will he inform the Parliament of the results of the investigations?

Mr Cooper:

(1) An article appeared in the Sunday Mail, 12 May 1996 relating to strip searches of aboriginal women at Mackay Watchhouse.

The Queensland Police Service policy in relation to strip searches of persons in custody is contained in the Operational Procedures Manual at Section 16.10.3. This policy provides guidelines for strip searches and any police investigation would take this policy into account. As no investigation has been

finalised regarding the subject matter in the newspaper article, no comment can be made concerning violation of the women's civil rights aspect.

(2) With respect to the allegations regarding strip searches at Mackay Watchhouse the District Officer, Mackay Police District has sought from the Mackay & District Aboriginal and Torres Strait Legal Service the names of potential complainants and, if possible, some details of the allegations so that an appropriate investigation can be commenced.

The District Officer, Mackay Police District is awaiting further response from the Mackay & District Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service to enable any appropriate investigations to be undertaken.

(3) Any police investigations regarding complaints involving alleged breaches of discipline or misconduct are undertaken in accordance with Chapter 18 of the Human Resource Management Manual with policy in Section 18.2.4 relating to confidentiality of information regarding details of complaints applying. Any requests for results of investigations into any allegations of breach of discipline or misconduct would be referred to the Queensland Police Service, Professional Standards Unit for consideration and advice.

335.Appointment of Judges, Supreme and District Courts

Mr FOLEY asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice—

By what date will he have completed the appointment of the five additional judges to the Supreme and District Courts which he promised prior to the July 1995 election?

Mr Beanland: The Honourable Member will be aware of an answer I gave to a previous question from Mr Purcell on the issue of the appointment of judges to the Supreme and District Courts. This matter is still under consideration.

336.Quality Assurance

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing—

What proposals does the Government have for the continuation and/or modification of the quality assurance process for business and industry in Queensland?

Mr Connor: Discussions have been occurring with numerous groups interested in the application of quality assurance processes for business and industry in Queensland.

Options are being developed for Cabinet consideration concerning the Government's requirements for quality assurance certification in Queensland business and industry. These discussions and the formulation of policy options are continuing and, at this time, there is no outcome of which I am able to advise the House.

These matters are shortly to be considered by Cabinet and I assure the House that I will make a full statement on this subject as soon as I am able.

337. Native Title Claim, Lakefield National Park

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Natural Resources—

With reference to the Aboriginal Land Tribunal's recent supportive recommendation for the granting of inalienable freehold title over Lakefield National Park in Cape York—

- (1) When will he respond to this recommendation?
- (2) Will he support it in its entirety?
- (3) Will he support an all aboriginal board of management for the park if this is requested?
- (4) Will he support the tribunal's recommendation that the parks traditional owners be given hunting rights within the park?

Mr Hobbs: The Land Tribunal's report and recommendations are presently being assessed by the Government.

338. Mr G. Draffin, Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation

Mrs BIRD asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry—

With reference to the recent resignation of QTTC chief executive Garry Draffin and media reports that he was asked to resign because he did not necessarily agree with the boards future direction—

- (1) Did he or any member of his staff, have any discussions or exchanges of correspondence on this matter with any member of the new board prior to Mr Draffin's resignation; if so, what?
- (2) Has he, or any member of his staff, had any discussions or exchange of correspondence with any member of the new board regarding Mr Draffin's replacement; if so, what was the nature of the discussions or exchange?
- (3) Has he, or any member of his staff, had any discussions or exchange of correspondence with a Mr Stephen Gregg, the current chief executive of the Northern Territory Tourist Commission regarding his interest in taking the position of chief executive of the QTTC; if so, what was the nature of these discussions or exchanges?

Mr Davidson: In response to the specific questions asked by Mrs Bird, I can advise as follows:

- (1) The decision to accept Mr Draffin's resignation was an issue for the Board of the QTTC to deal with and I was not in attendance at that Board meeting when this issue was dealt with.
- (2) Yes, naturally wide-ranging discussions have taken place, but no correspondence has been entered into.
- (3) No, neither I nor any of my staff have met with or had any discussion with Mr Gregg regarding the position of CEO at the QTTC.

339. Pacific Highway

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

With reference to the document Pacific Highway Upgrade released by his department which states "Section A and B will be considered as a part of a separate Cabinet submission in mid 1996"—

- (1) Who is preparing this submission, what consultants are being used and what public or private groups are being consulted in the preparation?
- (2) When will this submission be presented to Cabinet and made public?

Mr Johnson:

(1) Queensland Transport is preparing the submission. McCormick Rankin International is consulting on busways; Veitch Lister Consulting is undertaking transport modelling and analysis.

MLAs, Logan City Council, Brisbane City Council and property owners will be consulted in the preparation of the submission.

(2) Timing of the process at this stage:

Preliminary planning work is expected to be completed in July/August 1996.

Timing of the Cabinet submission and public presentation will be decided by the Minister and Cabinet.

340. Queensland Mines Rescue Brigade

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Mines and Energy—

With reference to the Queensland Mines Rescue Brigade—

Has he directed officers of his department to carry out a full and complete audit of the brigade to (a) determine the standard of vehicles and equipment used by Mines Rescue Brigade members, (b) identify what new technology is available to modernise our Mines Rescue Brigade and (c) determine skill levels and training needs to meet duty of care responsibilities of staff?

Mr Gilmore:

(a) Each Mines Rescue Station superintendent is responsible to ensure that vehicles operated by the Mines Rescue Brigade are maintained in a roadworthy condition and in compliance with Department of Transport standards. The brigade is currently in the process of changing the types of emergency response vehicles that it has traditionally used moving from van type units to four wheel drive vehicles with trailers.

(b) The Queensland Mines Rescue Brigade are heavily involved in the Moura Implementation Committee and Task Groups 3, 4, 4a and 5. Task Groups 4, 4a and 5 are investigating new equipment and activities for use in Mines Rescue. It is possible that the findings of these task groups will have a direct impact on the activities of mines rescue personnel. As for current training and equipment, using the Australian Annual Mines Rescue Competition as a guide, Queensland teams are often found at or near the top of the winners' lists.

(c) Staff training is an ongoing need and this will be expanded as the Moura Recommendations have been implemented eg. use of inertisation equipment.

341. Inquiry, Queensland Fire Service

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport—

With reference to his inquiry into the Queensland Fire Service—

- (1) Who heads this inquiry?
- (2) How was this person selected and what experience does this person have in the Queensland Fire Service?
- (3) How much is this person being paid to conduct this inquiry?
- (4) What other personnel are being employed in this inquiry and what experience do these people have in the Queensland Fire Service?
- (5) What are their classifications and salaries?
- (6) What is the cost of the inquiry to date?
- (7) What is the estimated cost of the inquiry?
- (8) When will the inquiry be completed?
- (9) Will the findings of that inquiry be tabled in the Parliament?
- (10) Will he give an assurance that he will fully implement all recommendations forthcoming from this inquiry?

Mr Veivers:

- (1) Ms Lyn Staib.
- (2) Ms Lyn Staib, as Project Director and Senior Consultant of Lyn Staib Australia, registered as a Consultant with the Department of Emergency Services (formerly Queensland Emergency Services) in January 1996 and submitted a brief outlining a range of services her company had to offer.

Ms Staib has a strong background in engineering management, especially under emergency conditions, and has spent a number of years broadening her skills in the human resource management area.

Because of the genuine urgency and specialist nature of the consultancy service, the Acting Director-General as accountable officer, approved an exception in the calling of competitive offers for the procurement of this review service in accordance with Part A, Section 1, Clause 2.5(d) and (e) of the State Purchasing Policy.

Following approval by the Acting Director-General, Lyn Staib Australia was engaged to undertake the Fire Service Review and an instrument of agreement was established in accordance with the State Purchasing Policy's general conditions for the engagement of consultancy services.

- (3) Under the contract Lyn Staib Australia is paid \$400.00 per day for a period of 13.5 weeks. Any additional expenses will be claimed separately as agreed with the Project Officer.
- (4) The personnel assigned to the Queensland Fire Service Review Team are:

Mr Wayne Hartley—Assistant Commissioner, Far Northern Region, Queensland Fire Service

Ms Fiona McKersie—Director, Operational Planning and Policy Unit, Department of Emergency Services

Mr Robert Simpson—Executive Officer, Planning and Development, Queensland Fire Service

Ms Doris Galea—Administrative Officer

Ms Cheryl D'Silva—Administrative Officer; and Assistance from Temporary Agencies—1 person, full-time for 10 weeks.

All significant participants in the Fire Service Review have an extensive background in either the Queensland Fire Service or the Department of Emergency Services. Key participants also have considerable experience in either consulting or project management.

- (5) Mr Wayne Hartley Classification SES 1—Equivalent Salary F/N \$2481.30
Ms Fiona McKersie Classification SES 1—Salary F/N \$2499.64
Mr Robert Simpson Classification AO7—Salary F/N \$2134.50
Ms Doris Galea Classification AO3—Salary F/N \$1262.00
Ms Cheryl D'Silva Classification AO3—Salary F/N \$1131.50
Temporary Agencies—Normal Hourly Rate \$17.40.

(6) It has been estimated that the Fire Service Review cost approximately \$83,000. This cost includes salaries and all other logistic and administrative costs.

(7) See (6) above.

(8) A Report detailing the Fire Service Review's findings was released on 3 June, 1996.

(9) A copy of the Report recommendations is available to the public. Furthermore, all Queensland permanent firefighters have access to the Report and its recommendations.

(10) Urgent priority will be given to the implementation of those recommendations that specifically address the Queensland Fire Service working environment.

342. Carparking, Cleveland Railway Station

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

With reference to the need for increased car parking spaces at the Cleveland Railway Station to enable more people to travel by train and thus relieve the traffic chaos on our roads to the city—

- (1) What is the Government doing to provide more parking spaces at Cleveland Railway Station?
- (2) In 1987, when Cleveland station was opened, why wasn't sufficient land acquired for future growth so the present problem of unavailability of land near the station could have been avoided?
- (3) Now that land is not available for the expansion of parking at this station, what other options is he considering with respect to providing

additional car parking at this station and what is the estimated cost of these options?

- (4) When can Cleveland and Redlands constituents expect to have additional parking made available so that more of them can travel by train?

Mr Johnson: The Honourable Member would be aware that the objective of an integrated public transport strategy is to create an environment where the various forms of public transport work in a coordinated manner. In the case of the Cleveland Railway Station in particular, emphasis is placed on integration of road, rail and ferry services, rather than further encouraging the already heavy reliance on motor cars. I have recently received representations from a company interested in improving the transport infrastructure to the offshore islands, and the Cleveland Railway Station will form an important link in plans for an ecologically responsible transport plan for the region.

The existing intermodal services at Cleveland provide for 106 motor cars and facilities for up to eight buses, two of which are constructed as rollover bays. Given that no additional Queensland Rail land is available for development at Cleveland, there are no immediate plans for increasing the car parking capacity of the station.

It is not proposed to make any alterations to the layout of the area occupied by the existing bus interchange until a new contract has been awarded. This will be operated for a reasonable time to gauge the support of the community for a bus service and the interchange space requirements at the station to meet that need.

Preliminary negotiations have been held with Officers of Redland Shire Council to develop a planning layout for commuter car parking assuming a reduced bus interchange area would be viable in the long term.

Ormiston Station, the next station towards the city, has parking for up to 60 vehicles with expansion possible to accommodate an additional 50 vehicles. The car park is currently well patronised.

I believe that the future expansion of the Redlands District will place enormously increased demands on transport infrastructure, and so I want to set in place, strategies that encourage sound long term solutions. This includes integrated intermodal services between current bus, rail, and ferry services. Eventually I want to see this connecting to international and domestic aviation via the proposed rail link to the airport. I do not want short term reactionary strategies that will only lead to more motor car usage in the area.

343.Noise Pollution, Eagle Farm Airport

Mr BURNS asked the Minister for Environment—

With reference to the fact that Sir William Knox, representing the National-Liberal Government, appeared before a Public Works Committee in support of a new Airport at Eagle Farm, and I appeared for the Opposition opposing the Eagle Farm location and the subsequent Liberal-National

Party decision to support the Fraser Government's decision to override the Commonwealth Public Works Committee's recommendation against the siting and construction of the domestic and international airports at Eagle Farm—

- (1) What steps has the Government taken or will it take to end the growing noise problems experienced by southside residents?
- (2) As the State benefits greatly from the airport, is he prepared to offer a joint funded (Commonwealth and State) compensation package to people living under the flight paths of larger and larger noisy jets?

Mr Littleproud:

- (1) The Commonwealth Government operates airports and has the responsibility for legislation regulating air traffic, including flight paths and noise from commercial airliner operation. Representations have been made to the relevant Commonwealth Departments about the concerns of Brisbane residents affected by aircraft noise, in particular about aircraft reportedly flying outside designated flight paths.
- (2) No. Compensation would be a matter for the Commonwealth as the operator of the airport.

344.Fire Station, Helensvale

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport—

With reference to the proposed Helensvale Fire Station—

- (1) When will this station be constructed?
- (2) What is the estimated cost of construction?
- (3) When will it become operational?
- (4) Will it be 24-hour operational?
- (5) How many professional staff will be employed at the station?
- (6) What will be their classifications?
- (7) Will all crews meet the 1 & 3 standard?
- (8) What standard of fire cover will this station offer?

Mr Veivers:

- (1) Construction of the new proposed fire station is contingent upon the acquisition of a suitable site and the formulation of building specifications that are agreeable to all parties. It should be noted that the region anticipates the construction to be in the financial year 1996/97.
- (2) The construction costs will be dependent upon specifications and to this end the region has a budgetary allocation of \$700,000 in the 1996/97 fiscal year.
- (3) Shortly after construction and following a satisfactory commissioning period, the station will be fully operational. Again this is anticipated being in the latter part of the 1996/97 fiscal year.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) It is anticipated that as a minimum this station will be operated as a one pumper facility having a staff of one officer and three firefighters per shift.

(6) The actual classifications may vary, however the staffing will be one junior officer and firefighters per shift.

(7) This is the anticipated standard that will operate from this station.

(8) This station has been proposed in order to provide primary fire response to areas as far north as Pimpama and south to Nerang, as well as providing mutual aid to Hollywell, Southport, Worongary/Robina Fire Stations and the Beenleigh Station in the north.

It should be further noted that the region proposes to operate Road Accident Rescue from this station in order to minimise response times to the major traffic corridor of the Pacific Highway.

345. Railway Station, Shorncliffe

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

With reference to an issue I raised with him in writing dated 18 March, to which I am yet to receive a reply—

- (1) Has approval been given for the restumping and new flooring to be built on the platform of Shorncliffe station?
- (2) When is this work programmed to begin and when is it due to be completed?
- (3) What sort, if any, disruption may be caused to commuters and staff at Shorncliffe station?
- (4) Has Shorncliffe been placed on a program for an upgrade of facilities as outlined under the Labor Government's Operation Facelift Program; if so, (a) when is the upgrade expected to begin, (b) what sort of delays can commuters expect to experience and (c) when is the work scheduled to be completed?

Mr Johnson: A reply to your letter of 18 March was posted from my office on 14th May 1996. The essential elements are that :

The stumps and flooring to the station building at Shorncliffe are sound and replacement is not required.

The platform was rebitumened on 29 April, 1996.

Operation Facelift did not continue after the 1992-93 financial year.

No funds are currently available for station upgrading and no works program is scheduled for Shorncliffe.

346. Scarborough State School

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing—

With reference to a commitment by the previous Government to provide an electronic alarm system to Scarborough State School, the installation to be completed by April 1996—

Will he be honouring this commitment; if so, when; if not, is this another slashing of assistance to schools, to fund the removal of the North Coast tolls?

Mr Connor: The Government is continuing the previous Government's commitment of enhancing the security of schools. Schools in need of electronic alarm systems are identified and prioritised by the Department of Education.

Scarborough State School was equipped with an extensive alarm system in July 1994. This system is monitored by my Department's State Government Security Service and responses to alarms are provided by Redcliffe Police.

As part of the ongoing School Security Enhancement Program older alarm systems are audited by State Government Security technical officers to ensure that they still conform to Australian Standard 2201 and State Government Security specifications.

Scarborough State School will be audited towards the end of 1996. There is no information held by my Department to indicate that the system is not working satisfactorily.

347. Pedestrian Crossing, Morayfield State School

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

With reference to the pedestrian crossing on Morayfield Road adjacent the Morayfield Primary School—

Given the dangerous situation school children are currently facing when trying to negotiate the pedestrian crossing on this vicinity, will his department provide crossing supervisors until such time as the intersection is upgraded and the pedestrian crossing relocated?

Mr Johnson: In replying to the inquirer's concerns about the safety of Morayfield State School children negotiating Morayfield Road, it should be clarified that the facility referred to is in fact a signalised crossing, not a pedestrian crossing.

This is significant given that the signals have been installed at the site for quite some considerable time and have been used accordingly by the school children during that time.

It should be further noted that school concerns about the adequacy of the time phasing of those signals were referred to both Queensland Transport and Main Roads staff for attention in April 1995.

The phasing was adjusted to give the children more time to safely cross the road.

More recently, the school community has been kept well informed by Queensland Transport and Main Roads staff about road works currently taking place in Morayfield Road.

In fact, I am advised that a Schoolsafe meeting was convened as recently as 1 May 96 to discuss a range of road safety matters at the school, including Morayfield Road.

As a result of discussions with the school, consideration has been given to modifying the existing traffic signals to provide a separate phase for pedestrian movement across Caboolture River

Road at its intersection with Morayfield Road. The school supports this proposal.

Funding and final approval for this proposal is now being considered by the Main Roads Department.

You can be assured that Queensland Transport will continue to monitor the situation and keep in close contact with the school community regarding all road safety issues pertaining to Morayfield State School.

However, I wish to conclude by advising that the positioning of crossing supervisors in Morayfield Road, while the road works are continuing, is not being considered at this time given the adequacy of the pedestrian signals in place.

348. Korea Zinc

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Economic Development and Trade and Minister Assisting the Premier—

With reference to the proposed smelter for Townsville by Korea Zinc—

Is the Government prepared to (a) put up the additional \$1m required to provide the enlarged Townsville City Council water supply pipeline to the plant recently requested by Korea Zinc as a result of their re-assessment of the water supply needs of the plant, (b) immediately address recently expressed concerns about a possible threat to adjacent wetlands from the waste products of the refinery by engaging an organisation or persons whose report will be acceptable to the community and (c) consider (i) a new southern rail access to the port as proposed by Townsville Port Authority and (ii) a new road to the port which would bypass residential areas and reduce the impact of heavy traffic from the proposed zinc plant?

Mr Slack:

(a) The Government, as part of the assistance package for Korea Zinc, committed \$2.4 million to fund a 450mm water supply pipeline to the Korea Zinc site boundary. At the time it was also agreed between the Government and Korea Zinc that the costs of any changes in scope of works would be met by Korea Zinc. In the case of the water supply pipeline, due to increased Korea Zinc water demands, a 600mm pipeline is now considered appropriate. This 600mm pipeline could cost more than the original \$2.4 million estimate, however accurate cost estimates are still being finalised.

(b) This is clearly a case where the responsibility for funding any additional costs should lie with Korea Zinc. This cost increment could quite possibly be incorporated into the water charges charged by the water board.

(c)(i) Any possible environmental impacts to surrounding areas will be addressed in the revised Impact Assessment Study, anticipated to be completed by early July. The specific issue of wastewater is currently being addressed by the Townsville City Council and the State Government in consultation with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. The Government has also commissioned CSIRO Australia to conduct an independent

assessment of the project Impact Assessment Study and to provide an appraisal of any areas of likely risk. This report is due to be completed within the next few weeks.

- (ii) The issue of port access is currently under study by a working group comprising senior officers from the Townsville Port Authority, the Townsville City Council, the Department of Transport and Queensland Rail. It is my understanding that this study has not yet been finalised. With regard to impacts by Korea Zinc related traffic, commercial negotiations are proceeding between the Company and Queensland Rail with the view to the majority of project transportation tasks being undertaken by rail, thus eliminating the project's heavy road transport issue.

349. Water Supply, Queensland Nickel

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Natural Resources—

With reference to the Queensland Nickel Agreement Act which gives to the company a power of veto over the issue of bore licences to the aquifer within the area of influence from which the company draws water for its Yabulu treatment plant and is he aware of the widespread outrage among residents who are unable to access the underground supply because of the veto and also to the initiative of the previous Labor Government by which agreement was reached that Queensland Nickel would relinquish some of its groundwater entitlement on condition that the company would be provided with an assured water supply from the Townsville Thuringowa Water Supply Board at an appropriate cost—

- (1) Are negotiations continuing between the Government and Queensland Nickel in regard to this important matter?
- (2) What are the results to date of those discussions?
- (3) Is the company prepared to relinquish a further 2000 ml from the groundwater resource for domestic use?
- (4) Has the Thuringowa City Council agreed to administer the issue of licences and collection of charges?
- (5) Will this arrangement commence; if so, when?

Mr Hobbs:

- (1) Negotiations with the Queensland Nickel company are continuing.
- (2) Access by private landholders to groundwater entitlements currently held by Queensland Nickel is dependent on a viable alternative supply becoming available.
- (3) See (1)
- (4) Negotiations with Thuringowa City Council are continuing.
- (5) The Government will continue negotiations with Queensland Nickel, the Joint Water Board and Thuringowa City Council in order to help achieve increased access to groundwater.

350. Compulsory Third Party Insurance, Premium Increase

Mr HOLLIS asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts—

With reference to her refusal to release the actuaries report leading to the increase in Compulsory Third Party Insurance premiums of \$66.50—

Did the Coalition parties receive donations from any of the Compulsory Third Party Insurers for either the July 1995 State Election or the February 1996 Mundingburra by-election; if so, what was the extent of these donations?

Mrs Sheldon: I have no involvement in the receipt of donations to the Liberal or National Parties. Incoming donations are the responsibility of the various party organisations and are dealt with under the relevant rules of disclosure.

351. Statistics, Fishing Industry

Mr BURNS asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry—

With reference to the fact that there are two basic methods that family fishermen and women can enjoy their sport, either land based or by boat—

- (1) What is the estimated number of non-professional fisherpersons in Queensland?
- (2) What is the number of boat owners registered and what is the total amount of fees collected by the State in boat registration, boat driver licences, boat trailer registration, etc.?
- (3) How much money will be expended in 1996-97 by the Government on new boat ramps?
- (4) What is the location of planned new ramps?
- (5) How much money will be spent on upgrades of existing ramps that have no lights, water, garbage collection, fish cleaning facilities, toilets and in many cases are not suitable for all tide use?
- (6) As many thousands of families without boats need to fish from esplanades, rock walls, jetties, etc, will the Government stop developments that eliminate esplanades?
- (7) Will the Government allocate funds for the construction of jetties, piers, etc, to allow our kids access to all tide fishing?

Mr Perrett:

(1) The estimated number of non-professional fishers (fifteen years and over) resident in Queensland is 770 000 based on Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) population figures, as at 30 June 1995, and the ABS "Non commercial Fishing" Report October 1985. The figure does not include interstate and international fishers, the numbers of which are difficult to estimate.

(6) The issue of land tenure, is one for my colleague, the Honourable H W T Hobbs, MLA, Minister for Natural Resources. However, my Department, through the Fisheries Group, is working with the Department of Natural Resources and Local Authorities to ensure that public foreshore access

remains to allow activities such as recreational fisheries to continue. In most situations, the provision of an adequate buffer zone, between any development and tidal wetlands, has maintained public access.

(2)-(5), (7) These questions are within the portfolio of my colleague, the Honourable V G Johnson, MLA, Minister for Transport and Main Roads.

352. Queensland Ambulance Service, Far North Queensland

Mr LIVINGSTONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport—

With reference to decisions taken by the previous Government regarding the training of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Queensland Ambulance Service—

- (1) What programs are currently under way to train Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders to serve in ATSI communities?
- (2) What allocation has been made in the current Budget to provide for such training?
- (3) What Budget allocation will be made in the 1996-97 Budget for this purpose?
- (4) Given past criticism from the Mornington Island community over the lack of ambulance officers in that community, what programs are being considered to address this problem?

Mr Veivers:

(1) In consultation with local ATSI Communities in the Far Northern and Northern Regions of the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS), strategies have been developed to accommodate the needs of ATSI communities.

These strategies include recruiting and training ATSI community members in the provision of pre-hospital emergency care, the appointment of a QAS Training Officer specialising in the training of ATSI Ambulance Officers, and the development of a training package designed to meet the physical and cultural needs of ATSI communities. These initiatives have proven successful in the provision of ambulance services to these local ATSI communities. Federal Government funding from the Department of Education, Employment and Training (DEET) has enabled the creation of 12 positions for ATSI officers. ATSI officers are undertaking the Associate Diploma of Applied Science—Ambulance.

In addition to these initiatives, the QAS has introduced First Aid Classes into ATSI communities. This initiative was designed to provide First Aid training to Community Members and Aboriginal Cape York Health Sector Workers. To date over 350 ATSI community members have successfully completed the classes.

(2) The current budget allocation for ATSI communities is \$170,000. The funding was provided from a new initiative recurrent for one year and has been used to fund the ATSI First Aid Training programs.

(3) The QAS will need to apply for additional funding in 1996/97 to continue this program.

The joint DEET /QAS funding is on a dollar for dollar basis of their Award rate of pay over three years. This funding has been used to subsidise the wages of ATSI QAS Officers in the Far Northern and Northern Region to cover the expenditure of their three year Associate Diploma training program. Each year their wages increase according to their progress through the Associate Diploma.

(4) In June 1995 the QAS received and accepted a Rural Health Support Education and Training (RHSET) Program Grant of \$104,616 for the establishment of a pre-hospital care model for isolated ATSI communities on Mornington Island and at Doomadgee. The results of this research grant have not been finalised and are expected to be published in the next six months. After the release of the research project findings the QAS will then be in a better position to evaluate the needs of the Mornington Island Community.

353. Pick-up/Set-down Area, Sandgate and District State High School

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

With reference to the accelerated capital works program implemented by the previous Labor Government for the provision of pick-up/set-down areas as part of the Schoolsafe Subsidy Scheme—

- (1) Does the funding approved by the previous Labor Government for the construction of a pick-up/set-down at Sandgate and District State High School during 1995-96 remain current, and will he ensure that the funds will not be reallocated elsewhere?
- (2) When will the work commence, particularly as the current financial year is drawing to a close?
- (3) In the event that the work is not started before the end of 1995-96, will he give an assurance that the funding will carry over to 1996-97, and give a direction for the work to be undertaken swiftly?

Mr Johnson: Let me begin my response by stating quite clearly this government's commitment to improving the safety environment in relation to school transport. In opposition we were critical of the level of support for the Schoolsafe program and I intend to ensure that this program will receive a high priority.

What this government has undertaken is a responsible review of likely expenditure to ensure that true road safety benefits will be achieved.

For the specific case in question, the approval of funds for a pick-up and set-down area at Sandgate State High remains current under the Schoolsafe Subsidy Scheme.

The commencement of work is dependent on the available resources of the Brisbane City Council. It is understood that no detailed project planning has been undertaken, and a delay of several months can be expected until works can be completed.

The Department of Main Roads is currently preparing advice to Local Governments that the funds in

question will be made available beyond the end of this financial year. It remains a matter for the Brisbane City Council to schedule such works as part of its overall works program.

354. Machinery of Government Committee, Ministerial Staff Selection Panel, Budget Review Committee, Membership

Mr BEATTIE asked the Premier—

- (1) What is the current membership of the Machinery of Government Committee and what is the role of that committee?
- (2) What is the current membership of the selection panel for Ministerial staff for each Minister's office?
- (3) What is the current membership of the Budget Review Committee?

Mr Borbidge:

(1) The Premier, the Deputy Premier, the Director General of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, the Director General Office of the Public Service and the Under Treasurer are members of the Machinery of Government Committee. The role of the Machinery of Government Committee is to oversee the process of Departmental integration, to advise Cabinet on significant appointments and to manage the administrative arrangements that may have to be instituted from time to time.

(2) The procedures for the employment of Ministerial Staff are overseen by the individual Minister in conjunction with senior officers from the Premier's and Deputy Premier's Offices.

(3) The Premier, Deputy Premier, and the Minister for Economic Development and Trade are the core members of the Cabinet Budget Committee. Other Ministers may be co-opted as members from time to time. The Committee is assisted by senior representatives from the Department of Premier and Cabinet, Office of the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for the Arts, Treasury Department, and the Department of Economic Development and Trade.

355. Queensland Mines Rescue Brigade

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Mines and Energy—

Will he provide yearly statistics relevant to the management and provision of service by the Queensland Mines Rescue Brigade since 1986 in the following areas (a) number of underground mines, (b) number of trainees, (c) number of rescue stations and locations, (d) number of substations and locations, (e) number of staff available for training and monitoring of the performances of Mines Rescue Teams and (f) number of staff employed for the purpose of administration?

Mr Gilmore:

(a) Number of Underground Mines:- 1985/86—22 mines; 1986/87—22 mines; 1987/88—19 mines; 1988/89—16 mines; 1989/90—14 mines; 1990/91—15 mines; 1991/92—14 mines; 1992/93—15 mines; 1993/94—15 mines; 1994/95—14 mines; and 1995/96—17 mines.

(b) Number of Trainees:- 1986—310 trainees; 1987—284 trainees; 1988—267 trainees; 1989—254 trainees; 1990—263 trainees; 1991—277 trainees; 1992—299 trainees; 1993—264 trainees; 1994—286 trainees; 1995—261 trainees; and 1996—240 trainees.

(c) There are five Rescue Stations located at Dysart, Blackwater, Booval, Collinsville and Moura.

(d) Number of Substations and Locations:-

1986 (6)—Harrow Creek, Central Colliery, Oaky Creek, South Blackwater, Cook Colliery, Moura No. 4;

1987 (6)—Harrow Creek, Central Colliery, Oaky Creek, South Blackwater, Cook Colliery, Moura No. 4;

1988 (5)—Central Colliery, Oaky Creek, South Blackwater, Cook Colliery, Moura No. 4;

1989 (5)—Central Colliery, Oaky Creek, South Blackwater, Cook Colliery, Moura No. 4;

1990 (5)—Central Colliery, Oaky Creek, South Blackwater, Cook Colliery, Moura No. 4;

1991 (5)—Central Colliery, Oaky Creek, South Blackwater, Cook Colliery, Moura No. 4;

1992 (6)—Central Colliery, Oaky Creek, South Blackwater, Cook Colliery, Gordonstone, Moura No. 4;

1993 (7)—Central Colliery, Oaky Creek, North Goonyella, South Blackwater, Cook Colliery, Gordonstone, Moura No. 4;

1994 (8)—Central Colliery, Oaky Creek, North Goonyella, Cook Colliery, Crinum Colliery, Gordonstone, Kenmare, Moura No. 4;

1995 (8)—Central Colliery, Oaky Creek, North Goonyella, Cook Colliery, Crinum Colliery, Gordonstone, Kenmare, Moura No. 4; and

1996 (8)—Central Colliery, Oaky Creek, North Goonyella, Newlands Coal, Cook Colliery, Crinum Colliery, Gordonstone, Kenmare.

(e) Staff available for Rescue Training:- 1986—8 staff; 1987—8 staff; 1988—7 staff; 1989—7 staff; 1990—8 staff; 1991—8 staff; 1992—7 staff; 1993—7 staff; 1994—6 staff; 1995—6 staff; and 1996—6 staff.

(f) The Mines Rescue Brigade has employed three staff for the period 1986-96 for the purpose of administration. The positions are Manager, secretary and a casual secretary.

356. Upgrade to Ipswich Hospital

Mr HAMILL asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the redevelopment of the Ipswich Hospital—

- (1) When will tenders be called for the proposed carpark facility?
- (2) When will this facility be completed and at what cost?
- (3) What is the proposed date for the commencement of each of the stages of the hospital redevelopment program?

(4) What facilities will be upgraded or redeveloped as part of each stage?

(5) What is the proposed date for completion of each stage of the redevelopment?

(6) What is the estimated cost of each stage of this vital project?

Mr Horan:

(1) Tenders will be called after the seeking of submissions for consultancy services to undertake a detailed schematic design/preferred plan for the carpark, and finalisation by consultants of a site survey to provide the Carpark Feasibility Study Consultants with information to confirm budget estimates.

(2) Design and planning activity will take approximately 12 weeks to complete with a further period of 30 weeks being required for construction of the carpark, to enable completion by mid May 1997. Estimated cost is \$2.8 million.

(3) Phase 1—1 June 1996; Phase 2—November 1996; Phase 3—October 1998; Phase 4—November 1999.

(4) Phase 1—Relocation of dental clinic to new facilities within the Ipswich Community Health Plaza; relocation of integrated community mental health services offsite; design and construction of 32 bed acute mental health unit on hospital site; demolition of buildings in preparation for Phase 2; and refurbishment of buildings in preparation for temporary relocations.

Phase 2—Design and construction of new three level ward block to accommodate Pathology, 30 bed maternity, birthing suites, neo-natal and ante-natal, outpatients, 30 bed Paediatric ward, 30 bed Orthopaedic ward and 120 bed medical/surgical ward (4 wards contiguous); construction of single level structure above existing Outpatients to accommodate Intensive Care Unit/Coronary Care Unit, day surgery, operating room expansion and therapies; refurbishment of Central Sterilising Supply Department; construction of overpass to new building; and expansion of Emergency Department.

Phase 3—Design and construction of new 68 bed rehabilitation and day hospital; and expansion of medical records, medical imaging and information technology services.

Phase 4—Design and construction of new services building to accommodate stores, kitchen, staff dining, education, linen, staff amenities and administration.

(5) Phase 1—July 1997; Phase 2—February 1999; Phase 3—March 2000 and Phase 4—March 2001.

(6) Phase 1—\$10.46 million; Phase 2—\$44 million; Phase 3—\$16.3 million and Phase 4—\$13.3 million.

These are preliminary estimates for each stage of development and as such are exclusive of cost escalation. It should be noted that the total cost of these stages—\$84.06 million—far exceeds the \$30 million approved by the Goss Government, of which you were a member. This shortfall (of \$55 million) thus formed part of the \$1.2 billion overcommitment of the Hospital Rebuilding Program by successive

Labor Ministers, and particularly by your current leaders, Messrs Beattie and Elder. Mr Beattie's hospital bail-out (of \$35 million) from the already overcommitted fund, designed as it was to partly cover up the blow out in hospital operating budgets, threatened both the timing and future of the Ipswich Redevelopment. In fairness to the Electors of Ipswich, I reversed that transfer and ensured the security of this important project.

357. Natural Gas Pipeline to Bundaberg

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Mines and Energy—

With reference to public statements made by the Gas Corporation of Queensland and Allgas regarding the supply of natural gas to Bundaberg and in view of both these companies wishing to immediately supply natural gas through a pipeline to Bundaberg—

Will he immediately approve such a supply of natural gas to Bundaberg so that industry and homes can be provided with natural gas in Bundaberg by 1997?

Mr Gilmore: I am well aware of the investigations being undertaken by energy companies in Queensland regarding the possible supply of natural gas to cities such as Bundaberg. The Queensland Government actively encourages the efforts of these companies in seeking to make available new sources of reliable and competitively priced energy for domestic, business and industrial customers.

I recently received an application from the Gas Corporation of Queensland for a franchise to reticulate natural gas in Bundaberg. In accordance with the requirements of the Gas Act 1965, the Gas Corporation of Queensland will shortly be advertising in local newspapers that it has applied to me for a franchise to reticulate natural gas in the City of Bundaberg. Persons wishing to object to this application have 14 days from the date of the advertisement to make a written application to me for a franchise to reticulate gas in the same area.

If an objection is received, the franchise will be awarded following a competitive selection process. This process will commence immediately after the closing date for objections and take several months to complete.

The granting of a franchise to reticulate gas in Bundaberg would obviously require the construction of a gas transmission pipeline to Bundaberg, from the source of gas supply. Any application for such a licence will be dealt with in a timely and efficient manner, and in accordance with the requirements of the Petroleum Act 1923. The granting of a pipeline licence would require the prior approval of open access principles for the pipeline.

358. School Bus Travel

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

With reference to the safety-net assistance available for school bus travel and the present situation where some eligible families are missing out on assistance because of an anomaly in the definition of types of

bus service on which safety-net assistance can be provided and as buses owned and operated by private contractors which a school contracts to provide a bus service for its students to travel to and from school are not bus services which fit the definition of the type of bus service on which safety-net assistance can be provided—

When will he include such services in the definition of types of bus services on which safety-net assistance can be provided so that those otherwise eligible parents can receive assistance?

Mr Johnson: Under Section 54 of the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994, services arranged specifically between the school and individual operators are not eligible for assistance under Safety-Net payments. These services are generally private arrangements between particular schools and bus companies for the carriage of their students.

In addition to this legislative position, when Safety-Net was instigated in January 1995 it was specified that it should only be payable on services available to the general public, not those arranged specifically by the school.

Both the legislation and the Safety-Net guidelines were approved by the previous government. The background to this position is based on a longstanding government policy toward overall funding of school services.

As with all government programs, funding provided to operators of bus services must be subject to guidelines to ensure accountability of expenditure. Under the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994 the focus of funding guidelines for bus transport is primarily directed to operators who provide broad-based services open to the general public or operators who have service contracts for the carriage of eligible students and fare paying passengers.

In this way, the Government provides an income base for operators so they can offer a comprehensive range of both commuter and school services. It would be unreasonable to direct scarce government funding to operators who provide deregulated school services to a limited number of schools, who at the same time would not be required to offer unprofitable yet essential late night and weekend services meeting the wider needs of the community.

It should be noted that a similar situation existed for many years under the previous State Transport Act 1960.

Although it is not proposed to alter eligibility guidelines for Safety-Net assistance for students using these services at this time, I do consider that there is scope to reexamine certain shortcomings associated with the school transport scheme, and expect this to be completed within the next three months.

359. Police Staffing, Mackay Region

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing—

With reference to the Police Service in Mackay—

- (1) How many operational police officers are currently employed at the Mackay Police Station, the Mackay Police District Office and the Mackay region?
- (2) How many police officers are employed in clerical and other non-operational jobs at the Mackay Police Station, the Mackay Police District Office and the Mackay region?
- (3) What were the numbers of (1) and (2) above in 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994 and 1995?
- (4) Given his pre-election promise to increase police numbers in Mackay, (a) when will this take place and (b) how many extra operational officers will be provided?
- (5) How many police cars are available for operational duties in Mackay on a 24 hour daily basis?
- (6) Does he consider that the number of vehicles is sufficient to provide adequate cover for the urban area south of the Pioneer River and the urban area north of the Pioneer River in Mackay?
- (7) When will the non-operational police employed at the Mackay Station be put on operational duties and have their previous duties fulfilled by civilians?
- (8) Are there any plans for a police shopfront at either Mt Pleasant Shopping Centre or Caneland Shopping Centre, Mackay?
- (9) If so, (a) where will the shopfront be located, (b) when will it be opened and (c) what will be its staffing and hours of operations?
- (10) Given the National Party's 1995 election commitments to build a new police station in its first term of Government in North Mackay to service the fast growing suburbs of Andergrove and Northern Beaches, (a) has the department acquired land, (b) where is this land located, (c) when will construction commence, (d) when will this station become operational and (e) how many operational police will be deployed from this station; if not, why not?

Mr Cooper:

(1 & 2) The current authorised strength of sworn officers at Mackay Station and District, both operational and non-operational is as follows:

Year	Mackay Stn Operational	Mackay Stn Non-Operational	District Office Operational	D/Office Non-Operational	Mackay District Operational	Mackay Dist Non-Operational
1996	55	0	3	1	155	7

(3) The authorised strength of sworn officers for the years 1989 to 1995 is as follows:

Year	Mackay Stn Operational	Mackay Stn Non-Operational	District Office Operational	D/Office Non-Operational	Mackay District Operational	Mackay Dist Non-Operational
1989	50	3	2	1	140	7
1990	50	3	2	1	143	8
1991	52	1	3	1	152	5
1992	50	1	3	1	150	6
1993	50	0	3	1	155	7
1994	50	0	3	1	155	7
1995	50	0	3	1	155	7

(4) The Government has already approved for the Police Service to increase recruit intakes. The successful recruits to graduate from these increased intakes will be allocated throughout the State. The actual number to be allocated to each District, including Mackay District, will be determined by the Service's Staffing Allocation Model.

(5) The Assistant Commissioner has received advice from the District Officer, Mackay that there are 15 motor vehicles, one motor cycle and two trail bikes available for use by the various operational sections at Mackay.

(6) The District Officer, Mackay advises the present allocation of vehicles is adequate to meet current operational needs at Mackay.

(7) Civilianisation priorities are presently being determined and will be implemented in accordance with budget allocations for 1996/97. Initial priority will be given to the civilianisation of communications rooms throughout the State. Civilianisation of the Mackay Communications Room will receive

consideration in any expansion in the civilianisation program.

(8) Consideration has been given to establishing a police shopfront at Mackay including possible locations at Canelands Shopping Centre and Mt Pleasant, however, there has been no authorisation within the State Shopfront/Police Beat Program to establish any such facility at Mackay.

(9) Any locations of new shopfronts are subject to assessment by the State Coordinator Shopfront/Beat Policing Program. In the event of any future expansion of the shopfront program to include Mackay, the location, staffing and hours of operation would be subject of appropriate assessment.

(10)

(a) No land has been acquired for the construction of a police station in North Mackay.

(b) See above.

- (c) The future construction of a police station will be dependent upon the availability of funding and State-wide priorities. Due to current financial challenges, it is not envisaged that a station will be constructed in the short term.
- (d) See above.
- (e) It is not known at this stage how many operational police will be deployed from any new station constructed as staff numbers will be dependent upon demographic and crime statistics at the time of construction and those forecast in the longer term.

360. Proposed Chermside Fire Station

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport—

With reference to the new Chermside Fire Station—

- (1) When will it be constructed?
- (2) What will it cost to build?
- (3) How many officers will be employed there?
- (4) What will their classification be?
- (5) Will he guarantee that the station will be staffed on a 24-hour basis with all crews working on a 1 & 3 ratio?

Mr Veivers:

(1) The Chermside Fire Station will be constructed during the course of financial year 1997/98.

(2) The estimated cost of the land and building for the Chermside Fire Station is \$1.8 million. It is anticipated that approximately \$600,000 will be recovered from the sale of the present site. The net outlay for the Queensland Fire Service will be approximately \$1.2 million.

(3) 32 officers will be employed to staff the Chermside Fire Station. Work Place Reform provisions gazette Chermside as the Brisbane North Area office. A senior officer will be located within the new Station.

(4) The classification of Chermside staff positions will be:

1 Senior Officer (Fire Protection Officer Level 3)

4 Station Officers (Fire Protection Officer Level 2)

20 Firefighters (Fire Protection Officer Level 1)

Seven additional staff will be employed at Chermside to cover for firefighters on leave etc.

(5) Chermside Fire Station will be staffed with career firefighters and provide a 24 hour service. The Station is provided with a pumper which will be crewed with one officer and three firefighters continuously. An Emergency Tender will be crewed with the standard two members.

361. Development of Caboolture Hospital

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to his public statement that the Caboolture Hospital's next stage of development would proceed on the timetable established by the former Government and to local concerns that the next stage will not include either intensive care or coronary care units—

Will he assure the House and the community of Caboolture that these vital services will be included in the project?

Mr Horan: I can assure the electors of Caboolture that tenders will be called for stage 2 of the Caboolture hospital Redevelopment in April or May next year, and that work should be completed by 1999.

The extent of services to be delivered at the Hospital had to be decided bearing in mind the mess which resulted from Labor's \$1.2 billion overcommitment of the Hospital Rebuilding. Caboolture Hospital is one of Queensland's most important, serving an area of rapid growth and many young families. The Government was also confronted with an attempt by former Minister Beattie to withdraw \$35 million from the Hospital Rebuilding Program to bail-out hospital overruns. Because this action had the potential to seriously delay a number of projects including Caboolture, one of my first acts as Minister was to cancel the transfer. Now that this Government has taken prudent and deliberate steps to resolve the mess, I can inform the House and the people of Caboolture of the nature of these services. The number of beds will be increased from 130 to 260. This doubling of bed numbers will support:

increased surgical services,

an operational intensive care unit/coronary care unit,

day surgery,

rehabilitation,

improvement to outpatients and emergency services,

the provision of care for mental health patients,

improved antenatal care, and

educational services to support medical and allied health training.

In view of Caboolture's importance as a centre for growth, and bearing in mind the needs of both the young and ageing in the District, I have directed my Department to work flat out to ensure stage 2's delivery on time.

362. Education Funding, Currumbin

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to capital works and other funding for schools in the Currumbin electorate—

Will he provide details of projects proposed for the 1996 school year?

Mr Quinn: The following is a list of the projects that have been approved for funding in 1995-96 in the Currumbin electorate:

CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM

Currumbin State School

Music block by conversion

PS78A covered play area

Elanora State School

Administration block extension

Multipurpose covered area and amenities

Tallebudgera State School

Student covered area with canteen

PS88 General learning block (4 GLAs)

SUBSIDY PROGRAM

Elanora State School

Covered seating area

Palm Beach Currumbin State High School

Multipurpose courts

BUILDING BETTER SCHOOLS

Currumbin Valley State School

Upgrade of classroom

Ingleside State School

70m² of additional covered area**363. Infant Mortality Statistics****Mr WELLS** asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) What is the current rate of infant mortality in Aboriginal communities and Torres Strait Islander communities?
- (2) What is the current rate of infant mortality for Queensland generally?
- (3) What plans does he propose to address the unacceptably high rate of infant mortality among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities?

Mr Horan:

(1) Prior to January 1996, no Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander identifier was included on death certificates in Queensland. The infant mortality rates presented are therefore estimates, based on the rates observed in areas where the proportion of Aborigines or Torres Strait Islanders is high. Due to the relatively small number of deaths in the communities each year the rates presented are based on four years data (1990-1993).

The infant mortality rate in Aboriginal communities was estimated to be 22 per 1000 live births.

The infant mortality rate in Torres Strait Islander communities was estimated to be 32 per 1000 live births.

The peri-natal mortality rate (i.e. still births plus deaths within the first 28 days of life) in Aboriginal communities was estimated to be 52 per 1,000 births.

The peri-natal mortality rate in Torres Strait Islander communities was estimated to be 36 per 1000 live births.

(2) The all Queensland infant mortality rate for 1990-1993 was 7.4 per 1000 live births.

The all Queensland peri-natal mortality rate for 1990-1993 was 11.5 per 1000 births.

(3) I agree that the rate of infant mortality amongst these communities is unacceptably high. The Government is committed to improving the health status of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and the Coalition has a formal commitment to the principles embodied in the National Aboriginal Health Strategy. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health is a major priority for Coalition, as will be clear from the Queensland Health Corporate Plan 1996-2001. However, there is no quick fix to the health problems faced by indigenous people. The solution lies in a planned and systematic approach to health problems faced, and in encouraging and supporting family and individual responsibility.

There are a number of strategies being pursued by Queensland Health including education programs aimed at emphasising the importance of antenatal and postnatal care for mothers and infants and further strategies are being developed as part of the Coalition's comprehensive approach to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health.

364. Tourism Promotion, China**Mrs BIRD** asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry—

With reference to Australia's imminent recognition by China as an approved tourist destination for its residents and as only five other Asian countries currently enjoy such a sanction—

- (1) What role is he playing in promoting this recognition?
- (2) What increase does he expect in visitors to Queensland from China as a result of this recognition?
- (3) What special programs is he putting in place to ensure Queensland gets its fair share of an increase in Chinese tourists to Australia?
- (4) What level of funding is he directing to this program?

Mr Davidson: In response to the specific questions asked by Mrs Bird, I can advise as follows:

(1) The Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation (QTTC) will continue to service the Chinese market through its regional office in Hong Kong. The QTTC is the only State tourist office active in China. In the week beginning 13 May 1996, Mr David Leung, Manager (Hong Kong, China, Philippines), visited Guangzhou Province to meet immigration officials. Located in southern China, Guangzhou Province is home to 50 million people and is designated one of the new industrial zones. The next week Mr Leung travelled to Beijing to meet immigration officials and consulate, Qantas and China Airlines representatives.

(2) The number of Chinese tourists coming to Queensland is relatively small but there is great potential for growth in the next few years. In February of this year, China was Queensland's fastest growth market (74.3%), albeit from a small base. According to Bureau of Tourism Research figures, 42,600 Chinese people visited Australia in

1995, 16,000 of whom visited Queensland. Ours was the main State of stay for 5,900 of the 16,000. The QTTC will continue to monitor the number of Chinese visitors to Australia and Queensland's share of this market.

(3) While the recognition of Queensland as an official tourist destination is an excellent development, this alone will not be enough to develop the market. The QTTC is in the process of appointing a public relations representative to be based in Guangzhou. The preferred candidate for this position is a Chinese national with 30 years experience in tourism. He has excellent diplomatic contacts and is extremely well-regarded by the tourism industry in the region. One of the keys to developing the Chinese market is securing additional air services from China into Queensland. The QTTC and the aviation analyst within my Department's Tourism Policy Bureau are working on this issue.

(4) Currently the QTTC spends approximately \$20,000 a year on developing the Chinese market in conjunction with the Australian Tourist Commission through media familiarisations and other measures and spends a further \$20,000 on seminar activities throughout China. China provides great potential for growth in the medium to long term. The QTTC's current activities and the proposed appointment of a public relations representative in China are appropriate measures at this stage of the market's development. The QTTC (through its head office and Hong Kong office) will continue to monitor the Chinese market to determine whether extra resources are required.

365. Budgetary Impact of Departmental Name Change, Department of Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry—

With reference to the decision to change the name of the Department of Primary Industry to the Department of Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry and the fact that the principle responsibilities of this department have not changed—

What will be the total cost in labour and materials to the department to replace stationery, letterhead, business cards for departmental staff, departmental publications and all other printed materials and signage on Government buildings and in offices throughout Queensland to accommodate this change of name?

Mr Perrett: I am pleased to advise that I have arranged that an administrative order be made to retain the name of the Department of Primary Industries therefore avoiding the costs associated with a departmental name change.

The regard and recognition afforded to the Department of Primary Industries by clients, industry and the community within Queensland, nationally and internationally, furthered my resolve to retain the departmental title of Primary Industries.

The formal aspects of the associated administrative order will be completed shortly. No costs have been

incurred on new stationery and signage and the Department will continue providing excellent service to its clients without interruption.

366.60s and Better Program

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to a statement made by the Mayor of Barcaldine to a meeting of the 60s and Better program in Barcaldine where he stated that the program would be terminated by the Government—

Is this program to be terminated; if so, when and what is the reason for its termination?

Mr Horan: The Government has no plans to terminate the 60s and Better Program, nor has it had any plans to do so since the election of the Coalition. I have directed the Director-General of Queensland Health to advise all funded 60s and Better Programs that the Program has ongoing Government and Queensland Health support.

367.60s and Better Program

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Health—

Will he reassure the community that the significantly successful 60s and Better program, begun by the Labor Government in the Archerfield electorate, and which has done excellent work to improve the health and morale of elderly citizens around Queensland and interstate, will continue to receive support from the Government and specifically his department?

Mr Horan: I have directed the Director-General of Queensland Health to advise all funded 60s and Better Programs that the Program has ongoing Government and Queensland Health support.

Together with strong community support, particularly from older people, the Coalition itself is strongly supportive of the 60s and Better Program. An evaluation of the program has found that older people who participate in 60s and Better report increased physical activity, improved health knowledge and enhanced quality of life as a result of that participation.

Ensuring the continuation of worthwhile programs such as this is made extremely difficult by the financial legacy of Labor in Health, including the (at least) \$70 million blow-out in hospital running costs inherited by the Coalition. However, as a result of new management processes and the commitment of this Government, the community can be assured of the continuation of 60s and better.

368. Road Traffic Accidents, Captain Cook Bridge-Gateway Bridge-Nerang, Pacific Highway

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

Will he detail the number of accidents, people injured and fatalities on the Pacific Highway between the Gateway and Captain Cook Bridges and Nerang each year from 1990 to 1995?

Mr Johnson: The Queensland Government through Queensland Transport collects and analyses

road traffic accident data in all areas of Queensland and this analysis is used by the Queensland Transport, Main Roads Department and Queensland Police Service to develop road safety programs to reduce the road toll. The details of the information requested for the Pacific Highway are shown in the attached tables.

The tables show road crash and casualty data for the Pacific Highway for the years 1990 to 1995 subdivided by local authority area.

The data shows that after an increase during the early part of the 90s, both crash and casualty numbers declined on the Pacific Highway in 1995 and fatalities, in particular, have decreased over the last two years. This decrease is most marked in the Brisbane City and Logan City sections of the Highway.

The Brisbane City section of the Highway, from the Captain Cook Bridge to just beyond the junction

with the Gateway Arterial, averaged two fatalities, 98 injuries and 159 crashes per year over the 1990-95 period.

The Logan City section, from near the Gateway Arterial junction to the Logan River, averaged 3.5 fatalities, 72 injuries and 108 crashes per year over the 1990-95 period.

The Gold Coast section, from the Logan River to Tugun, averaged 15 fatalities, 198 injuries and 263 crashes per year over the 1990-95 period.

While the figures for 1995 were an improvement, we cannot afford to accept this result. This is why in planning for the new Pacific Highway, we are talking about a world class road with the best possible safety features. In fact, I understand that Design Engineers, Road Safety experts and Police are already working together to ensure that we achieve this outcome.

Road crashes on the Pacific Highway from 1990 to 1995

Local govt area	Year	Fatal crashes	Hospitalised crashes	Medical treatment	Minor injury	Property damage	Total crashes
Brisbane City Council	1990	3	16	28	14	74	135
	1991	1	20	23	16	95	155
	1992	2	12	27	15	93	149
	1993	1	14	45	17	88	165
	1994	2	17	36	27	96	178
	1995	1	19	45	24	83	172
Total		10	98	204	113	529	954
Gold Coast City Council (incl. Albert Shire)	1990	4	46	56	17	93	216
	1991	12	44	33	17	96	202
	1992	12	51	54	31	124	272
	1993	17	61	60	33	155	326
	1994	12	64	62	39	111	288
	1995	8	53	57	34	120	272
Total		65	319	322	171	699	1576
Logan City Council	1990	5	15	13	8	45	86
	1991	3	23	12	10	63	111
	1992	3	19	24	12	74	132
	1993	3	18	24	8	60	113
	1994	3	22	18	19	53	115
	1995	1	12	23	8	44	88
Total		18	109	114	65	339	645
Total Pacific Highway crashes	1990	12	77	97	39	212	437
	1991	16	87	68	43	254	468
	1992	17	82	105	58	291	553
	1993	21	93	129	58	303	604
	1994	17	103	116	85	260	581
	1995	10	84	125	66	247	532
Total		93	526	640	349	1567	3175

NB: Information held in the Road Crash Database on events occurring within the last 12 months are considered preliminary as investigations into crashes can take up to 1 year to finalise.

Road casualties on the Pacific Highway from 1990 to 1995

Local govt area	Year	No. Fatalities	Hospitalised	Received medical treatment	Minor injury	Total casualties
Brisbane City Council	1990	3	22	43	26	94
	1991	1	24	39	22	86
	1992	2	15	38	19	74
	1993	1	15	61	26	103
	1994	4	21	56	42	123
	1995	1	21	63	34	119
Total		12	118	300	169	599
Gold Coast City Council (incl. Albert Shire)	1990	5	57	77	27	166
	1991	18	63	59	22	162
	1992	15	64	81	52	212
	1993	23	89	99	50	261
	1994	17	82	107	55	261
	1995	13	72	91	43	219
Total		91	427	514	249	1281
Logan City Council	1990	5	18	22	11	56
	1991	4	27	22	11	64
	1992	3	34	39	20	96
	1993	5	24	57	11	97
	1994	3	31	28	23	85
	1995	1	15	31	11	58
Total		21	149	199	87	456
Total Pacific Highway casualties	1990	13	97	142	64	316
	1991	23	114	120	55	312
	1992	20	113	158	91	382
	1993	29	128	217	87	461
	1994	24	134	191	120	469
	1995	15	108	185	88	396
Total		124	694	1013	505	2336

NB: Information held in the Road Crash Database on events occurring within the last 12 months are considered preliminary as investigations into crashes can take up to 1 year to finalise.

370. Gateway Bridge Toll

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

- (1) Does he intend removing the toll on the Gateway Bridge; if not, will he reduce the toll on the Gateway Bridge or will he introduce a special rate for workers and families who use the bridge daily?
- (2) What is the average number of vehicles per day that use the Gateway Bridge on a one way trip?
- (3) What is the average number of vehicles per day that use the Gateway Bridge on a return trip?
- (4) What is the average number per day in each class of vehicle using the bridge?

Mr Johnson:

1. It is NOT intended to remove the toll on the Gateway Bridge. Future variations in the toll schedules will be considered by the Government from time to time.

2. & 3. The information required to answer Questions 2 and 3 is not available as traffic data is not collected in this form.

4. The Gateway Bridge carries an average of over 52,000 vehicles per day. This traffic comprises:

CLASS—DESCRIPTION—AVERAGE	DAILY
TRAFFIC	

A1—2 wheel vehicles (Motor Cycle)—520
A2—2 axles, no dual tyres (Car)—46200
A3—3 axles, no dual tyres (Car and 1 axle trailer)—720
A4—4 or more axles, no dual tyres (Car and 2 axle trailer)—170
B2—2 axles, dual tyres (2 axle truck)—2060
B3—3 axles, dual tyres (3 axle truck)—730
B4—4 axles, dual tyres (4 axle truck)—310
B5/6—5/6 axles, dual tyres (5 or 6 axle truck)—1570
BD—7/8 axles, dual tyres (B-Double truck)—140
Total Average Daily Traffic (two-way)—52420

371. Tabling of Roads Implementation Program

Mr ELDER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

- (1) Does he intend to meet his existing legislative obligations under the Transport Infrastructure Act 1994 and table a full Roads Implementation Program in this Parliament for the Roads Program under his stewardship?

- (2) Will he provide details of when he intends to table his 1996-97 to 2000-2001 program?
- (3) Does he intend to table an addendum to the existing 1995-96 Roads Implementation Program to take account of any changes to the Labor Roads Program?
- (4) Will he undertake to continue the practice of tabling addendums to the Roads Implementation Program as significant changes to the program occur?

Mr Johnson:

(1) The former Minister for Transport would know that Section 11(5) of the Transport Infrastructure Act 1994 requires that Roads Implementation Programs be made publicly available in a manner decided by the Minister. Therefore, consistent with my obligations under the Transport Infrastructure Act, I will make the appropriate arrangements to ensure this document is made available to the public.

(2) The 1996-97 to 2000-2001 Roads Implementation Program will be published following the 1996/97 State Budget in September.

(3) With the exception of the recently announced Pacific Highway Upgrading, where this Government has recently approved a substantially increased program of works than that which would have been provided under a Labor Government, my Government has publicly undertaken to honour the road funding commitments which were detailed in the Roads Implementation Program and Addendum.

To date, the only other variations effected to the Roads Implementation Program and Addendum are those which were approved by Mr Elder prior to the change of Government. Consistent with current guidelines, these, and any subsequent variations approved by me will be incorporated in the 1996/97 Roads Implementation Program, and will be reported in the Annual Report to Parliament for 1995/96.

(4) Consistent with our legislative requirements under the Transport Infrastructure Act, this Government will make the appropriate arrangements to ensure any significant changes to Roads Implementation Programs are made publicly available.

372. Public Housing, Tannum Sands

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing—

What is the timeframe for completion of units at Tannum Sands and what relief is to be given to subcontractors affected by the poor management of those overseeing the project?

Mr Connor: The project for 8 seniors units at 4 Hampton Drive, Tannum Sands, is expected to be completed on 30 June 1996.

The contractor for the project was S J Roulston Builders Pty. Ltd. The works were taken out of the contractor's hands on 21 February 1996, following non-payment to subcontractors by the contractor.

To complete the works, the Department undertook to give first refusal on the remaining works to

existing subcontractors. Negotiations with these companies and individuals began in early March and are ongoing. Coordination of these initiatives has been hampered by the lack of records on the part of some subcontractors in respect of their initial contractual arrangements with the contractor. Further delays were caused when materials on the site were stolen and by the discovery of some defective work.

Subcontractors are involved in the rectification work as well as completion of the original subcontract work. The Department will continue its efforts to obtain a satisfactory outcome for subcontractors regarding this project.

As at 16 January 1996, the Department had four subcontractors listed with monies outstanding from the contractor. Of these contractors, one has taken up the offer to complete his subcontract. One other subcontractor not on the list, has agreed to complete the work. The other subcontractors on the list have completed their subcontracts and the contractor was paid for that work.

Since taking the works out of the contractor's hands on 21 February 1996, two additional subcontractors who are owed money by the contractor have come to light. One of these has been contracted to complete his work and negotiations are continuing with the other.

I would add that there is a long wait time for seniors units in Tannum Sands, ie in excess of 48 months. Priority is currently being given to providing additional housing in areas of the State with wait times of this magnitude. Some additional housing in Tannum Sands has been programmed for 1996/97.

373. National Institute of Indigenous Performing Arts

Mr FOLEY asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts—

With reference to the proposal to establish the National Institute of Indigenous Performing Arts in Brisbane strongly supported by Labor Governments at Federal, State and Local levels and to the decision by the Commonwealth Coalition Government to transfer this national arts institute to Sydney—

(1) Is she prepared to stand up for Queensland and publicly condemn the Commonwealth Coalition Government's action to deprive Queensland of this national arts institute?

(2) Will she now take action to ensure the NIIPA is established in Queensland?

Mrs Sheldon:

(1) As I have previously advised the Honourable Member, I wrote to Senator Alston on 29 March 1996 arguing that the New Farm Powerhouse site represented the best location for the new institute.

I subsequently met with Senator Alston on 15 April to further outline the advantages of Brisbane over any other proposed sites for NIIPA. At that time, I expressed to Senator Alston Queensland's concerns at the proposed Federal decision not to proceed with NIIPA in Queensland. I shall be writing to Senator Alston in the near future to reiterate these concerns.

Queensland has the largest indigenous community in the country, and I maintain the view that the suitability of basing NIIPA in Queensland is unarguable. Although I shall do everything within my power to attract NIIPA to Brisbane, as the Honourable Member is aware, the final decision rests with the Federal Government.

(2) As I have outlined above, I am pursuing the establishment of NIIPA in Brisbane. Furthermore, I am continuing to be involved in discussions to consider ways in which Queensland can obtain its fair share of Commonwealth arts initiatives.

374. Queensland Tourist and Travel Commission; TAB; Wet Tropics Authority

Mr FOURAS asked the Minister for Environment—

With reference to recent wholesale restructuring by the Government of the QTTC and TAB boards and confidential Treasury documents that indicate future wet tropics funding from the State Government is in doubt—

- (1) Does he intend to allow the present board of the Wet Tropics Authority to run its full term; if not, what changes does he intend to make and when?
- (2) In any changes, does he intend to maintain the present State and Federal Government balance of representation on the board?
- (3) Does he intend to support continued aboriginal representation on the board?

Mr Littleproud:

(1) Directors are appointed to the Board under Part 2 of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993. Two directors, including the current Chair, have recently offered to tender their resignations. The term of appointment of the remaining directors expires 21 September 1997.

(2) Yes, the Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993 (s.14) requires that the Board consist of one person (the Chair) appointed on the nomination of the Ministerial Council (two State and two Federal Ministers); two persons appointed on the nomination of the Commonwealth; two persons appointed on the nomination of the State; and the Executive Director.

(3) Yes. Section 6 of the Commonwealth's Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area Conservation Act 1994 requires that the Commonwealth nominees include "one or more Aboriginal representatives who have appropriate knowledge of, and experience in, the protection of cultural and natural heritage".

375. Aboriginal Land Tribunal; Lakefield National Park

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment—

With reference to the recent report from the Aboriginal Land Tribunal supporting the freehold title claim over Lakefield National Park—

- (1) Will he support this recommendation?

- (2) When will a board of management be appointed for the park?
- (3) What will be the composition of that board?
- (4) Will he support an all aboriginal board of management if it is requested; if not, why not?
- (5) When will a park management plan be in place for Lakefield?
- (6) What funding will be allocated to the preparation of that plan?
- (7) Will he accept the tribunal's recommendation that traditional owners have hunting rights and the rights to carry out other traditional activities in the park?
- (8) Will he support the rights of the traditional owners to live either permanently or temporarily in the park?
- (9) Will aboriginal rangers be employed in Lakefield; if so, in what numbers?
- (10) What funding will be allocated to the employment of aboriginal rangers in Lakefield?

Mr Littleproud:

- (1) The Government is currently assessing the report.
- (2) A board of management will be appointed for the park once a decision has been made in relation to the recommendation of the Land Tribunal and following discussions with the claimant group and other interested parties.
- (3) It is premature at this stage, to speculate on the composition of a board of management.
- (4) Refer to (3) above.
- (5) In the preparation of a management plan the Minister is required to advertise seeking public submissions on the plan and then release the draft plan for public comment before it is approved. The Aboriginal Land Act also requires that there be full consultation with the Aboriginal people in the preparation of a management plan. Due to the processes established under the Nature Conservation Act and the Aboriginal Land Act it is likely that the process of preparing a management plan will take at least 18 months.
- (6) There is a legislative requirement to prepare a management plan before the grant of the land can actually occur.
- (7) The Government supports the conduct of traditional activities such as ceremonies and the continuance of spiritual links with the land.

Currently under the Nature Conservation Regulation traditional use of flora and fauna by Aboriginal people can be permitted on a national park with certain restrictions. Such restrictions include a prohibition on the use of firearms and the taking of rare, vulnerable or endangered animals.

- (8) Important considerations in the preparation of such a management plan will be the protection of the national park environment, the needs of the traditional owners, access, provision of services and potential alternatives for living outside of the national park.

(9) The Government will seek to employ as many Aboriginal rangers as practicable in the management of the Lakefield National Park. The number of rangers to be employed is a matter for future negotiation between the Department and the traditional owners in the preparation of the lease and management plan.

(10) Allocation of funds is subject to budget considerations.

376. Rape and Sexual Assault Protocols, Queensland Police Service

Ms SPENCE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing—

What action is he taking to ensure that the Queensland Police are implementing sexual assault protocols in order that women are treated fairly and with sensitivity when reporting rape?

Mr Cooper: The Queensland Police Service has prepared Rape and Sexual Assault Protocols in consultation with the Queensland Women's Health Prevention of Violence Against Women Program. These Protocols were written specifically to provide guidance for police when working with women who have been raped and/or sexually assaulted. The Police Service's Operational Procedures Manual includes a section outlining procedures dealing with sexual offences. The Protocols are reproduced in that Manual for the information of officers.

It is Police Service policy that officers refer to these Protocols for guidance in responding to victims of rape and sexual assault.

This information has been available to police since February 1996.

In addition, a brochure outlining the substance of the protocols is currently being developed for the information of all police.

377. Office of the Public Service, Wright Consultancy

Ms BLIGH asked the Premier—

With reference to the Wright consultancy undertaken by the Office of the Public Service—

- (1) What is the total cost of this consultancy?
- (2) What is the breakdown of the total costs?
- (3) By what process was the consultancy firm selected?
- (4) What, if any, tender process was utilised in the selection of the consultancy firm?

Mr Borbidge: The cost of the Consultancy is \$30000.

\$10000 for Report 1 on consultations with all government departments and public sector agencies undertaken during March 1996; \$10000 for Report 2 on a further round of consultations with all departments for feedback on Report 1 and on aspects of the proposed Public Service Bill and with analysis of implications for the new Office of the Public Service regarding its responsibilities, functions, organisation and resources and \$10 000 maximum for additional work towards resolving potential overlap of roles between the Office of the

Public Service and central agencies such as Treasury and the Department of Training and Industrial Relations.

The Consultancy was selected in accordance with the Queensland Government State Purchasing Policy Part C Section 7 Clause 3.3.1.

A single tenderer with appropriate skills and expertise was approached in accordance with the previous Government's State Purchasing Policy Part C Section 7 Clause 3.3.1 in that a genuine urgency existed. Urgent attention was required to transition from the Public Sector Management Commission to the Office of the Public Service through taking into account the views of Departments. It was a matter of urgency for the new Government to move swiftly in communicating with those affected by the Government's policy of abolishing the PSMC. The Wright Consultancy was considered to have the required skill and resources to complete the assignment in the required urgent timeframe and was used as sole tenderer. The Consultancy commenced on 28 February 1996, six days after establishment of the Office of the Public Service. Report 1 was finalised by 28 March 1996.

378. Mosquito Infestation, Undurba State School

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the year round mosquito infestation at Undurba State School—

Has funding been approved for insect screening of the school; if so, when will the work be undertaken?

Mr Quinn: The school listed insect screening as a priority request for inclusion in the 1995-96 regional Minor Works Program, with an estimated cost in excess of \$10,000. The request of the school was considered in line with criteria established by the Sunshine Coast Region Capital Works Reference Group. This Reference Group is made up of some eleven principals that are representative of primary, secondary and special schools.

Unfortunately, the provision of insect screening exceeds and goes beyond current Department of Education standards, except in areas such as tuckshops where food is prepared. As a result, the minor works application of the school was not successful.

If the school community chooses to install screens and attend to their ongoing maintenance outside departmental resources this would be acceptable to the Department.

379. HOME Scheme

Mr MACKENROTH asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing—

With reference to the document he tabled in the Parliament on 15 May outlining losses in HOME purchase assistance—

In relation to the interest subsidy scheme will he outline (a) all losses under the interest subsidy scheme and (b) the total amount of interest subsidy paid under this scheme?

Mr Connor: To answer (a) and (b), I provide a tabulated breakdown of all losses, both planned and unplanned, and estimates of future losses in the Department's three major home ownership assistance schemes. I draw particular attention to the average

loss and subsidy under the interest subsidy scheme of \$5042 which has covered the cost of limiting interest charges to 25% of income and preventing any escalation of the sum owed.

SUBSIDY AND COST ESTIMATES

	INTEREST SUBSIDY	HOME/RPP
	\$	\$
Estimated losses so far	941,547	6,824,299
Losses in pipeline	46,408	4,014,422
Total Losses so far	987,955	10,838,721
Provision (PWU as at 31/3/96)	1,504,723	15,810,401
Planned est past subsidy	136,331,000	50,000,000
Planned est future subsidy	13,000,000	85,000,000
Unplanned est subsidy	-	35,000,000
Total Losses and Subsidies	151,823,678	196,649,122
Total Number of Loans	30,109	19,536
Average Loss & Subsidy per loan	5,042	10,066

380. Community Facility Funding, Nudgee

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport—

With reference to the Community Recreation Facilities Program established by the previous Labor Government and given (a) the demonstrated need for a community facility to be built in the Zillmere district in my electorate and (b) the recognition of this need within the Minister's department—

Will he ensure that funding for construction of a community facility in this district (such as a general purpose hall) will be given a high priority in 1996-97?

Mr Veivers: No proposals were received under the Community Recreation Centres Program from the Zillmere area. Therefore the Advisory Council, established by the previous Government and chaired by Mr Clem Jones, made no recommendations on funding for the Zillmere area.

A Research Paper identifying the areas of need for Community Recreation Centres in Queensland was done for the Program and Zillmere did identify in the top ten areas of need.

The number of commitments made by the previous Government have allowed me little capacity to consider any new proposals under this Program.

I am currently reviewing the Sport and Recreation Facility Funding Programs in my Department to determine how it may be best targeted to provide the greatest benefits to Queenslanders.

381. Townsville-Magnetic Island Ferry, Pensioner Subsidy; Railway Maintenance Facility

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

With reference to Part 2 of his answer to my Question number 262—

- (1) In order to accurately ascertain the future of railway maintenance workers' jobs in Townsville, will he provide details of the

number of employees and their respective classifications to be employed at the two Stuart facilities when they are fully staffed?

- (2) When does he anticipate the two depots will reach their full operational capacity?
- (3) When the Stuart depots are fully staffed, what number of employees together with their classification will remain at (a) the north yard and (b) the south yard?
- (4) Does Queensland Rail intend to retain a full maintenance facility at the north yard; if so, for how long?
- (5) If there is a long term commitment for maintenance facilities at the north yard, will facilities and machinery be modernised and upgraded to a comparable standard as Rockhampton; if so, when?
- (6) Will he provide an unqualified assurance that maintenance of the new Goninans diesel locomotives will be undertaken by Queensland Rail maintenance personnel and no contract for "power by the hour" will be entered into with the manufacturer and any other contractor?

Mr Johnson: Unlike the previous Labor government which seemed so intent on reducing staff and QR services to North and Western Queensland, this government sees a future for QR workers.

The Stuart Locomotive Depot is anticipated to have 45 employees and these shall be all Engineering Trades person (maintenance). The Stuart Wagon Depot is anticipated to have 38 employees, all of whom will be Engineering Trades person (Mechanical) (Mechanical Fitters).

It is anticipated that the Stuart Locomotive Depot will reach full operational capacity by the end of 1997 when the training of remaining depot employees is complete. Take up of additional trainees will be in a step function until then. It is anticipated that the Stuart Wagon Depot will reach full operational capacity by August 1996.

The future employee numbers and their classification within both the Townsville Workshops and the Stuart depots are dependent on many factors, in particular the current and future workloads and the introduction of job redesign.

The current levels of employment in both the new one Spot Wagon Depot and the Locomotive Depot at Stuart are 80-100 with potential to grow in both their new depots. Previous classifications have been abolished and new classifications have been introduced under job redesign, providing for a very efficient working environment.

The Workshops in both the North and South Yard are currently under review and future investment will establish an appropriate heavy overhaul facility coupled with a continuation of the overhaul requirement for the Queensland Rail Kuranda fleet. The number of employees will be determined consistent with the workload demands and introduction of job redesign and I would expect similar levels of employees as we have today.

Queensland Rail has invested a large sum of money and effort to construct a depot at Stuart and to select and train depot employees. Queensland Rail intend to maintain the new 2800 class locomotives and this has been a publicly stated position since prior to the ordering of the locomotives.

382. Funding, River Heads Barge, Hervey Bay City Council

Mr NUNN asked the Minister for Environment—

With reference to the desire of the Hervey Bay City Council to revamp the River Heads barge loading facility and associated carpark within the Great Sandy Region—

- (1) Is he aware of the Premier's commitment to contribute \$500,000 to this work?
- (2) When will this funding be forthcoming and will all or part of it come from the Department of Environment Budget?
- (3) If the funding is coming from other than the Department of Environment Budget is he intending to contribute any additional funding from the Department of Environment Budget to this work?
- (4) Will departmental officers be involved in the design of the new facility?
- (5) Will the remnant rainforest area adjacent to the present car park be left untouched by this new work?

Mr Littleproud:

- (1) Provision of barge loading facilities does not fall within the Ministerial responsibilities of the Minister for Environment.
- (2) The Honourable the Member should direct his question to the appropriate Minister.
- (3) Refer to (1) and (2).
- (4) Refer to (1) and (2).
- (5) Refer to (1) and (2).

383. Department of Families, Youth and Community Care, Maryborough

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care—

- (1) Is he aware of speculation that a position of aboriginal counsellor, in the office of Families, Youth and Community Care in Maryborough which provides a much needed service to the indigenous citizens in our region, will be terminated later this month?
- (2) Will he give an assurance that this speculation is without foundation and that this position will be maintained in Maryborough?

Mr Lingard: (1) & (2) A temporary position of Family and Community Worker has existed at the Maryborough Area Office of my Department since 2 February 1996. The purpose of this position, as with other similar positions throughout the State, is to provide direct services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients, particularly in the child protection area.

The temporary position to which the question refers is currently being considered in terms of departmental priorities and available funds. The matter will be considered in the light of available funds for 1996/97.

384. Voluntary Early Retirements, Queensland Rail

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

With reference to the Labor Government which implemented the Voluntary Early Retirement packages for Queensland Rail employees whose positions were made redundant due to the restructuring process—

Is the Coalition Government committed to the retention of VERS; if so, how many positions within Queensland Rail are likely to be made redundant in the first and second terms of the Government?

Mr Johnson: It should be stressed that this government will be working hard with QR to grow its business, thereby reducing the likelihood of employees seeking VERS in the first place. Furthermore, retraining of employees will receive a much higher focus than previously, because the experience and dedication of QR staff is valued by this government.

The current Voluntary Early Retirement Scheme (VERS) had previous cabinet approval to operate until 1998. Such schemes based on these types of principles would always have a role to play in assisting an organisation to facilitate the optimum employment profile to deliver business imperatives. As a now corporatised organisation, QR faces a range of commercial objectives which will require a continuous review of employment arrangements to ensure these objectives are being realised. A range of appropriate human resource practices along with early retirement programs are standard practice across organisations both private and public, and will continue to be used in QR to assist to develop the

appropriate employment profile to meet the business imperatives.

The types of employment opportunities and career paths available to current and future employees of QR will continue to change along with these changing business imperatives. As a result, from time to time certain positions may be made redundant to accommodate the development of these new roles and business focus. Employees in such positions will continue to be managed fairly and with access to all necessary support mechanisms during these periods.

385. Property Services (Housing)

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing—

With reference to commercialisation of Property Services (Housing)—

- (1) Will he guarantee employees who are employed at regional offices in the Customer Service Division who report to Property Development Division, the Re-development Unit and Business Development Unit that their employment within the Department of Housing will not be (a) made redundant, (b) terminated or (c) transferred to the Department of Public Works Q-Build Division?
- (2) If employees are transferred to Q-Build, will he guarantee that employees will not be (a) made redundant or (b) terminated?

Mr Connor: The employees within the Customer Services Division of Housing Services, who work in area offices, are not part of the current exercise of integrating the Property Services area of Housing with Q-Build and Project Services.

386. Traffic Offenders; Police Staffing, Redcliffe Electorate

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing—

With reference to a continuing problem in the Redcliffe Electorate of drag racing and anti-social behaviour on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights and whilst police have been addressing this issue with some success over the past three years they complain they do not have sufficient staff to fully address the problem—

- (1) Will he call for a report from the Redcliffe police regarding this issue; if so, will he make this report public?
- (2) When will he increase police numbers in Redcliffe?

Mr Cooper:

(1) The Assistant Commissioner, North Coast Police Region has indicated the problem of youths congregating near the Central Business District on Friday and Saturday nights, as well as Sunday afternoons causing the usual problems of noise mainly associated with the manner of driving their vehicles has been targeted using police resources from the Redcliffe District, Sunshine Coast Traffic Branch, Traffic personnel from Sandgate and Petrie stations, Public Safety Response Team, Department

of Transport Inspectors and Liquor Licensing Inspectors.

In addition Redcliffe and Caboolture Traffic Branch personnel have targeted the 'hot' spots and in turn arrange regular support and operations with Department of Transport Inspectors. These operations have led to a reduction in the incidence of unlawful activity.

On the evening of Friday 26 April 1995, the Honourable Member accompanied Inspector Griggs, Redcliffe Police District, on a tour of the trouble spots for a first hand assessment of the situation and during this tour, observed police action being taken to address this problem.

The Assistant Commissioner, North Coast Police Region, is satisfied that at present this situation is under control, however, he will continue to monitor it and take all further necessary action as required.

(2) The Assistant Commissioner, North Coast Police Region has advised that the current allocation of staff to the Redcliffe Police Division is in accordance with the Queensland Police Service's Staffing Model, which is determinate in the equitable distribution of police resources throughout Queensland.

387. Logging Approvals

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Natural Resources—

With reference to the greater certainty planning process which protects areas of high conservation value through the interim management arrangements and given that the aim of these arrangements is to exclude logging from major large areas of old growth forest and areas of high conservation value until the comprehensive regional assessment is completed—

- (1) Has he given approval for logging to recommence in any of the areas formerly protected under the interim arrangements?
- (2) If approval has been given, in which areas will logging be permitted?
- (3) What size are the logging allocations?
- (4) To whom have the allocations been provided?
- (5) What criteria was used in deciding which areas would be subject to logging?
- (6) What criteria was used in deciding the size of the logging allocations granted in each area?
- (7) With whom did he consult before making this decision?
- (8) What assurance will he give that areas of high conservation value will be protected during the comprehensive regional assessment process?
- (9) When does he expect the comprehensive regional assessment process to be completed?

Mr Hobbs:

(1) I am pleased to say that the first meeting of the reestablished Forest Working Group will take place in the next few weeks. Agenda items for the meeting include matters raised by the Member, namely comprehensive regional assessment issues such as reserve criteria and the joint Commonwealth and

State planning and assessment process, and interim management arrangements for the protection of areas of high conservation value.

(2) Refer to one above.

(3) Refer to one above.

(4) Refer to one above.

(5) Refer to one above.

(6) Refer to one above.

(7) Refer to one above.

(8) Refer to one above.

(9) The initial 'working' target date for the completion of comprehensive regional assessment is the end of 1998.

388. Removal of Bus Concessions, Wujal Wujal-Cooktown

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

With reference to concerns among pensioners in the area from Wujal Wujal to Cooktown about the removal of concessions on the regular bus service to Cooktown and as this service provides the only access for many people to Cooktown for medical, commercial and recreational purposes—

Will a concession be restored on this service; if not, why not?

Mr Johnson: Under the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994 the State Government requires bus operators under service contracts to offer fare concessions to eligible pensioners and seniors' card holders at a rate of 50 percent of the operators' adult fare. These concessions are reimbursed by the Government.

The service contracts to which these conditions apply are generally awarded to bus operators in urban areas of Queensland and in rural areas for school services.

Bus services with an average journey length of over 40 kilometres are regarded as deregulated long distance passenger services, which under the Act will not at this stage receive service contracts. Consequently there is no legislative requirement for Coral Coaches to offer concessions to eligible pensioners, seniors' card holders and disabled persons on long distance services.

Notwithstanding this position, Coral Coaches may still offer travel discounts to passengers at their own commercial discretion. Such a decision, however, will have to be made in the knowledge that no government funding will be provided to the operator for the provision of travel discounts. Similar discounted travel arrangements are presently offered to pensioners by McCafferty's and Greyhound-Pioneer Australia.

I acknowledge that the extension of current pensioner concessions and travel options would be welcomed by pensioners and other groups. However, current legislative and budgetary restrictions do not allow me to extend existing subsidies or concessions at this time. As you would appreciate, there are a significant number of long

distance services in Queensland, and it would not be equitable to provide special financial assistance to one service which would be unavailable to long distance bus operators generally.

389. Family Services Office, Caboolture

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care—

Will the Coalition Government carry out the former Government's plan to locate a Family Service's office in Caboolture; if so, when will the office open?

Mr Lingard: The establishment of a departmental office at Caboolture has been foreshadowed in the Department's Office Accommodation Three Year Plan. It includes a new office at Caboolture in the 1996/97 financial year.

Implementation of the plan is subject to the availability of funds, and this will be determined during the 1996/97 budget process in the light of competing departmental priorities.

390. Queensland Economy

Mr HAMILL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts—

If Farm GSP and dwelling construction are excluded from the State Accounts, what was the rate of growth for the remainder of the Queensland Economy for each year since 1989-90s?

Mrs Sheldon: Real Farm GSP is not calculated and dwelling construction is published in *Queensland State Accounts*.

391. Implementation of Recommendations, South East Queensland Regional Framework for Growth Management, 1995

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

- (1) Is he aware that one of the recommendations in the Report "South East Queensland Regional Framework for Growth Management, 1995" was "Investigate the following new urban transport infrastructure: Construction of the Petrie to Kippa Ring rail extension." (p61, s13.3)?
- (2) Is he aware that the former Labor Government had referred this recommendation to the South East Queensland Transit Authority for consideration and advice?
- (3) Given that the National/Liberal Government has now abolished SEQTA, will he advise whether (a) the South East Queensland Regional Framework for Growth Management recommendation is now under consideration by some other agency of Government or alternatively (b) is not now under consideration?

Mr Johnson:

1. Last week I sent out to local government a "discussion draft" version of the Integrated Regional Transport Plan for South East Queensland, which is a 25 year plan for better transport in one of Australia's fastest growing regions.

The IRTP was a key recommendation of the "South East Queensland Regional Framework for Growth Management 1995 (RFGM)". One of the matters recommended to be investigated was the construction of the Petrie-Kippa ring rail extension.

All of the RFGM recommendations, including this one for a new railway, are addressed in the IRTP.

2. The draft IRTP contains actions to improve public transport, as well as restraining the growth of motor traffic, and providing advice to local government on how urban development can build on and support public transport investments. It will be implemented by Queensland Transport which has taken over the functions of South East Queensland Transit Authority.

3. As indicated in my response to Questions 1 and 2, the Petrie to Kippa-Ring Rail Extension has been included as a project to be investigated in the draft Integrated Regional Transport Plan and this investigation will be considered by Queensland Transport for inclusion in the final plan after extensive community consultation and consideration by Government.

392. Courthouse, Cleveland

Mr BRISKEY asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice—

With reference to his answer to my question regarding the urgent need for a replacement Courthouse in Cleveland where he stated that no site has yet been selected—

- (1) Will he give a commitment that the site chosen will be acceptable to the Redland Shire Council and its Town Plan; if so, why hasn't the Redland Shire Council's preferred site been chosen and work begun as there is \$750,000 in the 1996-97 Budget to begin the new Courthouse; if not, why not?
- (2) Will he give a commitment that the \$750,000 allocated in the 1995-96 Budget will be spent in 1995-96?
- (3) Will he give a further commitment that the funding for the construction of the Courthouse will be provided for in the 1996-97 Budget?
- (4) As the 1995-96 Capital Works Budget states that the total estimated cost of the new Courthouse is \$4m, why was I advised in his answer to my Question-on-Notice that the estimated planning budget is \$3.25m?
- (5) Does this planning budget include the \$750,000 already allocated for the purchase of a site or has the project been allocated \$750,000 less?

Mr Beanland:

(1) As advised in my answer of 30 April 1996 I have met with the Mayor of the Redland Shire Council to discuss the site for a new courthouse. I cannot give a commitment that the single site which the Council has nominated will be suitable for courthouse purposes. Any site chosen must meet the needs of the courts service, must not involve the Department of Justice in unreasonable expenditure, and will only be acquired after due consultation with the Redland Shire Council.

(2) It is now unlikely that the funds for the purchase of the land will be expended before the end of the financial year.

(3) The allocation of funds for the construction of the courthouse will be considered in context of the total outlays for the 1996-97 budget.

(4) The budget for the purchase of land is \$750,000. The budget for the construction of the courthouse facility is \$3.25m. Therefore the total budget is \$4.0m.

(5) The project budget remains unchanged at \$4.0m.

393. Lotus Glen Correctional Centre

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing—

With reference to his announcement of increased prisons expenditure on Monday 25 March 1996 and the decision to expand Lotus Glen Prison to provide for an extra 200 prisoners which could be dedicated to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners and specially managed as such—

- (1) What form will the necessary consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups, and other relevant interest groups take?
- (2) Is this dedicated prison intended to house all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners in Queensland?
- (3) What provisions will be made for family, friends and Aboriginal support groups, for prisoners from other areas of Queensland to visit prisoners, and provide the necessary support?
- (4) What evidence exists to support his assertion that the concept of an Aboriginal prison has been described as having merit, by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and the Queensland Council for Civil Liberties?

Mr Cooper:

(1) The Board of the Queensland Corrective Services Commission includes an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person, Ms Cynthia Rowan. Both Ms Rowan's personal views and feedback which she has received from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community have been sought to date. The Queensland Corrective Services Commission will also consult with the Overview Committee for implementation of the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody. I have already publicly floated this proposal and have received feedback from both representatives of the Aboriginal Community and the Council for Civil Liberties. Further public consultation will occur as proposals are developed.

(2) No. Such a prison would house offenders from the north Queensland catchment area and would be a non-compulsory option for inmates who self-identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

(3) These details will be worked out after the size, nature and location of a proposed dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander correctional facility have been finalised. I draw your attention to the existence of a family support program which is

operated by the Queensland Corrective Services Commission utilising funds from the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody. This program facilitates family contact for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders throughout the State and would continue to apply in association with a dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander facility.

(4) Support has been received from Mr Sam Watson, formerly of the Aboriginal Legal Service, who welcomed the proposal stating that such a prison would provide an environment in which Aboriginal people would have some sense of empowerment and would be able to relate in a real way to the management and administration. (The *Sunday Mail*, 3/3/96) Mr Ian Dearden, Queensland Council of Civil Liberties, supports the concept, providing that such a prison was properly resourced. (The *Sunday Mail*, 3/3/96).

394. Queensland Rail Workshops, Banyo

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

With reference to the site currently occupied by Queensland Rail's Banyo workshops—

- (1) What are the medium and long-term plans for future use of this site?
- (2) What decisions have been made about future uses of this site?
- (3) What community consultation will take place about the future uses for this site?
- (4) If the site is to be re-developed for alternative uses, will he ensure that an adequate parcel of this land is reserved for an appropriate community recreational facility?

Mr Johnson:

1. The site is an operational facility in use by several different Divisions of Queensland Rail, and it is intended that these uses will continue for the foreseeable future.

2. No decisions have been taken about future uses, other than decisions about where Queensland Rail activities might be located within the site.

It is proposed to review the site's future use in 1998, in terms of Queensland Rail's operational needs, as part of the Corporation's regular asset management process.

3. If and when the site is identified as surplus to requirements, which is not the case now, all appropriate community and regulatory authority consultation will take place.

4. Because the site remains in operational use there has been no investigation into likely future alternative use potential. If such an investigation were commissioned all potential uses would be considered, together with Council requirements and community expectations.

395. Tilt-train Services

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

With reference to the proposed introduction of tilt-train services between Brisbane and Rockhampton—

- (1) When will the tilt-train services commence?
- (2) What will be the running time between (a) Brisbane and Bundaberg and (b) Bundaberg and Rockhampton?
- (3) What will be the number of seats, first and economy class, on each tilt-train service?
- (4) What services will be available to first class passengers?
- (5) Will there be a limit on the number of seats available to pensioners on the tilt-train?
- (6) Will there be a limit on the number of seats available to people travelling to Bundaberg?
- (7) Will the platform at the Bundaberg Station be raised in time for the commencement of the tilt-train services?
- (8) Will the Bundaberg Station redevelopment be completed before the commencement of the tilt-train services?
- (9) What will be the expected arrival and departure times for the tilt-train in Bundaberg travelling both north and south?
- (10) What is the expected staffing arrangements for the tilt-train?
- (11) What is the expected costs for tickets to and from Bundaberg to Brisbane and Rockhampton?

Mr Johnson:

1. Mid to late 1997 depending upon date of hand over of train from Walker's Ltd, Maryborough.

Brisbane to Bundaberg	4 hours
Bundaberg to Rockhampton	3 hours
Total	7 hours

3. Seating	First Class	30*
	Economy Class	280
	Total	310

*Seating varies depending on final decision on Disabled Access (assumes 3 first class seats removable for wheelchairs).

4. First Class

Luxurious Dual and Single Seating
Service Call Button
Videos
Radio and CD music
Headphones
Hearing Aid Loops and Visual Display for On Board Train Information

Economy Class

2 x 2 seating
Catering from mobile trolley
Video and Radio
Taped Music
Hearing Aid Loops
Fax
Phone
Catering to seat
Fax
Phone

5. No—existing booking arrangements for pensioners will remain.
6. No—normal booking arrangements will apply.
7. Scope of works currently being prepared to upgrade Bundaberg station. Construction will depend on funding availability.
8. Yes, provided funding is available.
9. Timetable still being developed.
10. At this stage, staffing levels are expected to be the same as the Spirit of Capricorn service.
11. Other than any normal price increase through changes to CPI, economy ticket prices are expected to remain unchanged. The first class seats are a new service and are yet to be priced.

396. Queensland Ambulance Service, Mount Gravatt

Ms SPENCE asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport—

With reference to the Mt Gravatt QAS request for traffic signals on the corner of Wishart and Logan Roads and his statement in the local paper "If the Brisbane City Council confirmed it would pay a share of the cost the Queensland Ambulance Service would do likewise." and to the Brisbane City Council which has publicly indicated that they would pay half the cost and make installation of the lights a priority—

When will he announce his commitment to the funding?

Mr Veivers: I have been advised that the Queensland Ambulance Service, Greater Brisbane Region, has been working with the Brisbane City Council on this matter.

Agreement has been reached as to the installation of these traffic signals with the QAS undertaking to assist in funding the project. Provision has been made within the Region's Capital Works budget for 1996/97 to fund these works with construction expected to commence early in the new financial year.

397. Sunlover Holidays, Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation

Mrs BIRD asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry—

With reference to the fact that more than 55 per cent of the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation's Sunlover Holidays program are not represented by any other major wholesaler—

Will he give an assurance to those 386 tourism operators that the international operations of Sunlover will not be gutted under this Government?

Mr Davidson: Firstly, in response to the Honourable Member's question, I will reiterate what I have already stated publicly a number of times recently and that is that the privatisation of Sunlover Holidays is not on this Government's agenda. Yes, the operations of Sunlover are currently being

reviewed as are many of the other areas of the management and operations of the QTTC. This accords with normal practice following the appointment of a new Board. However the current review should not be interpreted in any way as being an indication that this Government is considering the privatisation of Sunlover.

The Government has confirmed this State's commitment to the National Competition Policy competitive neutrality reforms which has seen the process of corporatisation/commercialisation on the agenda for QTTC since late last year. This means that any review of Sunlover must not only look at its internal management and operations, but also examine the broader issue of how its operations impact on private sector tourism wholesalers. However, the privatisation of Sunlover's operations will not be an option that will be canvassed by this Government.

The current review of Sunlover will ensure that it is positioned to meet the ongoing needs of its clients and the tourism industry generally in the most effective and efficient manner possible. In doing so, this Government will ensure that Sunlover continues to provide a marketing, promotion and distribution mechanism for the many small tourism operators throughout the State whose products may otherwise be ignored by the private sector.

398. Upgrading, QE II Hospital

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the answer to a Question on Notice from the Member for Archerfield regarding the upgrading of the QE II Hospital which refers only to the staged implementation of initiatives already announced by the Labor Government in 1995—

- (1) What is the status of a major upgrading for the QE II Hospital ordered by the former Labor Government to improve health services to Brisbane's southside and announced by the former Minister for Health, Hon Peter Beattie on 16 October 1995?
- (2) To better clarify the matter, will he provide a more detailed response regarding the Government's intended service profile for this hospital to allay community fears that the work started by Labor will be reviewed and probably dropped off the agenda?
- (3) In doing so will he provide specific details regarding (a) function plan guiding the Government's capital works projects for the hospital, (b) new management arrangements in place to provide the hospital with increased autonomy and enhanced identity in the transition to a community hospital facility, (c) full costings associated with the upgrade and a list of all services to be provided, (d) details of the hospital's elective surgery capacity at the hospital as a result of the upgrade and (e) an action plan documenting the progress of the staged implementation process and current starting and completion dates for the upgrade of the QE II?

Mr Horan:

(1) The Government is committed to upgrading services at the Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee (QE II) Hospital and will proceed with the implementation of services first announced by the Coalition on 4 July 1995. A number of planning and budget issues need to be finalised before the upgrade of services can be completed. Not the least of these is the mess which resulted from Labor's \$1.2 billion overcommitment of the Hospital Rebuilding Program. The Government was also confronted with an attempt by former Minister Beattie to withdraw \$35 million from the Hospital Rebuilding Program, to bail-out hospital overruns. Because this action had the potential to seriously delay a number of projects, including QE II, one of my first acts as Minister was to cancel the transfer. This is one of the prudent and deliberate steps which this Government has taken to resolve the mess.

(2) The policy of this Government differs from that of the Beattie administration in that the QE II Hospital will be re-established as a full community hospital. For example, Labor had not proposed to establish intensive care or accident and emergency services at QE II—yet these are absolute commitments of the Borbidge Government. Thus, the Coalition, through QE II hospital, will provide accident and emergency, intensive care/high dependency, surgical, medical and rehabilitation services. In particular, the provision of a 30 medical ward and accident and emergency services at the Hospital are high priorities.

(3)(a) A Functional Plan and Economic Evaluation for Upgrading QE II Hospital has been completed and is being considered by Queensland Health. Presently, work is being undertaken to resolve some outstanding planning issues in south Brisbane prior to final consideration of the QE II Functional Plan.

(b) New management arrangements are in place for the QE II Hospital with the appointment of an Acting Manager for The QE II Hospital and District Health Service. In contrast to the centralised Beattie model, which lacked genuine community input, the establishment of the District will ensure that the QE II Hospital is autonomous. Moreover, in Labor's published proposal, the QE II Hospital had no autonomy from the Princess Alexandra Hospital—under the Coalition's model, QE II is fully autonomous. In this way the Borbidge Government will strengthen the Hospital's identity within the local community.

(c) Services to be provided at the QE II Hospital include accident and emergency, medical, surgical and rehabilitation services. In addition upgrading of some outpatient and clinical support services will be required to support the expanded role of the Hospital. Preliminary costings for the upgrade of services at the QE II Hospital suggest that the total recurrent cost will be in the order of approximately \$11.23 million. Costings are being finalised as part of the 1996/97 budget process.

(d) The upgrade of services at the QE II Hospital will enable the facility to enhance its surgical

capacity. It is anticipated when fully operational that the QE II Hospital will increase surgical throughput from 4,071 surgical procedures in 1994/95 to approximately 6,700 procedures by the end of 1997/98. This includes both elective and non planned surgery.

(e) The staged implementation of specific services at the QE II Hospital is being considered by Queensland Health and this Government. The final implementation plan for the upgrade of services is subject to the 1996/97 budget process.

399. Proposed Port Road, South East Freeway-Hemmant-Port of Brisbane

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

With reference to the proposed Port Road from the South East Freeway through the heart of Hemmant to the Port of Brisbane—

- (1) Will he release the 5 proposed routes to the Port of Brisbane?
- (2) Will he release the cost of the 5 proposed routes?
- (3) Was cost the only consideration for the current proposed route; if so, will residents be compensated with the savings, for savage disruption to their lives?
- (4) Has his department any documentation that the price of houses that are currently being acquired for the road corridor are over the current value?
- (5) How many houses have been acquired?
- (6) How much land has been acquired and where is that land?

Mr Johnson:

(1) Four route options for the proposed Port Road, which commences at the Gateway Motorway and not the South East Freeway, were studied and reported to the then Government in a final report in March 1992. I understand that a copy of this final report was supplied to Mr Pat Purcell for his information last year.

An Impact Assessment Study on the recommended option was commissioned, and a draft report of this study was released for public comment.

The Report on the Impact Assessment Study of the preferred Port of Brisbane Road Corridor is now being finalised, taking into account comments received, and will document the route options examined.

(2) The cost estimates of the feasible route options were included in the March 1992 final Report and the estimated cost of the preferred route will also be documented in the final Impact Assessment Study Report.

(3) The present Impact Assessment Study which was commissioned in August 1994 will finalise its findings in the near future. Following close examination of the final Study Report including the community consultation section of the Report, liaison with

Brisbane City Council, Department of the Environment and Department of Natural Resources will occur before the Government makes a decision on the Port Road later this year. Cost was not the only consideration in the proposed route. The Report details other considerations and the impact of the proposed road.

(4) The Government has continued an undertaking by the former Government to purchase in fee simple, resident's properties within the proposed road corridor on a personal hardship basis. The settlement prices accepted by owners were determined by independent valuers.

(5) Eight houses have been acquired in Hemmant at an average price of \$110,000 with the highest being paid \$136,000. Also a home business with a boat repair facility on Bulimba Creek was purchased for \$340,000.

(6) Apart from the eight houses that have been settled and three other houses being valued in Hemmant, the Government has continued in good faith to honour negotiations commenced during the period of the previous Government with K R Darling Downs Bacon Factory, Inghams Chickens, Alexanders Landscape Supplies and Winrose Skins. One Land Court hearing involving Nadco Pty Ltd is proceeding. A large parcel of land on the corner of Lindum Road and Lytton Road was acquired by agreement by the previous Government.

400. Government Employee Housing

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing—

Is he aware of proposals within his department for that department to assume the ownership and management of housing, now owned by other departments and GOEs around the State, and is he aware of concerns held by departmental employees who believe that access to housing now held as a right, or as a condition of employment, will not be guaranteed under these proposals?

Mr Connor: Last December, the Labor Government decided that ownership of Government Employee Housing would be transferred to the then Administrative Services Department. This decision is currently being reviewed prior to being considered by Cabinet and I assure the House that I will make a full statement on this subject as soon as I am able.

401. Police Staffing, Gladstone

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing—

With reference to the police district of Gladstone—

- (1) What specific action is planned by the Department of Police to address the lack of operational police in the district?
- (2) What is the time frame proposed for appointment of staff to a juvenile aide bureau?

Mr Cooper:

1. The Assistant Commissioner, Central Region advises that the authorised sworn strength of the

Gladstone District is 87 officers. On the basis of the relative workloads of each District in the Region (Gladstone, Longreach, Mackay and Rockhampton) the Assistant Commissioner does not propose to increase the strength of the Gladstone District at the expense of the others.

However, it is highly likely that the Gladstone District will, along with most others in Queensland, benefit by the decisions of this Government to increase the sworn strength of the Queensland Police Service by 2780 officers over the next 10 years and to return several hundred serving officers to operational duty by the civilianisation of their positions.

As soon as the Queensland Police Service Budget for 1996/97 is determined, the Government will be in a position to announce the timetable for the increase in police strength in Gladstone and all the other Districts.

In the interim, however, the more pressing need of the Gladstone District is the filling of existing vacancies within its current strength. The Assistant Commissioner, Central Region, is identifying Constables in the Rockhampton area, where the number of officers is well in excess of its authorised strength, who can be transferred to other Districts in the Region, including Gladstone, as soon as possible. If necessary, police from Rockhampton will be directed to relocate to other centres if sufficient volunteers are not available.

This process of filling current vacancies will be assisted by the allocation to Gladstone of two former interstate police officers, with a combined total of over 30 years police service, when they complete their Academy training later this month. A rejoinder from Queensland was resworn on 3 June 1996 and is proceeding on transfer to Gladstone.

2. The Assistant Commissioner, Central Region advises that he has previously received applications from the District Officer, Gladstone for the establishment of a two person Juvenile Aid Bureau at Gladstone.

Having regard to overall District priorities and needs, it is not deemed appropriate by the Queensland Police Service to establish the Juvenile Aid Bureau at this stage at the expense of the sworn strength of the Gladstone District C.I. Branch. However, the Assistant Commissioner advises he is supportive of a Juvenile Aid Bureau being established at Gladstone and when the authorised strength of the Region is increased in the future he will give favourable consideration to authorising its establishment within overall regional policing priorities.

402. Power Supply, National Grid

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Mines and Energy—

With reference to his answer to this Parliament during the week ending 18 May where he confirmed that a transmission line to New South Wales is still on the agenda—

- (1) Does the agreement which he has signed mean buying and selling electricity across the border?

- (2) Will this Eastlink mark II go underground, under the sea, or overhead and how much would each option cost?
- (3) Will it run through Warwick, Stanthorpe, Texas, Goondiwindi, Beaudesert or the Gold Coast?
- (4) When does he envisage that this connection to the National Grid will be operational?

Mr Gilmore:

(1) On 9 May 1996, Queensland became a founding member of the national electricity market institutions, the National Electricity Market Management Company and the National Electricity Code Administrator. By doing so Queensland has agreed that electricity generated will be sold into a common electricity pool which in turn implies that Queensland will be interconnected with the Southern States. I have said consistently that there will be interconnection but at a time of our choosing and it is my intention to see that Queensland has adequate power for our own needs from our own resources, in a competitive fashion. There have been preliminary discussions between the Queensland and New South Wales Government's regarding the issue of Queensland connecting to the National Grid. These discussions have only been preliminary in nature and not involved the development of a Power Purchase Agreement. A joint feasibility study has been proposed and will report to both State Governments mid to late 1996. The precise answers to questions on costs, route and timing of the interconnection with New South Wales will not be known until the completion of this study, which will include consultation with relevant groups.

(2) Interconnection between Queensland and the New South Wales border is expected to be an overland transmission line, but not along the Eastlink route as proposed by the previous Labor Government.

(3) A full study will be required to identify alternative routes which will provide the maximum economic benefit to Queensland with the least environmental impacts. As a route has not been identified it would be difficult to determine which areas could be affected at this time.

(4) The timing for the interconnection is subject to investigation but will be latter than the Eastlink timing enabling Queensland to reap the full benefits from it. This will allow Queensland to play its role in meeting the combined power needs of Eastern Australia by developing our vast, low cost energy resources.

403. Set-down Area, Morayfield West Primary School

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

With reference to funding for the set down area at the new Morayfield West Primary School—

- (1) Will the Department of Transport be making a contribution towards the cost of these works?
- (2) Will it be in the order of 50 per cent of the total cost as was the case with the new primary school which opened in 1996 at Narangba?

Mr Johnson: Queensland Transport has made no arrangements for financial contributions towards the provision of pick-up and set-down areas at schools opening in 1997. This year's contribution was a one-off arrangement made as the result of a Labor Party election commitment and subsequent Cabinet decision.

However, Queensland Transport is currently investigating a long term solution to provide safety facilities at new schools, by seeking to integrate the design and funding of such facilities into the planning processes for new schools.

404. Coorparoo Police Station

Mr FOLEY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing—

- (1) What are the Government's plans in relation to the Coorparoo Police Station?
- (2) Will the Coorparoo Police Station remain open in the long-term?
- (3) Will he give a clear assurance that the Coorparoo Police Station will not be downgraded?

Mr Cooper:

(1) Coorparoo Police Station has recently been upgraded from a Sergeant's station to a Senior Sergeant's station. With the upgrading to Senior Sergeant there will be some additional police allocated to that station. It is not known at this time how many additional staff will be allocated.

(2) The Queensland Police Service has no other plans other than for Coorparoo Police Station to remain open.

(3) I refer to the answer to question (1) in that Coorparoo Police Station is presently being upgraded which clearly shows there is no intention to downgrade that station.

405. Staffing, Queensland Rail, Rockhampton and Central Queensland

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

With reference to Queensland Rail facilities in Rockhampton and Central Queensland generally—

- (1) How many VER applications have been received from rail employees in the Rockhampton workshops?
- (2) How many of these will be approved?
- (3) How many employees at the Rockhampton diesel shed will be surplus to requirements after the restructuring and retraining is completed in that area?
- (4) What does Queensland Rail propose to offer these surplus employees?
- (5) Will he ensure that employees who sat the SHL test get to review those examination papers?
- (6) What is the budget for the redevelopment of the Rockhampton railway workshops?

- (7) What projects remain to be completed in this redevelopment?
- (8) When will the redevelopment be complete?
- (9) Will he honour the promise by his predecessor to keep the motor shop located at the workshops?
- (10) How many derailments have there been in the Central Queensland area since he took office?
- (11) What was the cost to Queensland Rail to these derailments?
- (12) What is he doing to prevent the recurrence?

Mr Johnson:

1. Since June 1995, 30 VERS applications have been approved. There are a further 22 outstanding applications, the respective nominated dates requested are beyond July 1996.

2. It is not considered that the 22 outstanding applications can be approved as with the current workload, there are no staff that can be considered surplus to requirements. This position will be reviewed as the new Wheel and Bogie Shop and other new shops come on line. It should be noted that an increase in workload, in respect of wagon repairs has been foreshadowed for coming years. The investment and operational procedures in the new facilities may generate efficiencies that will allow VERS to be favourably considered in some specific skill areas.

3. There are 25 Rockhampton Diesel Shed employees who are not involved in the retraining program and who will become redeployees when retraining of diesel shed staff is complete.

4. A Redeployee Support Program has already commenced in the Rockhampton Diesel Shed and all Diesel Shed employees not involved in the retraining program have been invited and encouraged to participate in the program. The program provides support, guidance and training to enable redeployment either within Queensland Rail or externally if the employee prefers.

5. The SHL numeracy and literacy tests are multiple choice and accordingly, the test papers only show the choice of A, B, C or D that the employee marked. On this basis, the examination papers are of no value to the employee who undertook the test and this has been explained to employees at the Diesel Shed. It is also a part of the licensing agreement that the actual test sheets not be released by the licensee who undertake the tests on behalf of Queensland Rail. All those who undertake the test are provided with personal feedback by the Consultant on their results, its interpretation and advice on their needs with respect to numeracy and literacy by the Consultant.

6. The budget for the redevelopment of Rockhampton Workshops is \$21.2 million.

7. Areas to be completed include the new locomotive repair shop (\$4.4 million), the new Paint Shop (\$1.1 million) and the upgrade of the existing Fabrication Shop, Site Services and the provision of new staff amenities, site security, pollution control systems, car parks and site landscaping.

8. The development will be complete by mid-1997.

9. The Motor Shop will be retained at the Workshops in its present location in the refurbished building adjacent to the old air-conditioned train shed.

10. As background information, QR operates 14,500 items of rollingstock covering more than 30 million kilometres per year.

There have been five main line derailments in Central Queensland in the four months since taking office in February. The 1996 Central Queensland derailment rate is to date equivalent to 18.4 derailments per year. There were 28 derailments in Central Queensland in 1995 so there is an encouraging downwards trend, although it is not possible to be certain over a relatively short time period.

11. The cost of derailments can take several months to assess, as repairs to rollingstock may not be carried out immediately. Three of the four derailments have had costs assessed to date totalling \$282,000. (The costs of the major derailment of 17 wagons on the Moura Line on 1 May 1996 are not yet available.)

12. The Minister commissioned an independent audit of safety and security matters in Queensland Rail on 27 March 1996. This includes an audit of track maintenance standards. The audit is in progress.

In addition, the Government in conjunction with Queensland Rail, is considering options for track upgrading in various regions of the State, for example; a proposal is being considered which allows for the re-alignment and reconstruction of the railway over the Drummond Range between Emerald and Alpha.

The attached list of derailments shows the corrective recommendations arising from each individual investigation to be implemented.

QR is also implementing a comprehensive five year plan for reducing derailments which addresses infrastructure, rollingstock, operations, and investigation.

QR strategies for reducing derailment risks include improvements to driver training using computerised simulators, the ongoing upgrading of track on the North Coast Line, and the recently completed Gladstone to Blackwater track upgrading at a cost of \$114M.

406. Busway Corridor, Nundah Electorate

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—

- (1) Is his department planning to construct busways in the two transport corridors (located near the Woolloowin railway line and Junction Road, and Leckie Road Kedron); if so, what impact will these busways have on nearby residents in Kedron, Woolloowin, Eagle Junction and Kalinga?
- (2) Will homes have to be resumed and will businesses along Junction Road be affected?

Mr Johnson:

1. There is no current proposal to construct a busway in these corridors.

The primary focus in this area regarding improving public transport will be the development of the airport rail link by the private sector.

The corridors may be considered for public transport and bikeways in the longer term.

2. As there is no current proposal to construct busways in these corridors, there are no resulting resumptions or impacts on businesses.

407. Paid Maternity Leave

Ms BLIGH asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts—

With reference to the recent decision to grant six weeks paid maternity leave to Queensland Public Servants—

- (1) What is the estimated cost of this initiative?
- (2) On what basis has the initiative been costed?
- (3) What was the uptake in 1994-95 of the existing unpaid maternity leave provision in each department?
- (4) At what level were officers who utilised unpaid maternity leave in 1994-95 employed in each of these departments?
- (5) What was the return rate of staff who utilised unpaid maternity leave in 1994-95?
- (6) When will paid maternity leave be extended to twelve weeks?

Mrs Sheldon:

(1) The estimated cost of providing six weeks paid maternity leave to employees in Queensland Government Departments is \$15m-\$17m for 1996-97.

(2) The initiative was costed using information supplied by the Office of the Public Service on current numbers of employees eligible for the provision, their averaged salaries with associated on-costs and the current rates of their use of the unpaid maternity leave provision.

(3), (4) & (5) These figures are not centrally collected and would need to be obtained from each department.

(6) Six weeks of paid maternity leave is the current business and industry standard in Australia. Within the past two years this level of provision has extended through the banking and insurance industries and in the manufacturing sector. There is no government intention to extend the provision at this time.

408. Beach Erosion, Gold Coast

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Environment—

With reference to the recent heavy losses of sand from many Gold Coast beaches during recent storms—

- (1) Will the Queensland Government, and the Department of Environment, in particular, assist with rehabilitation of these beaches?
- (2) What form of rehabilitation will this assistance take?

- (3) What funding will be allocated to this work?
- (4) Is he prepared to allow natural processes to replenish these beaches; if so, over what time frame would he expect this replenishment to occur?
- (5) Is he prepared to fast track work on the Tweed by-pass to speed up this natural replenishment?

Mr Littleproud:

(1) The Queensland Government provides a 25% subsidy for approved beach nourishment works which form part of Coastal Management Plans approved pursuant to the Beach Protection Act, or capital works which are recommended by the Beach Protection Authority. A Coastal Management Plan is current for the Gold Coast City beaches, however implementation and funding of the plan is council's responsibility, subject to subsidy provisions.

In addition, the Department of Environment through the Beach Protection Authority will provide technical assistance to the council when requested to assist in rehabilitation of the beaches.

Assistance is also available to council under the Natural Disaster Relief arrangements. These well established arrangements provide a cost sharing formula as well as a range of pre-agreed relief and assistance measures which may be activated by the Queensland Government immediately that a need has been established. Funding is provided to Government agencies and Local Government to facilitate the restoration of public assets. While beach clean up costs will be eligible under the scheme, beaches are not considered constructed assets eligible for funds under this scheme. Assistance to Local Governments is administered through the Department of Local Government and Planning.

(2) Refer to Answer (1).

(3) Refer to Answer (1)

(4) The recent erosion at the Gold Coast is part of the normal and expected variations of nature. The Coastal Management Plan for the Gold Coast provides for a buffer zone of dunes so these normal beach fluctuations of erosion and subsequent recovery can occur without threat to property or beach amenity.

Gold Coast beaches have substantially recovered from previous and similar erosion in one to two years. Initial recovery can be rapid if weather conditions are storm free, although full dune rebuilding will take longer than the initial beach recovery.

Should council wish to accelerate the recovery by artificial beach nourishment or other methods, my Department will provide assistance to expedite the works in accordance with current funding and approval processes.

The Queensland Government, with assistance from Gold Coast City Council is also funding the Tweed River Entrance Sand Bypassing Project which has supplied sand to southern Gold Coast beaches. I note that despite the erosion, the southern Gold Coast beaches were less affected than elsewhere at the Gold Coast.

(5) The arrangements between Queensland and New South Wales already allow for sand to be placed on southern Gold Coast beaches when required prior to the start of the permanent bypassing.

The Government has been working cooperatively with New South Wales to ensure that this project is completed as soon as possible. There are necessary lead times in the design and construction of major works like the sand by-passing system.

409. Court Action by Mount Isa Mines

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Environment—

With reference to recent court action taken by Mt Isa Mines (MIM) against the State Government over licensing conditions for a gold mining operation at Ravenswood (Carpentaria Gold) in Far North Queensland—

- (1) Why was the company obliged to take such action under the provisions of the EPA as stated by a company spokesman?
- (2) Which provisions of the EPA were being referred to?
- (3) What flammable and combustible liquids are stored on the lease in question?
- (4) What permit was required from the local council for the storage of these liquids?
- (5) Is it true that under the EPA the local council is not authorised to issue such a permit?
- (6) Does he intend to amend the Environment Protection Act or its regulations in response to this court challenge; if so, in which way?

Mr Littleproud: This question relates to the administration of the Environmental Protection Act 1994 with respect to premises which are covered by a mining lease. The Department of Mines and Energy is the delegated administering authority under the Act for such premises. The matters referred to relate to specific dealings between that department and the company.

410. Narangba Industrial Estate

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment—

With reference to the final draft of the development control plan for the Narangba Industrial Estate which I understand has recently been received by the Department of Tourism, Small Business and Industry and as this estate has been the source of repeated noise and odour complaints from neighbouring residents—

- (1) Has the Department of Environment had input into the draft development control plan?
- (2) Have the issues of noise and odour pollution from the estate been adequately addressed in the draft plan; if not, will he ensure that these concerns are addressed in the whole of Government response to the draft document?
- (3) Will the local community consultative group have input into the final plan?
- (4) When will the plan go on public display and when will it be finalised?

(5) In light of the environmental problems that have come from the estate and the closeness of residential development, will he oppose any future expansion of the estate?

Mr Littleproud:

(1) Officers of the Department of Environment have been involved throughout the planning process for Narangba Industrial Estate. The Department of Local Government and Planning has referred the draft Development Control Plan (DCP) to the Department of Environment for comment.

(2) Noise and odour issues were addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement for the estate. In reviewing the draft DCP, officers will be providing advice on the adequacy of planning provisions to deal with environmental issues, including noise and odour.

(3) The Department of Tourism, Small Business and Industry will be holding workshops during this period on the draft DCP to enable informed public input into the plan.

(4) The Department of Tourism, Small Business and Industry has advised that they anticipate the DCP to go on public display at the end of June 1996. The date for finalisation of the DCP is dependent upon the complexity and number of objections received during the public display period.

(5) That would be subject to Departmental advice.

411. Sandgate Special School

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the Sandgate Special School which at the beginning of the 1996 school year closed its doors and became a Special Education Unit attached to the Sandgate and District State High School, with the primary school aged children transferring to the newly created Special Education Unit at the Bracken Ridge State School—

- (1) Why is the playground equipment, which was installed at the Sandgate Special School in late 1994 by the previous Labor Government, still standing idle at that site and has not been transferred to the Special Education Unit at Bracken Ridge?
- (2) Will he explain to the children and their parents attached to the Special Education Unit at Bracken Ridge State School, and to the general school community, why, after nearly four months, there is still no indication of whether the playground equipment will be relocated from its former site at Sandgate to Bracken Ridge?
- (3) Will he give an indication of when the playground equipment will be relocated?
- (4) Will he direct his department to cover the cost of the relocation of the playground equipment; if not, why not?

Mr Quinn: (1), (2), (3) & (4) The Sandgate Special School closed in December 1995. At this time it was intended for the class at Bracken Ridge State School to be an integration class that would access, among other things, one of the two existing play structures at the school.

During negotiations for the provision of physical resources to enable the establishment of an integration class, no mention was made of the need for the relocation of playground equipment. If mention had been made, funding would have been provided from the Sandgate Special School Grant account before dispersal to the schools which accepted the children.

As this proposal has been raised following the negotiations on necessary equipment and materials, the funding available for relocation is from the Regional minor works budget. All money available for minor works in the 1995/96 financial year, is at this stage, expended, or committed.

In light of this fact, a request has been made for Q-Build to relocate the equipment and invoice the Region, in the 1996/97 financial year. Information provided to me today has indicated that Q-Build has called tenders for this project and that relocation work is scheduled to commence in early July.

412.Premier

Mr BEATTIE asked the Premier—

With reference to the fact that I had to stand in for him when he wimped out of a recent informal dinner with up to 100 Aboriginal leaders in Brisbane with less than 24 hours' notice citing a fear of demonstrators and also to the fact that again at the last minute I had to stand in for him when he also wimped out of an interview with Channel Seven's *Witness*, shown on 15 May, on the Cape York Land Use Agreement, of which he was so much on favour in February—

Why did he wimp out of these long-standing commitments and what sort of message does he believe this sort of behaviour sends to Queenslanders about his leadership abilities?

Mr Borbidge: Issues relating to my daily itinerary and appointments are not the business of the Opposition.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**415. Tourism, Small Business and Industry Portfolio, Environment Section**

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry (9/7/96)—

With reference to his plans to establish an environment section within his portfolio to service the needs of the tourism industry—

- (1) How many staff will be in this section and at what classifications?
- (2) Will it be regionalised or head office based?
- (3) What allocation is he seeking for it in the coming State budget?
- (4) What qualifications will be sought for staff in this section?
- (5) What will be their working relationship with the Department of Environment?
- (6) Will his Director-General be entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Director-General of the Department of Environment to set out clearly this working relationship?
- (7) Will he be seeking a devolution of powers to his department to administer environmental legislation as occurs with the Department of Mines and Energy?

Mr Davidson (18/7/96):

- (1) The number of staff and their classifications have yet to be finalised as the resourcing of the Office of Tourism will be determined as part of the budget process.
- (2) Currently, my Department delivers its tourism services through head office. However, I envisage that my Department's regional offices will take a greater role in tourism in the future.
- (3) The tourism program budget allocation has not been determined at this stage. It will be the subject of the normal budget process.
- (4) The qualifications needed by staff will be determined as part of the process of determining classifications.
- (5) The Office of Tourism continues to work closely with the Department of Environment on environmental matters affecting tourism. I expect this close working relationship to continue into the future.
- (6) I do not consider that a Memorandum of Understanding is necessary at this stage.
- (7) I am not seeking powers to administer environmental legislation at this stage.

416. Department of Environment, Retrenchment of Temporary Staff

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (9/7/96)—

With reference to recent terminations of temporary staff in the contaminated land section of the Department of Environment—

- (1) How many staff have left and how many will be terminated between now and September 1996?

- (2) How many of these were working on the contaminated land register?
- (3) How many staff were working on the register prior to these retrenchments?
- (4) Will he give a guarantee that the register can maintain the level of service it was delivering prior to these staff changes?

Mr Littleproud (25/7/96):

- (1) A total of 11 temporary staff were employed to work on a one-off project to review and validate data on the Contaminated Sites Register (CSR) over a specified period. Three of the staff left of their own accord before the end of their contracts while another 4 had their contracts expire on 28 June 1996. Appointments for the remaining 4 staff have been extended to 13 September 1996 when the project is expected to be completed.
- (2) All of these staff were undertaking assignments on the CSR in the specific project areas of data validation and quality assurance and not on the ongoing program of CSR searches or other service delivery areas.
- (3) Three permanent staff have been employed to work on the CSR since 1994. These staff will continue to provide the same range of services to the public as required by the Contaminated Land Act.
- (4) The CSR review work completed to date has greatly increased the level of accuracy of information held on the register. The three permanent staff employed to search, update and validate new data entered on the CSR will be able to provide an improved service through using the Quality Assurance System put in place as a result of the above project.

418. Prison Cells

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (9/7/96)—

- (1) Has he investigated the impact on the numbers of additional prison cells which will be required by the Government's policies on law and order as I note that his announcement of 25 March 1996 on new prisons did not take this factor into account?
- (2) How many additional prison cells will be required?
- (3) What will be the timeframe for construction of those additional cells?
- (4) What will be the locations of the necessary additional new prisons?
- (5) What is the projected cost of those additional new prison cells?

Mr Cooper (23/7/96):

- (1) Consideration has been given to the impact on additional prison cells of the Governments policies on Law and Order. That impact will be dependent on the implementation process, which will be phased in over a period of time.
- (2) A number of options exist for the phasing in of the Government's policy initiatives. Detailed work is

being undertaken regarding these options and it is too early at this stage to quote definitive numbers of prison cells.

(3) The QCSC operates on a planning time line of two years for the construction of new correctional centres. Expansion of existing centres is achievable in a shorter time frame. Details regarding commencement and completion dates of new facilities will be determined once the appropriate options have been finalised. As noted in (1), infrastructure planning and provision will keep pace with policy implementation.

(4) Details regarding size and location of required infrastructure will be determined once decisions have been made regarding the best options for phasing in of the policy initiatives.

(5) Costs will be determined when (2) is complete.

419. Aboriginal Welfare Fund; Office of Community and Personal Histories

Mr BRISKEY asked the Premier (9/7/96)—

With reference to plans to develop a new Office of Community and Personal Histories, to allow Aboriginal people to access documents relating to the Aboriginal Welfare Fund—

- (1) Has this office been established?
- (2) How many public service positions have been allocated to the office?
- (3) How many of these positions have been filled?
- (4) Who heads the office and at what classification?
- (5) What level of funding has been allocated to the office?
- (6) What level of funding is being sought from the coming State budget for this office?
- (7) What level of funds are presently in the welfare fund?
- (8) Can Aboriginal people access documents relating to the fund; if not, when will this be possible?
- (9) What procedure will Aboriginal people need to follow to access these documents?
- (10) Will any of these documents be off limits to Aboriginal people?
- (11) Will he support the setting up of an inquiry to put to rest once and for all this sorry chapter in Queensland's Aboriginal history?
- (12) Will he give a guarantee that no funds will be drawn from the welfare fund to cover the administrative costs of this new office?

Mr Borbidge (22/7/96):

(1) The Department of Families, Youth and Community Care established an office of Community and Personal Histories in January 1993. This office enables Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to obtain available information about themselves and their families.

However a new Records/Research Room maintained by the Aborigines Welfare Fund Unit has been established recently to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to obtain details specifically

relating to the Aborigines Welfare Fund and the Aboriginal Accounts.

(2) The Aborigines Welfare Fund Unit has been operating for the past 18 months with a staff of five persons. An additional 6 persons are being recruited for the Unit.

(3) In accordance with Public Service Standards the existing and new positions were advertised recently in the *Courier-Mail* and in the *Government Gazette*. Applications are being appraised and candidates are being shortlisted for interview.

(4) The Acting Manager of the Unit is paid at the AO7 salary level.

(5) Expenditure on the Aborigines Welfare Fund Unit for 1995/96 was \$295,023.

(6) The budget allocation for the Unit for 1996/97 will be determined after the State Budget has been announced.

(7) The balance of the Aborigines Welfare Fund is \$6.4M.

(8) Yes. For some time Aboriginal people have been accessing the records of the Fund and the Accounts held at the Queensland State Archives.

(9) A new area was recently established to assist Aboriginal and Islander people and their representatives to undertake research with greater privacy.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and researchers seeking access to records can contact the Department either personally or by phone.

A copy of a departmental guide to records has been produced to assist such inquiries. In addition, staff of the Aborigines Welfare Fund Unit will assist individuals and researchers to obtain access to the records held in the various locations.

The Queensland State Archives also provides public access to records in the Public Search Room.

(10) Records of the Aborigines Welfare Fund and the Aboriginal Accounts are public records within the meaning of the Libraries and Archives Act 1988 and therefore are subject to the access provision of the Libraries and Archives Regulations 1990, the Freedom of Information Act 1992, and other legislation such as the Adoption of Children Act 1964 and the Criminal Law (Rehabilitation of Offenders) Act 1986.

(11) In 1990 the then Department of Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs commissioned the Consultancy Bureau to undertake an independent investigation into the Fund and the accounts. The report was released publicly.

The Department of Families, Youth and Community Care is presently undertaking a comprehensive analysis of the Fund. A decision will be made with respect to the Fund on completion of this analysis.

(12) Yes.

421. Hazardous Liquid Waste Treatment Plants

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Environment (9/7/96)—

With reference to his plans to take over responsibility for hazardous waste liquid treatment in

Queensland from local authorities, particularly the Brisbane City Council—

- (1) When will this occur?
- (2) Does he intend to close the Willawong liquid waste facility; if so, when?
- (3) If not, what plans does he have to (a) modernise it, (b) at what cost and (c) to accept what wastes?
- (4) If an alternative site is being sought, what selection criteria and process will be used in this selection?
- (5) Is he looking at more than one liquid waste treatment facility in Queensland; if so, which regional centres are under consideration?
- (6) Does he support use of the Luggage Point site selected by the Brisbane City Council's study for a new waste treatment facility?
- (7) Does he intend to continue using Gurulmundi as a secure storage facility for fixed wastes coming from the Willawong facility?
- (8) If additional waste treatment facilities are to be built in Queensland, will wastes from these also go to Gurulmundi; if so, will the agreement with Murilla Shire be re-written?
- (9) Does he intend to place Gurulmundi under State ownership?
- (10) If he closes Gurulmundi, where does he intend to send the wastes currently going there?
- (11) Has he held discussions with any private waste management companies about privatising the treatment of hazardous liquid wastes; if so, which companies and what were the outcomes of those discussions?
- (12) What funding is he seeking in the coming State budget for this work?

Mr Littleproud (25/7/96):

1. The State Government has no policy to become an operator of hazardous waste facilities.
2. The Lord Mayor of Brisbane has indicated his intention to close the Willawong facility in approximately two year's time. This government is working towards establishing hazardous waste treatment facilities owned and operated by the private sector, though joint ventures with local governments remain an option. This would allow the Willawong plant to close.
3. Does not require an answer.
4. The Government is not seeking an alternative site. The private sector will find their own sites and follow normal land use and other legislative approval processes.
5. The number of waste treatment facilities will depend on the private sector determining their economic viability. It is expected facilities would be provided on a regional basis. No sites are under investigation by government.
6. I support a waste treatment facility at a location shown through an Impact Assessment Study to have a low environmental risk, including transport implications. No such study has yet been done, and I am not able to respond on the above basis.

7. I am determined to close the facility as soon as possible when the capability exists to treat and destroy intractable wastes, rather than to inter them in the Gurulmundi secure landfill.

8. This question is premature as additional waste treatment facilities, to that at Willawong, have not yet been built and therefore there is no knowledge on whether they will produce a waste for which secure interment is required.

9. No.

10. Closure of Gurulmundi will only occur when proven alternatives are available.

11. While I can confirm I have had discussions with reputable and experienced waste disposal companies about private sector treatment of hazardous wastes, the names of the companies and outcomes of these discussions are commercially confidential.

12. I am seeking in the 1996-97 Budget funding to implement the Queensland Waste Management Strategy. Details will be made available when the budget is delivered.

423. Redcliffe Neighbourhood Centre

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (9/7/96)—

With reference to an application for funding by the Redcliffe Neighbourhood Centre under the Family and Individual Support Program (FISP) and the answer provided to this centre by a pro-forma letter addressed to "Dear Service Provider"—

- (1) Is this the standard of reply that the Redcliffe community can expect from his office and department?
- (2) As support for this centre was promised by the previous Minister, Mrs Woodgate, will he reconsider this negative response to the neighbourhood centre's application?

Mr LINGARD (15/7/96):

(1) The letter received by the organisation is only one part of the information that is provided in response to funding applications. There had been ongoing contact by regional staff of my department with this organisation prior to the application being submitted, while the application was being considered and finally when the application was unsuccessful.

(2) All applications for funding are considered in the context of statewide needs, the funds available and identified priorities. The 1995-96 State Plan identified that priority would be given to improving the viability of partially funded non-government owned neighbourhood centres and enhancing those existing funded services which were experiencing significant increases in demand. The application by the Redcliffe Neighbourhood Centre Incorporated was not considered to fall within these priorities.

424. Disabled Persons Ward, Maryborough Base Hospital

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (9/7/96)—

(1) Will the disabled persons ward at Maryborough be closed; if so, will the residents be placed into the community with the necessary back-up support and assistance required to guarantee they enjoy as near as possible a normal lifestyle?

(2) When will a decision be made in this matter?

Mr Lingard (15/7/96): (1) & (2) Yes, it is my intention that the Disabled Persons' Ward at Maryborough Base Hospital will close by June 1997. Five people have already moved from the Ward to live in the community. The remaining 25 people will be assisted to move to the community over the next year. My Department is committed to assisting these people to move to the community in a manner that is well planned and adequately resourced, thereby ensuring their safety and wellbeing.

427. Alumina Refinery, Gladstone

Mr D'ARCY asked the Premier (9/7/96)—

With reference to the *Courier-Mail* report of 8 July that RTZ CRA has broken off negotiations to build a new alumina refinery in Gladstone—

- (1) Who has been negotiating on behalf of the Government?
- (2) What has been the time frame of the negotiations?
- (3) Will he outline the main points of the difficulty with the negotiations?
- (4) What steps is he now taking to secure this most important facility for Queensland?

Mr Borbidge (24/7/96):

(1) The negotiating team has comprised the chief executives of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Department of Economic Development and Trade and Queensland Treasury and senior officers of these Departments and the Department of Mines and Energy and the Department of Tourism, Small Business and Industry.

(2) Comalco has investigated the siting of an alumina refinery in Queensland a number of times as far back as 1983.

The current investigation was first discussed with Government in September 1995 but Comalco's detailed proposals for energy and other arrangements were not submitted to Government until 30 May 1996.

(3) Comalco has been seeking high levels of financial assistance and risk acceptance from Government in order to secure a Gladstone site for a final feasibility study. The Government and Comalco have discussed these matters in detail but have not as yet reached any agreement.

The Government has indicated that, whilst it is keen to secure the project for Queensland, it is not prepared to either underwrite the profits of Comalco or to attract development at a price that would act to the detriment of the State as a whole.

The Government is mindful of negotiations undertaken by the previous government with Comalco over the proposed sale of the Gladstone Power Station, where the Government effectively

committed itself to the sale prior to finalisation of all commercial arrangements and thereby achieved a less than optimal outcome.

The Government is continuing work on this potentially very important project.

Finally, this Government does not believe it is appropriate to conduct sensitive commercial negotiations by premature release of details in Parliament.

(4) Refer to 3 above.

438. Zinc Coating Line, Murarrie

Mr PURCELL asked the Premier (9/7/96)—

- (1) Will the Government consider suppressing BHP's application for a zinc coating line at Murarrie in view of concerns expressed by all the local residents?
- (2) Will the Government consider purchasing the site and put it to better use for the residents instead of expending \$7m on rail and road infrastructure for BHP's use at this site?
- (3) Have the Government's environmental officers studied the impact study; if so, will he supply me with a copy of the report?
- (4) As the State Government owns appropriate land nearer to the port, with access to the Gateway and South East Freeway away from residences, which is not being put to any use, will the Government consider making approaches to BHP to purchase this instead of the Murarrie site?
- (5) Does he know what it cost the previous administration to relocate noxious industry from Murarrie and does he consider that his or future Governments will pay to relocate any future noxious industry from this area?

Mr Borbidge (24/7/96):

(1) BHP's proposal will make an important contribution to the State's economic base and this Government supports projects of this type: high tech, carefully engineered and built to high environmental standards. The company's application to rezone land at Murarrie is currently being considered by Brisbane City Council—the proper authority for making such decisions. This Government would not consider breaking into a statutory process which is legitimately running its course.

(2) The Government will not purchase the land in question. The previous Administration offered to upgrade infrastructure in the vicinity of the proposed site to the extent of \$7 million (in round figures). This Government does not intend to renege on that undertaking.

(3) Yes. Officers of the Department of Environment studied the Environmental Impact Study. That report is in the custodianship of the Honourable Minister for Environment and I suggest that Mr Purcell approaches that Minister.

(4) No.

(5) Yes. I am aware that the previous Government spent \$9 million of taxpayers' money to remove A J

Bush from this area. If the Honourable Member for Bulimba is suggesting that the BHP proposal will be a noxious and offensive industry, I would draw his attention to the words of the then Labor Premier, Mr Goss, and I quote from the *Courier-Mail* of 2 December 1995—"but Premier Wayne Gos . . . said the full environmental impact study required would ensure the plant was built to the world's highest environmental standards."

444. Director-General, Department of Families, Youth and Community Care

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (9/7/96)—

With reference to the employment arrangements concerning the Director-General of his department—

- (1) What are the terms and conditions of employment enjoyed by his Director-General?
- (2) Does his department provide his Director-General with subsidised accommodation; if so, how much is this subsidy worth per annum and by whom is it paid?
- (3) How much time and energy does his Director-General still give to the Shaftesbury Centre, and does this work detract from his departmental responsibilities?

Mr Lingard (15/7/96):

- (1) The Reverend Allan Male as Director-General is employed under a standard contract arrangement as Chief Executive Officer.
- (2) The Department does not provide the Reverend Male with subsidised accommodation.
- (3) Reverend Male, as Chief Executive Officer of a large and diverse Department, works well beyond the standard public service hours including nights and weekends. He is also on call at all times in the event of an emergency. He continues to provide advice to the Shaftesbury Centre in an honorary capacity in his own time.

446. Domestic Violence

Ms SPENCE asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (10/7/96)—

- (1) Does he fully support the child witness to domestic violence initiative established by the previous Government?
- (2) Will he stand by his promise made on 27 May to spend an extra \$1m to lift the State's domestic violence prevention budget to \$11.5m?
- (3) Will he give a commitment to make the full \$245,000 which has been allocated to the initiative available to the Domestic Violence Resource Centre immediately?
- (4) Will he give a commitment not to reduce funding for domestic violence groups that service victims in order to fund his promises to expand the programs to provide assistance for perpetrators?

Mr Lingard (24/7/96):

- (1) The Government recognises the need for services for children who are affected by domestic

violence. Funds were recently approved for eleven specialist children's counsellors under the Domestic Violence Initiatives Program. These counsellors are now being recruited and will be based at Domestic Violence Regional Services throughout Queensland.

(2) The Government is dedicated to delivering enhanced services to all groups affected by domestic violence in our community. The funds of \$1 million I announced on 27 May have now been committed.

(3) A total of \$250,000 has been committed to establish the State-wide Children and Domestic Violence Prevention Service and expand the capacity of the State-wide Domestic Violence Telephone Counselling Service to increase access to services for all people affected by domestic violence.

(4) The new initiatives being taken by the Government will not detract from services for victims of domestic violence. Rather they are aimed at improving the situation for women, and all family members. Victims of domestic violence will continue to receive appropriate supports from my Department.

448. Department of Economic Development and Trade, Gladstone Office

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Economic Development and Trade and Minister Assisting the Premier (10/7/96)—

- (1) When will the departmental office be opened in Gladstone?
- (2) What staffing level is proposed?

Mr Slack (24/7/96):

(1) The lease for the new Office took effect from 1 July 1996. Department of Economic Development and Trade staff will be placed in the Office as soon as possible. Until permanent appointments are made to the positions, the Office will be managed by temporary staff.

(2) The office will be staffed by two (2) full-time staff—Economic Development Officer (AO8) and Administrative Assistant (AO2).

450. Community Corrections, Caboolture Region

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (10/7/96)—

With reference to the dissolution of the Community Corrections Region administered from Caboolture—

- (1) What savings will be made as a consequence of the decision?
- (2) What is the staff establishment for the regional office?
- (3) How many staff from the regional office will be redeployed?
- (4) How many staff from the regional office will lose their jobs?
- (5) How many staff from other offices of Community Corrections will be terminated consequential to the closure?

- (6) Which other regional offices will assume responsibility for the supervision of each of the area offices presently supervised by the Caboolture regional office?

Mr Cooper (23/7/96):

(1) The expected savings are in the region of \$300,000 per annum. Additional savings in the vicinity of \$25,000 will be made once the lease for office accommodation has been re-assigned. The QCSC will collaborate with the Works Department to identify another tenant.

(2) The staff establishment consists of one Regional Manager (vacant) and three staff. An additional officer is seconded to the Region to implement core programs and coordinate staff training.

(3) The three permanent staff have been offered redeployment in other Commission offices/correctional centres or have been given the option of Voluntary Early Retirement.

(4) No officer will be involuntarily terminated. All three officers have been offered redeployment to similar positions within a reasonable distance of the Caboolture office. The Regional Manager position is currently vacant and will not be filled.

(5) No permanent officer from any Community Corrections Office will be terminated as a result of the closure of the Near North Coast and West Moreton Regional Office. One officer, currently on secondment to the Regional Office in the non-establishment position of Regional Program and Training Officer, will return to duties as a Community Correctional Officer.

The officer currently acting as Regional Manager will return to his position as Area Manager. These positions have been filled, in their absence, on a casual basis.

(6) The area offices currently administered by the Near North Coast and West Moreton Region will be distributed amongst the Central and Metropolitan Regions. This will be achieved by a re-assignment of area offices to regional offices to ensure an equal workload across regions. The boundaries of all regions have been adjusted as a result of the closure.

451. Community Facilities Program

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Environment (10/7/96)—

With reference to the Community Facilities Program instituted by the previous Labor Government to offset the impacts on local communities of the proposed Gold Coast Motorway and following the scrapping of the northern section of this motorway that Government decided to maintain funding for the bulk of the program—

- (1) Is he intending to maintain funding to the various projects Labor agreed to fund?
- (2) Has he sought funding for these projects in the coming State budget?
- (3) If he does not intend to maintain the program as a whole, which projects is he intending to drop?

- (4) What is his justification for departing from these Government commitments?

- (5) Does he have the support of coalition backbenchers holding seats in which these projects were originally promised?

Mr Littleproud (25/7/96):

(1) Funding for all projects under the Community Facilities Program has been cancelled except for those projects which could be reasonably managed within the objectives of Koala Coast Protection Plan. Expenditure previously incurred on cancelled projects will be reimbursed.

(2) Funding for these projects is being sought through normal budgetary processes.

(3) As stated above funding for all projects under the Community Facilities Program has been cancelled except for those projects which could be reasonably managed within the objectives of Koala Coast Protection Plan. Projects to be funded include:

Capalaba to Thorneside multi-purpose trail—\$350,000

Avalon Road multi-purpose trail—\$130,000

Mt Cotton to Venman's walking trail—\$170,000

(4) The Community Facilities Program was established by the previous Government in association with its decision to construct the South Coast Motorway. As there is no intention to proceed with the motorway this justification to provide funding for these projects no longer exists.

(5) It has to be remembered that the Community Facilities Program as proposed by the lost, but not lamented, Labor Government was possibly the greatest example of unaffordable and unjustifiable pork barrelling in living memory. Any member holding a seat in an area to be so benefited would be delighted if it came off. But members on this side of the House live in a real world and know what is achievable and what is simply pie in the sky.

452. Trade with Indonesia

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Premier (10/7/96)—

With reference to the Federal Government's plans to abandon the successful DIFF Scheme (Development Infrastructure Finance Fund) and the impact this will have on Queensland companies and Queensland's business relationship with Indonesia—

- (1) Were the Federal Government plans raised with him on his recent visit to Indonesia and particularly in his meeting with President Suharto; if so, what action did he take on his return to Queensland to bring these concerns to the attention of his Federal colleagues, particularly the Prime Minister and the Foreign Affairs Minister?
- (2) What result did he get from his Federal colleagues?
- (3) Which Queensland companies will be affected if the DIFF Scheme is scrapped?
- (4) Which of these companies are currently involved with Indonesian companies and their Government via the DIFF Scheme?

- (5) Which of these companies are environmentally based?
- (6) What impact will the scrapping of these contracts have on Queensland's business relationship with Indonesia?
- (7) What action is he planning to alleviate the impacts on these companies and to protect Queensland's trading relationship with Indonesia?

Mr Borbidge (24/7/96):

(1) President Suharto did not raise this specific issue with me during my visit. However, I am very grateful for the question, as it gives me the opportunity to congratulate my colleague the Hon Doug Slack, Minister for Economic Development and Trade, on the actions he has taken with the Commonwealth Government on this matter. The Minister has actively pursued this matter with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, the Hon Tim Fischer, both in writing and at a recent National Trade Strategy Ministerial Meeting in Darwin. Mr Slack was instrumental in bringing to the attention of the Deputy Prime Minister, the practical effects on business of the manner of the abolition of DIFF and its impact on relationships with our Asian trading partners.

(2) As a consequence of the strong representations made, the Deputy Prime Minister undertook to personally convey these views to the Hon Alexander Downer, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who is responsible for DIFF. He also undertook to request Mr Downer to investigate whether DIFF might be phased out, with project decisions taken on a case by case basis, recognising the number of infrastructure projects currently at an advanced stage in negotiations.

Mr Fisher was further requested to pursue ways and means by which the continuing aid vote might be used to ameliorate the impact of the abolition of the DIFF scheme and that the Commonwealth Government, in close consultation with the State Governments, investigate an appropriate replacement scheme for DIFF.

I understand that the Deputy Prime Minister has since followed up these issues with the Minister for Foreign Affairs and we will continue to take every opportunity to press our position with him. Mr Downer has previously given an undertaking that all Australian firms that have a Letter of Formal Offer from AusAID for this financial year will receive DIFF funding. The Commonwealth Government has also announced a review, with wide terms of reference, of Australia's aid program, which will incorporate the views of the States in relation to the need for an ongoing program providing concessional finance for major overseas capital projects.

(3) DIFF is a Commonwealth Government program administered through AusAID. Details of Queensland companies which may have sought DIFF funding, and therefore may be affected by the termination of the program, are "Commercial-in-Confidence" and are not publicly available. Questions regarding details of Queensland clients of DIFF should be directed to the State AusAID Office.

(4) See response to (3) above.

(5) See response to (3) above.

(6) Queensland's business relationship with Indonesia is stronger now than it has ever been and my Government's active policy of facilitating growth in trade and investment with Indonesia will ensure that the business relationship continues to grow.

(7) During my recent visit to Indonesia I met with President Suharto and other senior Indonesian Government officials to reinforce the Queensland Government's commitment to our strong trading and cultural relationship with Indonesia. My Government is currently considering establishing a Queensland Trade and Investment Office in Jakarta to complement our existing Sister State Relationship with Central Java. Regular Ministerial and business trade missions to Indonesia have been scheduled over the next twelve months and we are confident that this robust program will continue to deliver real benefits to Queensland business.

454. Rev. A. Male; Shaftesbury Citizenship Centre

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (10/7/96)—

With reference to Moconochie Lodge located at the Shaftesbury Citizenship Campus at Deception Bay, a correctional facility operated by the Reverend Alan Male who is a private provider of correctional services and accommodation to the Queensland Correctional Services Commission (QCCS)—

- (1) What is the annual funding provided to this facility?
- (2) What was the average occupancy per month for this facility in 1995?
- (3) As a private provider to the Correctional Services Commission, does the Reverend Alan Male, his family or private companies owned by him derive any benefits from Government funding?

Mr Cooper (23/7/96):

(1) The centre management fee is paid according to a contract. The amount paid for the 1995/96 financial year (including CPI increases) was \$340,000.

(2) The average occupancy for the 1995/96 financial year was 15 offenders.

(3) The contract for the operation of Moconochie Lodge is between the QCSC and the Shaftesbury Citizenship Centre Incorporated. The Reverend Allan Male was Executive Director of Shaftesbury Citizenship Centre Incorporated. The terms of any agreements between Rev Male and the governing committee of the Shaftesbury Citizenship Centre are not known to the QCSC.

458. Social and Community Services Award

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (10/7/96)—

With reference to the introduction of the Social and Community Services Award from 26 July to cover workers of which 80 percent are women—

- (1) Does the Government support the introduction of this award?

- (2) Have they determined what financial impact this award will have on community based organisations?
- (3) Have they determined what impact this award will have on service delivery to clients by community based organisations if recurrent funding is not increased to offset the financial implications of the introduction of the award?
- (4) Will the Government increase recurrent funding to enable these organisations to carry out their work to the same level within the community prior to the introduction of the award; if not, what strategy will the Government adopt to ensure that clients will not be disadvantaged?

Mr Lingard (19/7/96):

(1) On 26 June 1996 the Australian Industrial Relations Commission made a new award to regulate employment in non-government social and community services in Queensland. The award was made by consent between the Australian Services Union (ASU) representing employees, and employer groups. The employer groups were principally represented by the Queensland Confederation of Commerce and Industry (QCCI) and the Queensland Community Services Employers Association (QCSEA). The Queensland Government did not oppose the making of an award but would have preferred a delayed implementation, on the basis that there had been insufficient time to make an assessment of the funding impact.

(2) The Government is not a direct party to this award, but is indirectly affected to the extent that funding subsidies are provided to community based organisations to assist with meeting salary costs. While the award will take effect from 26 July 1996, the Commission has allowed the parties 4 months to fully consider the award and determine appropriate classification levels for the employee positions. My Department is currently developing advice on the financial impact to the community services sector of the award.

(3) As the full cost implications of the award are yet to be determined, it is difficult to assess the impact on social and community services organisations and their clients.

(4) The Government will determine its position when the full cost impact is known. As a number of funding programs administered by my department are jointly funded with the Commonwealth, it is necessary for the Federal Government to be included in any deliberations on this matter. The concerns of community organisations are acknowledged.

460. Rockhampton Correctional Centre

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (10/7/96)—

With reference to his promise to build a new correctional centre to replace the current Rockhampton Correctional Centre—

- (1) When will this project commence?
- (2) When will it be completed and ready to house prisoners?

- (3) What consultation does he intend to have with local residents and current staff over the issue?
- (4) Will the existing site be used to site the new centre or will a different site be chosen; if so, what is the location of this proposed site?
- (5) Will the new centre employ all the current employees?
- (6) What is the overall estimated cost of the project?

Mr Cooper (23/7/96):

(1) As part of its 10 year infrastructure plan to provide sufficient prison cells to meet forecast prisoner number growth, the QCSC plans to build a new centre to replace the existing Rockhampton Correctional Centre. The project is planned to commence in 1997. However, funding for this project has not yet been approved. The timing of this approval will determine the time lines for commencing and completing the project.

(2) The new centre is planned to be completed in 1999. However, as noted in (1), the time lines are subject to approval for funding.

(3) The QCSC will be undertaking consultation with a number of stakeholders (including local residents and community groups) and service providers (such as the Queensland Police Service, Queensland Ambulance Service, Queensland Fire Service and Telstra) during the various stages of the project.

(4) It is planned to locate the new centre on the existing prison reserve.

(5) As the new centre is a replacement centre, it is expected that staff for the new Rockhampton Correctional Centre will be recruited from QCSC staff currently employed at the Rockhampton Correctional Centre.

(6) It is estimated that the capital cost of providing the new centre will be \$44 million. In addition, since the centre will be providing increased capacity for accommodating prisoners, it is estimated that there will be an increase in the recurrent cost of \$1 million per year.

462. Wet Tropics Management Authority

Mr BEATTIE asked the Minister for Environment (10/7/96)—

With reference to his intention to overhaul the Wet Tropics Management Authority and its controlling Board—

- (1) What are the particular faults he has detected with the board, the draft plan and the authority?
- (2) Did Senator Hill agree that these faults exist in his recent talks with him?
- (3) What agreement has he reached with Senator Hill to correct these supposed faults?
- (4) Will State and Federal public servants be represented on any new Board of Management he constitutes; if so, what numbers of each?
- (5) Will the current Director of the Wet Tropics Management Authority be retained by the Government in his current position for the term of his contract?

- (6) What changes does he intend to make to the structure and operations of the current board?
- (7) Does he support the retention of Noel Pearson, Aila Keto and Dr Lesley Clark on the board?
- (8) Does he support the Federal Government retaining one indigenous person on the board?
- (9) Does he support cutting the size of the board back from its present six members?
- (10) Does he intend amending State legislation to allow him to include State public servants on the board?
- (11) Which additional roads and powerlines need to be developed in the wet tropics as part of local infrastructure?
- (12) In which ways was the Government review of the structure of the Wet Tropics Authority conducted in 1995 inadequate?

Mr Littleproud (25/7/96):

(1) I am keen for the Board to produce a comprehensive plan for the Wet Tropics Area following consideration of all responses to the draft plan. Members would be aware that the Wet Tropics Plan has been under development for some years and this has created uncertainty in the minds of certain people and groups. I am keen for the plan to be finalised at an early date to remove this uncertainty.

(2) I have had several discussions with the Honourable Senator Robert Hill since my appointment as Minister for Environment and these discussions have been very constructive and have covered a wide range of areas. Senator Hill has indicated to me that he would like the Wet Tropics Plan finalised as soon as possible.

(3) The agreements reached between Senator Hill and myself are confidential. However, for the information of the Leader of the Opposition I can confirm that Senator Hill and I have agreed that the Board should expedite the finalisation of the Wet Tropics Plan.

(4) No decision has been made in relation to State representation on the Wet Tropics Management Authority Board. As far as Federal representation is concerned that is a matter for Senator Hill. The number of Board members is set by legislation at six, comprising a chairperson, appointed by the Commonwealth and State, two members from each of the Commonwealth and the State of Queensland, and the Executive Director, Wet Tropics Management Authority.

(5) The current Director of the Wet Tropics Management Authority was appointed under State legislation and his employment arrangements are the same as any other permanent public servant. The Director is not on a contract.

(6) As with other parts of my portfolio I will consider changes from time to time to ensure a high level of cost effective operations. If there were to be changes to the Board's structure then as I have indicated above, legislative changes would be required. I would provide detailed comments at that time.

(7) As Noel Pearson and Aila Keto are Commonwealth appointments, I would not wish to comment. I have discussed Dr Clarke's position on the Board with her so that I could take her views into account when considering overall long term arrangements.

(8) I do not wish to pre-empt any decision by the Federal Government regarding Commonwealth appointed members of the Board.

(9) The size of the Board may need to be changed at some stage in the future. At this time I believe that the current number of Board Members is appropriate.

(10) Amending State legislation to allow State public servants to be appointed to the Board is only one of many options that I have under consideration at this time.

(11) Additional roads and powerlines needed in the Wet Tropics will be considered further, after the Government receives the copies of the final Wet Tropics Plan.

(12) As members would realise many things have changed since 1995 and whether the review was adequate in that year or not, is not directly relevant at this time. My responsibility in 1996 is to ensure that the arrangements are the most appropriate ones at this time and for the future.

467. Assistance for Disabled Citizens

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (10/7/96)—

With reference to the urgent need for support for disabled members of our community to remain living independently in their own homes—

- (1) How many applications are received by his department for in-home support each year?
- (2) How many applications are successful?
- (3) When will there be an increase in funding to enable all those requiring assistance to be helped?
- (4) How many disabled people are forced to live in nursing home situations because their immediate families can no longer cope without outside care assistance?

Mr Lingard (19/7/96):

(1) Support by my Department for people with disabilities is through the Disability Program which provides funding to community-based organisations for a range of disability services, including in-home support. In the last financial year (1995/96) there were 144 applications from organisations for in-home support services, and the total in the previous year (1994/95) was 134.

(2) 65 applications were funded in 1995/96 and 52 were funded in 1994/95.

(3) The 1994/95 and 1995/96 funding rounds for the Disability Program were administered under the previous Government. Since taking responsibility for disability issues as part of my portfolio I have become increasingly aware of the high level of unmet need which exists in the disability field. I am investigating various avenues to seek increased resources and/or support for disability services,

particularly in relation to the renegotiation of the Commonwealth/State Disability Agreement which is due this financial year.

(4) I am aware of people with disabilities inappropriately placed in nursing homes for a variety of reasons, including those people whose families are no longer able to support them. I note this as one example of the high level of unmet need in the disability area that the previous Government did little to address.

468. Elanda Point Revegetation Scheme

Mr NUNN asked the Minister for Environment (10/7/96)—

With reference to his recent termination of employment of rangers from the Great Sandy Region—

- (1) How many staff have been lost from the Elanda Point Revegetation Scheme?
- (2) How many staff are still working on this scheme?
- (3) Will the revegetation work continue at previously planned levels?
- (4) Will weed and grass control in the revegetated areas continue at previously planned levels; if not, what fire management plans will be put in place?
- (5) What funding is he seeking in the coming State budget for this work?
- (6) Are new staff positions included in this budgeting?

Mr Littleproud (25/7/96):

- (1) 2.5 Full time equivalents.
- (2) No staff are dedicated exclusively to this project. Three (3) staff are available to undertake work as necessary in conjunction with other work programs.
- (3) At this stage, pending the State budget, the program will remain in a maintenance phase appropriate for the time of year.
- (4) Weed and grass control and fire protection in the revegetated area will continue. The intensity and frequency of weed and grass control will be reduced as the plants develop to control the site.
- (5) New Initiative submissions have been prepared for enhancement of Park Management in the Great Sandy area in accordance with this Government's election commitment. These initiatives include the revegetation program as one component of Park management at Elanda.
- (6) That will depend on finalisation of budget deliberations, which have to take into account the mismanagement of the previous Labor Government.

469. Boothville Maternity Hospital

Mr MILLINER asked the Minister for Environment (10/7/96)—

With reference to the imminent auction of Boothville Maternity Hospital in Brisbane and as this auction follows its sale earlier this year for \$1.25m and the subsequent disposal of considerable sections of its once spacious grounds—

- (1) Does he support the diminution of the grounds on which heritage buildings stand, particularly for cost recovery as is occurring here?
- (2) Will he require, as Heritage Minister, that any developments that occur on these disposed of lands are sympathetic to Boothville and do not in any way diminish its heritage values?
- (3) Will he take this matter up with the Heritage Council as he did with the Wesley Church in Warwick?

Mr Littleproud (25/7/96):

- (1) I am advised that two existing allotments on the edge of the Boothville site have been sold for residential development. I am further advised that, to date, the Queensland Heritage Council has received no applications for development on these allotments. I am aware that the Queensland Heritage Council has in the past approved the subdivision of land surrounding a heritage place where there is no substantial effect on its cultural heritage significance.
- (2) As Minister for Environment I am not responsible for decisions regarding the development of heritage places, this is the role of the Queensland Heritage Council. I believe the Queensland Heritage Council will ensure the cultural heritage significance of Boothville is protected.
- (3) As Minister for Environment I had no involvement in the decisions regarding the Wesley Church in Warwick, this matter was dealt with by the Queensland Heritage Council.

470. Wet Tropics Management Authority

Mr De LACY asked the Minister for Environment (10/7/96)—

With reference to recent terminations of temporary employees within the Wet Tropics Management Authority—

- (1) Was the manager of the Interpretation Services Section (PO3) one of the people terminated?
- (2) Was this person responsible for co-ordination of the activities of the authorities' public contact rangers and the volunteer program?
- (3) Will the work of these two groups continue; if so, under whose direction?
- (4) Will these duties be additional to this persons existing workload?
- (5) Was a graphic artist employed by the authority also terminated?
- (6) Was this person responsible for the production of many of the authority's brochures, newsletters, signs, etc.?
- (7) Will the production of these information materials be disrupted by the loss of this officer?
- (8) What alternative arrangement has been put in place to cover the loss of this artist?
- (9) If "outsourcing" is the intended alternative arrangement, what budget is available for this work?

Mr Littleproud (25/7/96):

- (1) Although the position of temporary Senior Conservation Officer who was responsible for

management of interpretation services was funded by the Wet Tropics Management Authority, that person was employed by the Far Northern Region of the Department of Environment. That person was terminated recently.

I am advised that the incumbent of the position was aware that the term of employment was for 12 months from 30 June 1995 and that any extension of the position would be subject to budget considerations.

(2) No, the person was responsible for coordination of the activities of the Department of Environment's public contact rangers and volunteer program.

(3) Yes, the District Manager (Wet Tropics District), employed by the Department of Environment and based in Cairns.

(4) Yes.

(5) Although the position of graphic artist was funded by the Wet Tropics Management Authority, the incumbent was employed by the Department of Environment. That person was terminated recently.

Again, I am advised that the incumbent was aware that the term of employment was only until 30 June 1996 and that any extension of the position would be subject to budget considerations.

(6) No, the incumbent was employed in the Far Northern Region of the Department of Environment and contributed to the Department's interpretation needs as required.

(7) The lack of an in-house graphic artist in the Department's Far Northern Region will disrupt production of some information materials in the region.

(8) Both external consultants and internal expertise will be used.

(9) The temporary graphic artist did not have a dedicated budget and no specific budget has been set aside for this work. When outsourcing of a graphic artist's skills is considered necessary for an interpretation project, the costs of that work will be clearly identified and approved when the project is initiated.

477. Mr X. Herbert; Heritage Property, Redlynch

Mr FOURAS asked the Minister for Environment (10/7/96)—

With reference to the recent provisional listing on the Heritage Register by the Independent Heritage Council of prominent author Xavier Herbert's home at Redlynch in Cairns—

- (1) Does he support the council in listing this property?
- (2) If the owner opposes the listing, is he prepared to acquire the property in the public interest, as was done with the Weiss House in Kalbar, and then resell it to a sympathetic owner?
- (3) Has he held, or does he intend to hold any discussions with the Cairns City Council to ensure the protection of the house as outlined above?

Mr Littleproud (25/7/96):

(1) The Queensland Heritage Act 1992 provides that the Queensland Heritage Council is solely responsible for the maintenance of the Heritage Register.

(2) I am informed that the owner of the former home of Xavier Herbert at Redlynch in Cairns has objected to the provisional entry of the house in the Heritage Register. Officers of the Department have discussed the matter with the owner. I have received letters, but informed the people the decision does not rest with the Minister.

(3) Cairns City Council has been informed of the provisional entry of the former home of Xavier Herbert in the Heritage Register, as is required by Section 24(4) of the Queensland Heritage Act 1992. At this stage, Cairns City Council has not indicated that it wishes to discuss the matter further.

501. Department of Environment, Retrenchment of Temporary Staff

Mr MILLINER asked the Minister for Environment (11/7/96)—

With reference to recent retrenchments of temporary staff from the Department of Environment—

- (1) Were ten of these positions in the Human Resource Management Branch in the Division of Corporate Services?
- (2) What sections of the branch were they lost from and at what classification levels?
- (3) How does he intend to cover the work previously done by these people?

Mr Littleproud (25/7/96):

1. No. Four temporary officers ceased at the end of their contract of employment.

2. These temporary staff were Administrative Officers, classification level A02 and were working in the Personnel Services Section of Human Resource Management Branch.

3. Some of the processes previously undertaken are now being handled at a regional level. The departmental Enterprise Bargaining Agreement included a number of Human Resource Management initiatives which have assisted in further streamlining processes thereby reducing workloads within the Branch.

502. Department of Environment, Retrenchment of Temporary Staff

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (11/7/96)—

With reference to the recent retrenchment of temporary staff in the Far Northern Region of the Department of Environment—

- (1) Were any of the positions attached to any nursery operated by the department; if so, which nursery and what numbers of staff have gone?
- (2) What were the staffing levels at the affected nurseries?

- (3) What nursery activities are being cutback as a result of these losses?
- (4) What impact will these losses have on the volunteer programs run from these nurseries?
- (5) Will he guarantee that the revegetation programs run from these nurseries will continue at previously planned levels?

Mr Littleproud (25/7/96):

1. Yes—Lake Eacham Nursery. Two casual positions which were employed to complete specific projects and one temporary ranger position which was only guaranteed funding until 30 June 1996.
2. Two permanent positions, one temporary position, two casual positions.
3. In the case of the casual employees who were terminated there will be no activities cut back because those people were employed for specific projects which have been completed. In the case of the temporary ranger there will now be reduced maintenance of some rehabilitation projects and a need to review commitment to future projects.
4. Reduced supervision in some circumstances.
5. As in other years, the Department's commitment to revegetation projects depends on final budget allocations.

514. Treatment of Aboriginal People; Stolen Children Inquiry

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Premier (11/7/96)—

With reference to evidence given by an unnamed former senior Government official to the Stolen Children Inquiry recently in Brisbane—

- (1) Does he support his statement that (a) successive Queensland Governments had tried

to create a 'utopia' for aborigines, (b) aboriginal people in Queensland had benefited from past Government policies and practices, (c) one of the greatest achievements has been giving the silent majority of people of Aboriginal and Islander origin conventional lives in an urban situation and a participation in life in the fullness of all social structure, (d) removal of Aboriginal children from their parents did not take place in any shape or form between 1940 and 1986, (e) the department he headed had no knowledge of racially discriminatory wage awards paid to Aboriginals in State employment and (f) the department he headed had no knowledge of the forcible removal of Aboriginal residents from Old Mapoon on the west coast of Cape York in 1962 to make way for the Comalco mine at Weipa, rather the people left of their own free will?

- (2) If not, does he concur with the view of Commissioner Huggins heading up the inquiry who branded the official's version as a disgraceful rewriting of history?

Mr Borbidge (22/7/96):

(1) It is true to say that, with the benefit of hindsight, many of the policies and practices of government administrators in Aboriginal and Islander Affairs in the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s, although well intentioned, resulted in the breakdown of cultural and familial ties. Similar policies were applied throughout Australia.

(2) I do not so much see the official's version as a "disgraceful rewriting of history" as a different world view based on the thinking of a different era. It was an era, unlike our own, which, far from recognising difference and cultural diversity, emphasised sameness and conformity.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**413. Woodwark Bay Development**

Mrs BIRD asked the Minister for Environment (9/7/96)—

- (1) What is the present status of the former Woodwark Bay (now Whitsunday Peninsula) Development?
- (2) When will this proposal's agreement expire?
- (3) What action is the Queensland Government pursuing to stimulate the developers progress in this development?

Mr Littleproud (8/8/96):

- (1) The Woodwark Bay Project is dormant.
- (2) Under the Land Tenure Deed Stage I is due to commence by 23 November 1996, or a later date agreed by both parties.
- (3) I am advised by the Honourable the Minister for Economic Development and Trade and Minister Assisting the Premier that the Project and Investment Development Division of his Department has assisted the developer to make a number of submissions to overseas and locally-based financial institutions and entrepreneurs with a view to gaining financial support for the project.

414. Anti-smoking Campaign

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (9/7/96)—

With reference to the successful anti-smoking campaign in California under proposition 99 that significantly reduced smoking uptake by teenagers (9/7/96)—

Will she earmark a set proportion of the revenue raised from the cigarette licence fee to a strong anti-smoking media campaign to directly combat the uptake of smoking by teenagers?

Mrs Sheldon (7/8/96):

- (1) Generally, hypothecation of revenue streams for specific purposes restricts Budget flexibility and unduly constrains the Government's ability to adjust funding allocations over time to meet changing funding priorities.

There exist a range of measures that are available to address the issue of youth smoking including effective educational, health and consumer protection strategies to deter the uptake of smoking by young people and encourage those already smoking to cease the habit. Funding for such activities will be considered as part of the Budget process.

422. Mr B. Boskoski; Assistance for Disabled Persons

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (9/7/96)—

With reference to Mr Branko Boskoski of 12 Newsholme Avenue, Deeragun who is a quadriplegic as the result of a trail bike accident and as he receives no funding from the State Government—

- (1) How many quadriplegics are there in the Townsville-Thuringowa area?
- (2) Of that number, how many received financial support from his department in 1995-96?
- (3) Of the total number of clients who received financial support from his department in 1995-96, how many were new clients, i.e. clients who did not receive funding in 1994-95?
- (4) What must Mr Boskoski and persons with a similar level of disability do to get assistance just to enable them to get out of bed in the morning?

Mr Lingard (8/8/96):

1) My Department does not keep data on specific diagnostic conditions such as quadriplegia, as there is no requirement for people with such conditions to "register" themselves, either with my Department or any other level of government. Such specific information is not available from other sources such as the 1993 ABS Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers.

2) Support by my Department for people with disabilities is through the Disability Program which provides funding to community based services. I am advised that individuals with paraplegia/quadriplegia in the Townsville/Thuringowa area are primarily being assisted by the Blue Nursing Service and/or services funded through the Home and Community Care (HACC) program administered by Queensland Health. Mr Branko Boskoski in particular is presently, I understand, receiving a full level of temporary domiciliary services support through HACC. This is presently supplemented by Emergency Hours Support by TTRACS—Queensland Lifestyle Services, which has been funded through my Department's Disability Program.

3) In 1995/96 my Department's Disability Program provided recurrent funds of approximately \$56.9 million to 312 services, which provide a range of disability services to varying numbers of people across Queensland. In the 1995/96 funding round for the Disability Program, additional recurrent funds totalling over \$2 million were allocated to 78 services including 13 new services across Queensland.

4) The availability of funds for the Disability Program in 1996/97 is subject to the outcomes of the State Budget. When the next funding round is called, the opportunity may then arise for services to submit applications for support for Mr Boskoski and other people with disabilities. Any submissions would then be looked at in light of the priorities across the State and the overall level of funds available.

425. Rock Wallaby Habitat, Mandalay Point

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Natural Resources (9/7/96)—

With reference to the Proserpine Rock Wallaby Recovery Team which is currently negotiating with the Department of Natural Resources over the future use and management of two blocks of 7.7 and 40 hectares at Mandalay Point near Proserpine and as these blocks contain critical habitat for this rare wallaby—

- (1) What portion of the blocks are to be retained in their natural state?
- (2) What tenure will these retained areas be held in?
- (3) What provision has been made for corridors for the wallabies across these lands?
- (4) What provision has been made for fire management and feral animal control on these areas?
- (5) Will restrictions be placed on the block size of any subdivision allowed on these blocks?
- (6) Will restrictions be placed on domestic animals, principally dogs and cats, allowed to be kept by landholders buying and building on these blocks?

Mr Hobbs (30/7/96): These matters are still in the process of negotiation however a report to Whitsunday Shire Council dated 7 June 1996 Clough Engineering Pty Ltd, owners of Lots 17 and 3 proposed an exchange of a total of 63.38 hectares comprising:

38.28 hectares of Lot 3 RP736796

25.10 hectares of Lot 17 RP726025

For a total of 7.74 hectares of unallocated state land comprising:

5.52 hectares of Lot 168 CP842095

2.22 hectares of esplanade.

Of the total combined area of the 3 parcels of land (excluding the small portion of esplanade), being 81.147 hectares, an area of 65.217 hectares will be retained in its natural state if the current proposal is accepted.)

The Department of Environment will be consulted by my Department to achieve the reservation of the balance areas of Lot 168 CP842095, Lot 17 RP726025, Lot 3 RP736796 and an adjoining parcel of unallocated state land being Lot 159 on HR1584 as well as the balance of the esplanade fronting Lot 168 down to the eastern most boundary of Lot 159. With the inclusion of Lot 159, the area available to be preserved in a natural state for wallaby habitat will amount to a total of 109.007 hectares.

The Department of Environment has advised my Department that the areas are of significant conservation value with particular emphasis on a known habitat for the Proserpine Rock wallaby, an endangered species. By obtaining the 63.38 hectares from Clough, not only will the habitat be preserved but a natural corridor will be created for the Wallaby to commune with other wallaby habitats to the betterment of the species. It is recognised that if the existing colony is isolated to stand alone then the species will die out eventually.

My Department has worked closely with the Department of Environment on these issues in this area of the Whitsundays. Any subdivision undertaken in this area will be subject to the requirements as laid down under the Whitsunday Shire Town Plan. Both the consent of the Whitsunday Shire Council and the Department of Environment to the proposed land exchange and any proposed development will be a

prerequisite to this initiative. The developer will be responsible for obtaining those consents.

The control of domestic animals will be a matter for the Whitsunday Shire Council to consider under the Town Planning Scheme and Council By Laws. It is not a matter within the jurisdiction of my Department.

426. Alternative Dispute Resolution

Mr FOLEY asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (9/7/96)—

- (1) Does he accept that the Alternative Dispute Resolution program of the Justice Department has offered a fine service to the people of Queensland?
- (2) Does he contemplate that this program will be used to handle the victim/offender conferencing outlined in the his recent proposals on juvenile justice?
- (3) Has a decision been taken to reduce funding to this program?
- (4) Will he give an assurance that funding will be maintained to this program at least at current levels in real terms?

Mr Beanland (8/8/96):

- (1) Yes
- (2) Yes, in conjunction with other resources of government and the community.
- (3) Funding for Alternative Dispute Resolution processes and victim/offender conferencing for juvenile offenders will be available through the budget process.
- (4) Levels of funding for departmental activities will be determined through the budget process.

428. Caboolture Community Health Centre, Speech Therapy

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Health (9/7/96)—

With reference to the long waiting lists for speech therapy at the Caboolture Community Health Centre—

- (1) Has priority been given to the employment of an additional speech therapist to cater for the increasing number of patients, in particular, young children requiring therapy; if so, what is the time frame for engaging an additional speech therapist?

Mr Horan (8/8/96): (1) Commencing in July, all health services in the Redcliffe-Caboolture District Health Service (including speech pathology services) have been subject to review, as part of the District's normal strategic planning and budget cycles. The results of this review, being undertaken by the District Executive Committee, are expected by the end of this month. The District's priorities, including speech pathology services at the Caboolture Community Health Centre, will then be determined in the context of the 1996/97 State Budget.

The appointment of the Redcliffe-Caboolture District Health Council during the course of this financial year will provide genuine community input into setting the priorities for the District: the first genuine input in five and a half years. Any shortfalls in important service delivery, such as speech pathology, are likely to be the result of the lack of community input under Labor's failed system of regionalisation—or because clinical funds were consumed by the regional bureaucracy. I look forward to the District Health Council improving Caboolture's community health services, including speech pathology.

429. Bribie Island/Pumicestone Passage, Crown Land

Mr MILLINER asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (9/7/96)—

With reference to comments she has reportedly made in her electorate that she intends to sell off areas of Crown land on Bribie Island and in the Pumicestone Passage area generally, and as successive reports to Government have indicated that the environmental values of the passage are continuing to decline below acceptable levels—

- (1) Which blocks of Crown land does she intend to sell?
- (2) Will these blocks be sold with the intention to allow development on them, particularly residential?
- (3) Were any of these blocks purchased by the previous Labor Government for conservation purposes?
- (4) Is one of them the freehold pine plantation currently held by the Department of Environment in the centre of Bribie Island?
- (5) Is she seeking additional funding in the coming State budget to maintain and enhance the environmental quality of Pumicestone Passage?
- (6) Will she support a population cap being placed on residential development in the catchment of the passage as called for by local environmentalists?

Mrs Sheldon (7/8/96): In response to the specific questions made by Mr Milliner, I can advise as follows:

- (1) & (2) The Government does not have any current intention to sell the land which has been purchased on Bribie Island and on the adjacent side of Pumicestone Passage.
- (3) & (4) These questions should be addressed to the Minister for Environment, as they do not relate directly to the Treasury portfolio.
- (5) The Government is currently formulating its Budget and the details of the Budget should await its presentation in September.
- (6) Zoning residential development is a matter for the relevant local authority.

430. Western Bypass

Mr FOURAS asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (9/7/96)—

With reference to his answer to a question on the Western Bypass when he stated that "A decision on whether or not to proceed with a study will be made after the release of the Integrated Regional Transport Plan" and as the IRTP has now been released and recommended that "A transport investigation needs to be undertaken to determine how to resolve future network deficiencies in the north and west of Brisbane" and as this will include possible improved connection from Brisbane to the key centres of Ipswich and Caboolture, options to be investigated must include determining the need for an enhanced western ring road system—

- (1) Does he intend to approve a study on the need for a Western Bypass between Ipswich and the Bruce Highway?
- (2) If such an investigation is undertaken will he ensure extensive community consultation?

Mr Johnson (5/8/96):

(1) It is important to note that the draft Integrated Regional Transport Plan (IRTP) has been circulated to relevant Local Authorities but has not yet been released to the public. This release will occur in early August. The public will have some three months to provide comments. Then the Government will prepare a final plan, based on the community's input to the draft IRTP.

Any decision by Government to proceed with the study would be premature at this stage and the matter will be deferred until the planned consultation process has been finalised and a final version of the IRTP has received government endorsement.

(2) Any investigations of new transport facilities which result from the IRTP will be conducted with appropriate community consultation. This would include looking at all viable options for providing high quality transport in the areas to the north and west of Brisbane.

431. Trade with Japan

Mr BEATTIE asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (9/7/96)—

With reference to media comments made by her and the Premier concerning their recent separate trips to Japan where she was reported on ABC radio as saying "Oh, it's been a very beneficial trip. What is very interesting is the very strong, positive feelings about Queensland here in Japan. They regard us as having a strong economy" and in contrast with comments made by the Premier upon his return that "A number of major trading partners expressed concerns at the lack of response and poor treatment they received in recent years and that Queensland faces a trade fence-mending operation with Japan" and as both she and the Premier were over there in the same month both statements can't possibly be correct—

Is one of them telling untruths; if not, will she as Treasurer and the more recent visitor please enlighten the House as to what exactly is our trading reputation in Japan?

Mrs Sheldon (7/8/96): I wonder if the Leader of the Opposition would comprehend the difference

in the purposes of the visits to Japan of the Premier and of myself.

The Premier visited trading houses and businesses who have been working and trading with Queensland over several decades. These business relationships were built from scratch during the period of previous National and Liberal Governments and very good and strong personal and business associations have been developed.

Because of the vacillations and indecision of the intervening Labor Government during the first half of the 1990s this strong relationship has been sorely tested. The Premier was referring to that fact and stated that one of the first tasks that this new Government must do is to mend the fences that had been allowed to fall into disrepair during the previous six year period.

On the other hand, my visit to Japan was to talk to the security houses, banks, insurance companies and other similar financial institutions. I had a financial transaction to complete with one of them and further financial transactions to discuss with up to 20 others. In addition we spoke at length and in detail about QTC's dealings with these institutions, and the reaction from each was very positive indeed.

For further information on this matter I refer the Honourable Leader of the Opposition to the report on this trip that I have made to the House.

432. Pacific Highway

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (9/7/96)—

With reference to the fact that for the length of his half-a-highway upgrade of the Pacific Highway, there will be a 12 metre medium strip, which is 3 metres wider than normally required—

Will this 12 metre medium strip be able to accommodate another two lanes of traffic which will allow the Pacific Highway to be further upgraded to 10 lanes at some time in the future; if not, why has such a 12 metre wide medium strip been provided for in the design of his super highway?

Mr Johnson (5/8/96): For the honourable member's information this is not half a highway upgrade but rather a world class motorway. In contrast to the previous Government's band-aid approach of 1 extra lane to the existing goat track, we are undertaking a major reconstruction of the existing road system.

The Department of Main Roads is presently considering a range of median widths, including a 12 metre wide median, for the 37 kilometre section of the Pacific Highway between the Logan Motorway and the Smith Street Motorway. The 12 metre wide median has the advantage of providing a safe separation between the two carriageways to prevent an out-of-control vehicle crossing over onto the other carriageway. The wide median is not intended to provide for future lane widening.

Main Roads will select the preferred median width as part of the Impact Management Plan process. The draft document is planned for public release and comment in mid August 1996.

433. Chalumbin-Woree Power Line

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (9/7/96)—

With reference to the Chalumbin to Woree Power Line—

- (1) Will he give a final date (to within 3 months) as to when the underground section (the Fairview to end of Sheehy Road) will be completed?
- (2) Will he give a guarantee that the line will be constructed according to Powerlink's following proposals that (a) the components of each cable will be in a trefoil arrangement, (b) the lines will be buried a minimum of 1m below ground and (c) the spacing between the cables will be 400mm between their outer edges?

Mr Gilmore (5/8/96): The first cable circuit is scheduled to be completed in October 1997 and the second cable circuit is scheduled to be completed by the end of December 1997.

The line is to be constructed in accordance with Powerlink Queensland's specifications.

- (a) Yes.
- (b) The cable circuits will be built a minimum of 900 mm below ground.
- (c) The cable circuits will be spaced 970 mm apart, with the outer edges of each circuit being 1 250 mm apart.

435. Justice of the Peace and Commissioner for Declarations, Applications

Mr WELLS asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (9/7/96)—

- (1) Is he aware that as of April 1996 there were approximately 430 Commissioner for Declarations applications, over 420 Justice of the Peace (Qualified) applications, and about 120 Justice of the Peace (Magistrates Court) applications waiting to be processed?
- (2) Is he aware that in the same month there were no Justice of the Peace (Magistrate Court) applications actually processed?
- (3) Will he assure the Parliament that these applications, especially the Justice of the Peace (Magistrate Court) applications, have now been processed, or will be processed as a matter of priority?
- (4) Is he aware that there has been a major blowout in the waiting time for the processing of applications for Justice of the Peace and Commissioner for Declarations, from 8—10 weeks to over 20 weeks now?
- (5) Will he ensure that adequate staff are made available to the Registrar of Justices to ensure that the processing of applications backlog is removed, and a reasonable turnaround time put in place?

Mr Beanland (8/8/96):

- (1) Yes. What the member has failed to indicate is that of the 423 Justice of the Peace (Qualified) applications on hand 195 were received that month.

In comparison to corresponding time periods last year the figures for applications are favourable, for example, in April 1995 there were 561 Commissioner for Declarations and 730 Justice of the Peace (Qualified) applications on hand, as compared to 432 and 423 respectively in April this year. As the member should be aware, there are an extensive number of procedures that the Justice of the Peace Branch must go through before appointing someone as a Justice of the Peace or Commissioner for Declarations. Some of these procedures are cumbersome and are being reviewed to optimise processing times.

(2) No. In fact, 7 applicants were appointed to the office of Justice of the Peace (Magistrates Court) in April 1996.

(3) Yes. In the time before this government came to power only 16 people were appointed to the office of Justice of the Peace (Magistrates Court). Since March 1996, 130 have been appointed. It is anticipated that these large numbers of appointments will continue and the applications on hand will be substantially reduced. The applications will continue to be processed in a thorough and efficient manner and every measure will be taken to ensure the integrity of the offices of Justice of the Peace and Commissioner for Declarations in the general community.

(4) Current statistics from the Justice of the Peace database verify that the processing time for applications is 13 weeks. More examinations have been scheduled for this year than previously and consequently a large number of people are now making application for appointment to one of the new categories of office. Some applicants experience delays due to non-compliance with the instructions as they appear on the application forms, which were introduced in 1994. My Department is exploring a number of means to reduce the 13 weeks processing time by correcting procedural problems that have existed previously.

(5) At the commencement of this "reform" period for Justices of Peace, it was always acknowledged by the previous government that the final stages of the reform process would have a critical impact on the resources of the JP Branch. The staff in that area, as the member would know, work extremely hard and are very dedicated to the needs of Justices and Commissioners throughout Queensland. The actual number of staff working in the area has increased substantially with the use of trainees and casual staff. Adequate resources are available to meet the needs of Justices and Commissioners in this state. The administration problems, which have hindered the Justice of the Peace Branch in the past, will be corrected and this will assist the Registrar and his staff in dealing with the significant workload placed on them as a result of the reform program.

436. Department of Mines and Energy, Staffing

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (9/7/96)—

(1) What is the number of staff who have left the department of Mines and Energy since February 1996?

(2) Will the Charters Towers office of the department be closed?

Mr Gilmore (5/8/96):

(1) In the period 1 March 1996 to 5 July 1996 a total of 52 employees left the Department of Mines and Energy. These included:-

15 temporary staff terminated under the terms of their employment contracts

1 permanent staff member terminated under the terms of his employment contract

18 permanent staff who voluntarily accepted Early Retirement Offers;

of the remaining 18 staff who left the Department, 11 resigned, 2 retired, 1 died and 4 transferred to other Government Departments.

(2) At present there are no plans to close the office at Charters Towers.

437. State Bank

Mr HAMILL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (9/7/96)—

With reference to the proposal to establish a unit trust to raise the funds for the establishment of the proposed State Bank—

(1) Who will underwrite the trust?

(2) Will she assure Queensland taxpayers that it will not be the Queensland Government nor any of its instrumentalities?

Mrs Sheldon (7/8/96): There is no proposal to establish a unit trust to raise funds for the establishment of a State Bank.

However, a unit trust is proposed to be established to raise funds for the purchase of shares from Metway shareholders wishing to sell their shares rather than retain an ownership interest in the entity formed from the merger of Metway Bank, Suncorp and QIDC.

(1) The trust will not be underwritten. Funds raised by the trust through the issue of exchanging preferred units to the public will be underwritten by a syndicate of Brisbane—based brokers.

(2) Yes.

439. Community Education Counsellor, Bowen Area

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education (9/7/96)—

With reference to complaints from the Bowen State High School ASSPA Committee that the current community education counsellor serving the Bowen area will be replaced by a CEC based in Ayr—

(1) On what basis was the decision to base the CEC in Ayr taken and what are the anticipated likely demands on the CEC by the towns to be serviced?

(2) How many CEC's are currently employed by the Queensland Education Department and where are they located?

(3) How many CEC's were employed at 1 March 1996 and where were they located?

- (4) How does he justify diminishing this important service to the people of Bowen?

Mr Quinn (9/8/96):

(1) The Northern Regional Office of the Department of Education was advised, in early 1996, that it had been allocated six Community Education Counsellors (CEC), all of whom were to be based in schools.

As there are thirteen secondary schools within the region it has not been possible to allocate a full-time permanent counsellor to every school. However, a decision was made by the region to cluster schools in order to ensure that a fair and equitable service could be offered to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, regardless of their location.

The Community Education Counsellor who has been appointed to serve Bowen State High School, will also serve Ayr State High School, the other school within this particular cluster. This counsellor will be living in Ayr, but will not be based in Ayr.

(2) As of Friday, 12 July 1996, there were:

- 40 school based CEC positions appointed
- 3 school based CEC positions to be filled
- 8 regional CEC positions appointed

At the aforementioned date, these Counsellors were located at seven regional offices and in schools and support centres within all regions of the Department of Education.

(3) As of 1 March 1996, there were:

- 40 school based CEC positions appointed

At the aforementioned date, these Counsellors were located at schools and support centres within all regions of the Department of Education.

(4) With thirteen schools in the Northern Region it was not possible for every school to have a full-time permanent counsellor. A decision was made to cluster schools as is done with other services such as Guidance Officers and Educational Advisers.

In previous years Bowen State High School has shared a temporary CEC with Bowen State School. The school has also had the service of an Aboriginal teacher-aide.

For the duration of the current school year, Bowen State High School will have the service of a temporary counsellor, 0.5 (approximately 18 hours per week) plus the service of the permanent counsellor from the cluster arrangement (duties to be negotiated by the Principals of the Bowen SHS and Ayr SHS). Bowen State School will have the services of an Aboriginal teacher-aide.

The Department had advised me that there has been no significant diminution of this service. It does, however, recognise that there have been some changes to how these services are delivered.

441. Road Construction, Tendering Process

Mr ELDER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (9/7/96)—

- (1) What changes has he made to the tendering processes for road construction since becoming Minister?

- (2) In particular, will he place his comments in the context of his criticisms of November 1995, that Queensland Transport (now Department of Main Roads) had an unfair advantage over local councils and private contractors?

- (3) Has he maintained the advantages given to local councils by allowing them to be the sole invitees for agreed price performance contracts for roadworks construction and rehabilitation and for maintenance works that they have traditionally performed?

- (4) What changes have occurred in the department's construction and maintenance workforce since January 1996?

- (5) What is the level of subsidies for Local Government work expected to be in 1996-97?

- (6) Will he maintain the principle of a commitment to the awarding of contracts on an open and contestable basis?

- (7) What exemptions to the general rule that all work except maintenance must be competitively tendered are in place?

- (8) Is all tendered work on a competitively neutral basis?

- (9) What has been the proportional value of Department of Main Roads construction and rehabilitation works undertaken by contract won by the private sector during the last four months of 1995-96 and how does this compare with previous periods?

Mr Johnson (5/8/96):

- (1) It is not clear whether the question relates to the way Main Roads calls tenders; or the way Main Roads' own Commercial Business Unit prices its bids, when it competes. So I will answer both aspects.

There have been no substantive changes to the way Main Roads calls tenders, with the exception of the way local governments are exposed to open competition.

Following an extensive review, which included consultation with local government, a "3 zone system" has been introduced instead of the previous 2 zone system. There is still a zone, involving larger coastal cities and towns, in which local governments are fully exposed to open competition if they wish to carry out construction projects for Main Roads. Also, there is still a zone, in the western areas, where contracts are negotiated on a "Sole Invitee" basis. However, there is a new intermediate zone in which, while open competition is preferred, contracts may be negotiated, on a "Sole Invitee" basis, where necessary to provide continuity of employment in the interests of community viability.

With regard to the way in which Road Transport Construction Services, (the Main Roads commercial business arm) prepares its bids, changes have been made which seek to ensure competitive neutrality applies.

All Main Roads commercial business units delivering construction, survey, maintenance, design and construction services and plant hire services price so

as to comply with competitive neutrality requirements by allowing in their tender pricing, all direct costs, on and off site overheads, corporate overheads, insurance and all tax and local government charge equivalents. Furthermore, these commercial businesses are required to earn an appropriate rate of return to Main Roads.

In addition local governments will have a requirement to abide by a Code of Practice in respect of competitive neutrality when they bid in open competition on Main Roads' projects.

(2) In November 1995, Main Roads had not implemented a full competitive neutrality pricing policy, in that items such as tax equivalents were not included in tender prices.

However, today the situation has changed and all of these elements are now in tender prices submitted by Road Transport Construction Services.

Main Roads continues to ensure there is separation between those who call and administer tenders, and those who bid and perform the work. The arrangements include:

where the tender assessment process makes use of non-price criteria, and Road Transport Construction Services is a bidder, an external, independent person is required to sit on the tender assessment panel;

where Road Transport Construction Services requests a large variation to a contract, there is reference to an independent person; and

measures are in place to ensure information about a forthcoming project is not available to Road Transport Construction Services which would not be available to any other tenderer.

(3) As mentioned in my answer to Question 1, I have instigated a three zonal system for local governments which undertake Main Roads works. This requires local governments in more densely populated areas to bid for works in open competition.

It recognises the problems of local governments in far western areas, who will be awarded Agreed Price Performance Contracts, for works traditionally undertaken by them, on a "Sole Invitee" basis. This arrangement will apply indefinitely.

The new arrangements also recognise that there are cases within an intermediate zone where Agreed Price Performance Contracts are appropriate to support the viability of local communities.

However, as mentioned previously, a major proportion of the work in this intermediate zone is expected to be tendered in open competition.

Routine maintenance is still being offered to local governments on a "Sole Invitee" basis.

(4) The Department's Road and Transport Construction Services total employee numbers, including temporary employees, has changed from 2391 to 2243 between January 1996 and the end of May 1996.

(5) The intent of this question is unclear. If the word "subsidy" means contributing to any losses which local government may make, when undertaking work for Main Roads, then there have been no "subsidies" of that type.

Perhaps the question refers to contributions which Main Roads pays to local governments to undertake works under the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme.

If that is the intended meaning, I can advise that the level of contribution to local government for the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme in 1996/97 is \$28 million. Furthermore, this Government is honouring the Rural and Regional Roads Recovery Program and the Accelerated Program, which were introduced by the previous Government, with additional contributions to local governments of \$4.6 million.

(6) The Government is committed to the awarding of roadworks contracts on an open and contestable basis, except that exemptions from open tendering apply in certain circumstances where local governments and Main Roads construction units may be engaged on a "Sole Invitee" basis.

(7) I have previously outlined that, in general, routine maintenance is being undertaken by local government on a "Sole Invitee" basis and that:-

in far western Queensland, the Government recognises its social obligations and will exempt from open tendering all works construction traditionally undertaken for Main Roads by local government.

in the intermediate zone, the Government will assist those communities by exempting some works where necessary to ensure the viability of the local communities.

in the provincial cities and densely populated zone the only exemption to open competition will be on the grounds that open tendering would not be practical or would not achieve the best value.

Instances of this are when the work is of a highly specialised nature; where the work may be too difficult or costly to specify, or where the risk is more appropriately borne by the Department, for example, relocation of utility services.

I have instigated a review of the way in which Main Roads' Commercial Arm "Road Transport Construction Services" will perform works for the Department. This review is not yet complete. The private sector is being closely consulted in this review, through its industry association.

(8) All work tendered by the Road Transport Construction Services unit of Main Roads is on a competitively neutral basis. Under National Competition Policy, local government will be required to abide by a Code of Conduct which covers the issue of competitive neutrality.

(9) 54 contracts for works were approved, each exceeding \$200,000, in the period from March to June 1996. These were worth a total of \$52.3 million. The private sector won 38 of these contracts worth \$37.6 million. That is, the private sector won approximately 72 percent of works by value tendered in open competition during that period. Contracts for a further \$12.3 million in materials were also won by the private sector in that period. Local government won five contracts worth \$4.9 million

while Road Transport Construction Services (Main Roads) won 11 contracts worth \$9.8 million.

This compares with the private sector winning 72 percent of works by value let to open competition in the financial year 1994/95.

442. Forsyth Rail Line

Mr De LACY asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (9/7/96)—

- (1) What are capital costs for upgrading the Forsyth Rail Line to a suitable standard for re-opening of the service and is there a projected time-frame for such work?
- (2) Has he made projections on the overall level of operating subsidy that will be necessary for any new services; if so, will he supply an estimate of what that will equate to per passenger?
- (3) Will he be providing a special advertising allocation for promotion of the new service; if so, will he provide details of any such activities?

Mr Johnson (5/8/96): To facilitate the considerations of all stakeholders Queensland Rail and Queensland Transport representatives are conducting community consultation meetings in the region from Mareeba to Forsyth. This will identify the options for the type of rollingstock to be used on the service. In conjunction with this Queensland Rail has engaged independent consultants to conduct a risk assessment of the corridor which will be used to determine the level of investment required to reinstate the infrastructure. It is anticipated QR's report based on the above will be available by the end of August. Preliminary results are indicated as follows:

- (1) The capital costs will depend on whether the train service is a heavy locomotive hauled train (similar to the Last Great Train Ride) or a lighter axle load Railmotor service from Cairns.

The time frame for re-opening the line will depend on a full assessment of the level of track work to be completed. An indicative schedule is that the track could be reinstated for a railmotor service within a few months while the work required for a locomotive hauled train would take from 6 to 9 months to complete.

- (2) The annual operating subsidy will depend on the type of service to be introduced.
- (3) Advertising and promotion allocation will be considered once the type and frequency of the new service is determined. It is expected, however that the service will be featured in product specific marketing as well as packaged tours.

443. Rockhampton Base Hospital

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Health (9/7/96)—

With reference to the Rockhampton Base Hospital—

- (1) How many patients have been treated in the intensive care ward at the Rockhampton Base Hospital since March?

- (2) For what types of injury were these patients treated?
- (3) How many of these patients were transferred to other hospitals because of the inadequacy of treatment available at the Rockhampton facility?
- (4) How many were transferred out of the Rockhampton Base Hospital for other reasons and what were they?
- (5) What is the current bed capacity of the Intensive Care Unit at the Rockhampton Base Hospital?
- (6) What specialist medical personnel is available to the Intensive Care Unit?
- (7) Given that both the intensivist and the anaesthetist who were attached to the Intensive Care Unit at the Rockhampton Base Hospital have resigned, when will their replacements take up duty?
- (8) As he promised during the 1995 election campaign, that a Coalition Government would establish the Rockhampton Base Hospital as a training hospital for anaesthetists, when will he honour this promise and what increase will be provided to the Rockhampton Base Hospital budget to cater for this?
- (9) What wards have been closed at the Rockhampton Base Hospital since March 1996?
- (10) How many beds have been taken out of service at the Rockhampton Base Hospital since March?
- (11) Will he advise as to whether an ophthalmologist is to be provided at the Rockhampton Base Hospital?
- (12) When will upgrading of facilities at the Rockhampton Base Hospital as promised by the previous Labor Government be commenced?
- (13) When will the psychiatric unit built by the Labor Government be opened?

Mr Horan (1/8/96): In answer to your thirteen (13) part question: there have been 140 patients treated at Rockhampton Base Hospital's seven bed Intensive Care Unit for various medical, surgical, trauma and neurological trauma conditions since April 1996. Of these cases, Queensland Health has transferred 17 patients to tertiary services in Brisbane, for reasons which included some cases of multi-body system failure. Two medical officers currently staff the Unit.

Funding to meet the Coalition's commitment on the training of anaesthetists will be found after full staffing is achieved in October this year. It must be remembered that the loss of professional staff occurred under the administration of the Goss Government.

Planning for the upgrade of the Rockhampton Base Hospital is currently under way, and Queensland Health is awaiting a final Master Plan. This redevelopment was, of course, part of the \$1.2 billion in expenditure committed by the now Labor Leadership (Messrs Beattie and Elder) without the funds to do so. Mr Beattie's attempted transfer of \$33.9 million from the capital works budget to the

bloated budgets of south east Queensland's hospitals further threatened the redevelopment—however, I reversed this transfer. As a result of this and other actions taken by the Coalition, Rockhampton's redevelopment can now proceed with security of funding. Planning for the project will address which specialties will be supported within the redeveloped hospital. In the interim, there has been a reallocation of wards, designed to improve conditions for patients and staff, with a decommissioning of 32 beds. Queensland Health has not removed these beds and I have directed that they are to be used if necessary. These sorts of efficiencies mean that Labor's overruns can be contained, and at last, new funds will be available to deliver new services.

In relation to the Mental Health Complex, I am pleased to say that, since the Coalition took office, the Outpatients Centre for the Complex is now operational, and planning has commenced for the transfer of inpatients. The Complex will be open and fully operational by 15 August 1996, and its funding assured in the September budget.

445. Aged Care Budget

Mr LIVINGSTONE asked the Minister for Health (9/7/96)—

With reference to the recent COAG meeting in Hobart and having accepted responsibilities previously held by the Commonwealth in aged care gleefully without any guarantees about financial assistance—

- (1) What will be Queensland's total budget for aged care services as a result of the handover ratified at COAG?
- (2) How much of the total aged care budget for Queensland will be provided by the State Government?
- (3) Did he secure the \$160m in financial assistance from the Commonwealth during discussions on the planned transfer of aged care to the States which he said he would?

Mr Horan (5/8/96): The basis of your question is untrue. At the recent meeting of the Health and Community Services Ministerial Council in Hobart (not COAG), 'in principle' agreement was reached. However, nothing will occur unless the financial assistance offered by the Commonwealth is adequate. The Council established a working group on the strategy and issues for devolution. Discussions between Queensland Health and the Commonwealth have just commenced: no agreement has been reached on responsibilities or funding.

(1) Wrong again: no handover has been ratified by COAG. I expect that bilateral discussions will take place in 1997 on the terms of any responsibility transfer. Funding will be considered then.

(2) Any contribution from the State of Queensland will improve the quality and quantity of services delivered to the aged. Your lack of concern for service delivery is worrying but typical of Queensland Health's six and half years under Labor.

(3) You are wrong again. If you had bothered reading just eight words past the incorrect *Courier-Mail* headline of 2 July 1996, (or if you had any understanding of aged care), you would know that the figure is \$600 million. This figure remains an absolute condition of transfer.

The Coalition is committed to removing duplication and ensuring that the lowest possible level of government delivers services. Labor may wish to see Queensland hand control of everything to Canberra: we do not.

449. Railway Infrastructure, Nudgee Electorate

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (10/7/96)—

With reference to the Nudgee Electorate—

What improvements are planned to railway infrastructure, including track, station buildings, level crossings, pedestrian crossings, car parking facilities, passenger security, etc. and services for 1996-97 and 1997-98?

Mr Johnson (5/8/96): Queensland Rail plans to carry out the following improvements:

Track

Steel sleepers are being installed in the track on the Shorncliffe line under an ongoing program as funds become available.

It is envisaged that steel sleepers will be installed between Nudgee and North Boondall over the next two years.

Station Buildings

The footbridges at Zillmere and Geebung stations will be repaired. The footbridges at Sunshine and Shorncliffe stations will be repaired and repainted in 1996-1997.

Level Crossings/Pedestrian Crossings

Pedestrian crossing upgrade including automatic pedestrian gates, lanterns audible alarms and signage to be installed at the Northgate Road level crossing in 1997/98.

Car Parking Facilities

Station

Northgate: 1996/97—Complete camera installation and security fencing

Geebung: 1997/98—Security depending on funding.

Boondall: 1996/97—Security depending on funding.

Banyo: 1997/98—Security depending on parking.

Security

The TrainSafe program that I announced on 10 July, is a \$17 million government project that will provide a number of measures to make our rail network even safer. One of the measures is to provide all stations in the network with security cameras.

Implementation of TrainSafe will commence this year and be completed as planned by the end of the 1997/98 financial year.

453. Railway Crossing, Bundaberg

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (10/7/96)—

With reference to the very rough and deteriorating railway crossing on Bourbong Street, Bundaberg, a motorcycle accident which occurred as a result of the roughness and complaints by truck owners driving loaded trucks over the crossing—

Will he take immediate action and have the crossing upgraded and maintained to provide a level railway crossing in Bourbong Street?

Mr Johnson (5/8/96): On 11 July 1996, Queensland Rail carried out some minor repairs to this level crossing which entailed smoothing the surface around the worst areas. On 21 July 1996, QR will be closing off half the road for half the day to raise the sunken track.

These are only temporary repairs to allow vehicle traffic to cross the level crossing in a more smooth manner than at present.

Design is under way for the long term solution at which the level crossing will be upgraded and relayed right through before the end of October 1996.

455. Thursday Island Hospital

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Health (10/7/96)—

With reference to the article in the *Courier-Mail* dated 17 May 1996 concerning the redevelopment of the Thursday Island Hospital—

- (1) What is the basis for determining bed numbers for Thursday Island Hospital?
- (2) Why were the "agreed" numbers less than the original commitment?

Mr Horan (5/8/96):

(1) Projected bed needs are based on population and clinical trends, such as length of stay and day surgery rates. Queensland Health's methodology is regarded as the most sophisticated available in Australia today. However, projections are only used as an aid to decision making. Special local factors sometimes require an adjustment to be made to projections. Capital Works Branch has discussed these with managers and clinicians from Thursday Island Hospital. The final number of beds proposed was agreed following these discussions.

(2) They are not. The previous Government gave 'in principle' approval for Thursday Island Hospital to be redeveloped with 38 beds. However, this number was proposed prior to the current data being available—not to mention in the context of Labor's \$1.2 billion overcommitment of the hospital rebuilding program. Therefore, a rethink of bed requirements within a sound process became necessary. As a result of that process, we have agreed that the Hospital be rebuilt with 38 beds, no more and no less than previous approvals.

456. Beenleigh-Kingston Road

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (10/7/96)—

With reference to the increased traffic flow on Beenleigh-Kingston Road, and projections of even much greater traffic flows as a result of significant housing development in the Browns Plains/Greenbank and Jimboomba areas, in addition to rapid local development, by residents accessing the South East Freeway/Pacific Highway—

With construction of the Waterford bridge, and widening of that section of Beenleigh/Kingston Road between Loganlea Road and Schneider Road nearing completion, when will the remaining sections of Beenleigh-Kingston Road (a) Chambers Flat Road to Loganlea Road and (b) Schneider Road to Boundary Street, Beenleigh, be widened to four (4) lanes?

Mr Johnson (5/8/96): In the current Roads Implementation Program, upgrading of the Brisbane-Beenleigh Road over the section in question is scheduled as follows:-

- (a) Chambers Flat Road to Loganlea Road—1996/97
- (b) Schneider Road to Boundary Street—commencing 1999/2000

The program is being reviewed at the present time and I can confirm that the Chambers Flat Road to Loganlea Road job will be substantially completed in 1996/97. Service relocation is under way and it is intended that the contract will be awarded to complete the drainage and major earthworks before Christmas this year.

Consideration is being given to commencing works on the Schneider Road to Boundary Street section earlier than 1999/2000, but no commitment can be given until the review is approved.

457. Government Building, 75 William Street

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (10/7/96)—

With reference to the stalling of construction of a new Government office building at 75 William Street, Brisbane—

- (1) What, if any, planning is occurring for the future of this site?
- (2) When will a final decision be made about use of the 75 William Street site?
- (3) If he has no immediate plans for construction of Government offices on this site, what steps will he be taking to relieve the private rent burden being paid by a number of departments unable to be accommodated in Government buildings?

Mr Connor (2/8/96):

(1) The 75 William Street site is included in a range of options presently being explored in order to determine the most cost effective means of providing new office space which is required to replace existing unsatisfactory accommodation.

(2) The final report and recommendations are expected to be presented to Cabinet for consideration in the near future.

(3) Departments pay market value rent for the space they occupy, regardless of whether they are in a private or government owned office building.

459. Sports Funding, Caloundra Electorate

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (10/7/96)—

With reference to the comments made by his colleague, the Treasurer, in relation to the awarding of sporting grants to her electorate over the last six years and his quote that, "It should be said that under the sporting grants allocation Caloundra has not had a thing for the last six years, not a thing" and the Treasurers quote that, "I am saying we have received nothing and it is surely our turn"—

- (1) Is it true that in the last six years the electorate of Caloundra has received nothing, not a thing, in the way of sporting grants by the Queensland Government?
- (2) If the electorate of Caloundra has in fact received sporting grants from the Government will he provide (a) a list of all grants, (b) the size of the grants, (c) the organisation involved, (d) how the money was to be used and (e) the program under which the grant was provided?
- (3) In relation to any grants provided to the electorate of Caloundra, will he provide a list of all persons who have received a letter from the relevant Government department informing them of the awarding of the grant, and any other notification the local member received in relation to the awarding of the grant?
- (4) Will he provide a list of all sporting grants awarded to the electorate of Caloundra since the change of Government in February 1996?
- (5) Will he list any applications for sports funding received by his department since February 1996, including (a) the organisations involved, (b) the size of the Government contribution requested and (c) how the money is to be used?

Mr Veivers (9/8/96):

(1) The electorate of Caloundra has not received any funding through the National Standard Sport Facilities Program, the former Major Facilities Program, or the Community Recreation Facilities Program. However, individual sporting clubs and organisations that conduct activities in the Caloundra electorate did receive funding under minor funding programs.

(2) As noted above, the electorate of Caloundra has not received funding under the National Standard Sport Facilities Program, the former Major Facilities Program, or the Community Recreation Facilities Program. However, a range of sporting organisations that operate in the electorate have received funding.

I have included for tabling details of grants provided to these sporting organisations including their size, the recipient organisation, the purpose of the funding and the program under which the grant was provided.

(3) See (1) and (2) above.

(4) See (1) and (2) above.

(5) The Office of Sport and Recreation and my office receive numerous formal and informal requests and applications for sports funding each week. These requests and applications come in various forms and are all treated equally. I am informed that, since February, a new application for funding has been approved for \$350,000 from Tennis Queensland for the construction of a tennis complex at Hope Island to ensure that Queensland regained an international tournament, the 1997 Gold Coast Women's Classic.

461. Mines and Energy Department

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (10/7/96)—

With reference to the Office of Energy Management within the Department of Mines and Energy—

Will he confirm that all current positions and functions of this department will be maintained and will he detail what changes have occurred within this department since the change of Government?

Mr Gilmore (5/8/96): The future structure of the Office of Energy Management will be determined following the finalisation of the budget of the department of Mines and Energy. No changes to the establishment of the area have occurred since the change of government.

464. Geriatrician, Northern Health Region

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Health (10/7/96)—

With reference to the Northern Health Region which has been without the services of a Specialist Geriatrician for many years, and given that there are over 20,000 persons in the area over the age of 65 years and that early diagnosis of the causes of the symptoms of dementia is the single most important requirement in the planning of appropriate care—

- (1) When can people in the region expect the appointment of a Specialist Geriatrician?
- (2) If such an appointment is unlikely in the near future, could arrangements be made for a Geriatrician from Brisbane or Cairns to conduct regular sessions at Townsville?

Mr Horan (5/8/96):

(1) A position for a public Geriatrician has been extensively advertised; however, there has been no interest shown. I anticipate the position to be readvertised following forthcoming budget allocations.

(2) If readvertisement of the position does not lead to a permanent appointment (which remains the Coalition's preferred option), every effort will be made to obtain the services of a visiting specialist on a sessional basis. However, because of the occupational shortage of Geriatricians, the Government accepts that this alternative is unlikely to succeed. Queensland Health has advised me that specialists in both Cairns and Brisbane already carry high case loads.

466. Department of Environment, Retrenchment of Temporary Staff

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Environment (10/7/96)—

With reference to recent retrenchments of temporary staff from the Department of Environment—

- (1) How many temporary staff have been lost from the national parks and wildlife service?
- (2) How many of these were on national parks, which national parks are affected and to what extent?
- (3) What were the staffing levels on each of these affected national parks prior to these losses?
- (4) How many of these staff were lost from regional and district offices, which regional and district offices are affected and what is the breakdown per office?
- (5) How many of these staff were lost from head office?
- (6) What were their duties in head office?

Mr Littleproud (31/7/96): In relation to recent retrenchments from the QNPWS:

- (1) Nineteen temporary staff have recently completed their term of employment with the QNPWS.
- (2) Twelve of these staff were rangers employed on the following National Parks: Nine from Great Sandy, one each from Paluma Range, Eungella and the Agnes Waters park base.

The loss of nine staff from Great Sandy is particularly regretted as the Labor Government was given \$26 million as part of a \$44 million Commonwealth/ State package to correct the major changes brought about by the nomination to a World Heritage Area, but three years down the track no permanent future provision had been made for these employees.

With that lead time and level of funding, it is a shame that temporary staff have to be terminated because of Labor's inadequate management.

- (3) Staffing levels prior to these changes were 57 at Great Sandy, 3.5 at Paluma range, 3.5 at Eungella and three at Agnes Waters. All of these staffing levels are expressed as full-time equivalents.
- (4) Seven staff were lost from Regional and District offices including two from Far Northern Regional Office, one each from Ingham, Gladstone, Rockhampton, Roma and Maryborough District Offices.
- (5) No staff were lost from Head Office
- (6) Not applicable.

471. Mrs V. Rick; Mahogany Glider Habitat

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (10/7/96)—

With reference to the recent destruction of vital mahogany glider habitat in the Tully area by the owner, Mrs Vicki Rick, in contravention of the spirit of the Draft Mahogany Glider Conservation Plan—

- (1) Is Mrs Rick a member of the Mahogany Glider recovery team as set up by his department?
- (2) Which organisation does Mrs Rick represent on that team?
- (3) If it is the Cattleman's Union, does Mrs Rick run cattle on the property involved; if not, has she ever run cattle on it; if so, when?
- (4) Does he believe Mrs Rick is a suitable person to sit on that team in light of the destruction she caused on her own property?
- (5) Does he intend to remove Mrs Rick from the team; if so, when?
- (6) Why wasn't she removed immediately she caused this destruction?
- (7) Will he agree to replace Mrs Rick on the team with a member of the local conservation movement who is more likely to represent the best interests of this highly endangered mammal?

Mr Littleproud (31/7/96):

- (1) Mrs. Vicki Rick was nominated as a member of the Mahogany Glider Recovery Team by the Tully branch of the Cattlemen's Union, but subsequently announced her resignation.
- (2) (See answer to question number 1)
- (3) The Department is unaware of Mrs Rick's level of involvement in the cattle industry.
- (4) (See answer to question number 1)
- (5) (See answer to question number 1)
- (6) (See answer to question number 1)
- (7) The North Queensland Conservation Council and the Wildlife Preservation Society are already represented on the Team.

472. Fort Lytton National Park

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Environment (10/7/96)—

With reference to his recent acquisition of Port of Brisbane Authority land and other lands to complement the Fort Lytton National Park and recent press reports that indicate his staffing cuts will leave at best one ranger at this park and probably its periodic closure—

- (1) What area of land was recently purchased for addition to Fort Lytton National Park, from whom was it purchased and at what cost?
- (2) What was the staffing level at Fort Lytton National Park prior to his staff reductions?
- (3) What are the present staffing levels at Fort Lytton National Park?
- (4) What funding and staffing levels is he seeking in the coming State budget for Fort Lytton National Park?
- (5) Will he guarantee the park opening times will be maintained at the levels at the change of Government for at least the next 12 months?
- (6) What level of Government assistance will be given to the volunteers at Fort Lytton over the coming 12 months?

- (7) What level of Government funding will be directed towards maintenance of the Fort and restoration of its heritage over the coming 12 months?

Mr Littleproud: (31/7/96):

- (1) (a) The area of land acquired is 5.9 ha;
 (b) The land was purchased from the Port of Brisbane Authority; and
 (c) The cost was \$710,000.

(2) Five permanent staff. This national park is administered as part of a management unit that includes St Helena Island National Park.

(3) The number of permanent staff within the Management Unit has not changed in recent months. However, one ranger has, in the past few weeks, been taken off line to be involved with a special project. A temporary replacement will be appointed to return the Management Unit to its full complement of staff.

Casual staff are employed by the department to undertake specific tasks with special funding.

(4) Funding for all areas of government is the subject of ongoing Budget deliberations, which have to take into account the mess left by labor at both State and Commonwealth levels.

(5) See answers (2), (3) and (4)

(6) See answer (4)

(7) See answer (4)

473. National Equity Program for Schools

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education (10/7/96)—

With reference to concerns which have been raised by non-government service providers for children with disabilities under the special education component of the National Equity Program for Schools—

Are changes to the current funding arrangements for these services being contemplated; if so, what is the nature of those changes and what undertakings will he give that services will not be adversely affected?

Mr Quinn (9/8/96): The quantum of funding and administrative arrangements for the NEPS program are determined by the Commonwealth Government.

Firm decisions regarding funding will not be made until after the Federal Budget in August.

474. Ambulance Service, Middlemount

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (10/7/96)—

With reference to the Middlemount Ambulance Service which is currently servicing the town and district with one ambulance vehicle and has been seeking a back-up unit for some time—

When will the service be provided with a second ambulance?

Mr Veivers (9/8/96): In response to the specific question made by Mr Pearce, I can advise as

follows: The Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS), Central Region Management, regularly review the capital and fleet requirements of the region to most effectively utilise these resources to meet the needs of communities and all other operational requirements. These reviews of resources are part of the normal strategic management cycle of the Central Region and of the QAS.

There are many small rural and remote communities which are currently serviced by one ambulance vehicle. QAS Middlemount currently has a class one, 4 X 4, two stretcher, Landcruiser ambulance.

Backup support ambulances are currently provided from either Tieri Station, which is 63km away, or from Dysart, which is 69km away. The Assistant Commissioner, Central Region, is presently working with the Officer-in-Charge of Middlemount on preparing a business plan to identify the QAS needs of the Middlemount area, including the possible provision of a second ambulance.

475. Power Generation, Bulimba Electorate

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (10/7/96)—

With reference to expressions of interests for power generation within the Bulimba Electorate which closed on 18 June 1996—

(1) How many tenders were received and for which sites?

(2) What companies have submitted expressions of interest and for what type of power generation, eg gas fired, coal etc?

(3) When will the tender assessment panel complete its assessment on the outcome of the bidding process?

(4) Does SEQEB own any land within the Bulimba Electorate; if so, where?

Mr Gilmore (5/8/96):

(1) A total of 21 tenders from 13 bidding organisations were received by the lodgement deadline of 21 June 1996. The location of these proposals is commercially sensitive information and cannot be released at this stage. I am able to say that proposals utilised a number of sites throughout Queensland and did not focus solely on the South-East corner.

(2) The bidders have proposed using a number of different fuels, including coal, gas and water. There was also a bid based upon the utilisation of demand side management. The name of companies submitting bids is again commercially sensitive and is not able to be released at this time.

(3) The Tender Assessment Panel will complete its evaluation of bids and report back to Shareholding Ministers by the end of July 1996.

(4) SEQEB owns seven properties in the Bulimba Electorate covering a total of about 32000 m². The following table specifies the relevant details of the properties in question.

Street Address—Location—Area (m²)—Vacant

Baldwin St—Bulimba—809.37—Y

Lytton Rd & Baldwin St—Bulimba—3466.00—N

Lytton & Barrack Rds & Wattle St—Cannon Hill—1594.00—Y

Lytton & Barrack Rds & Wattle St—Cannon Hill—405.00—Y

Lytton & Barrack Rds & Wattle St—Cannon Hill—5797.12—Y

Lytton & Barrack Rds & Wattle St—Cannon Hill—1214.00—Y

Lytton Rd—Bulimba (Murarrie)—18760.00—N

476. Cape York Conservation Zone

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Natural Resources (10/7/96)—

With reference to the fact that the previous Labor Government had acquired considerable parts of its proposed Cape York Conservation Zone—

Aside from the areas already declared as national parks, will he give a guarantee that all areas purchased will remain in public ownership; if not, which properties does he intend to dispose of and how?

Mr Hobbs (30/7/96): The future of the Cape York Conservation Zone will be considered in association with other land use proposals like the Cape York Peninsula Land Use Strategy (CYPLUS).

478. Office of Consumer Affairs, Maryborough

Mr DOLLIN asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (10/7/96)—

- (1) Is he aware of speculation that the Office of Consumer Affairs in Maryborough which would be one of the busiest in Queensland, providing a much needed service to the citizens of our region, will be closed in the near future?
- (2) Will he give an assurance that this speculation is without foundation and that this Office of Consumer Affairs will be maintained in Maryborough?

Mr Beanland (8/8/96):

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.

479. Mr B. Ffrench; Legal Aid Office

Mr J. N. GOSS asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (10/7/96)—

- (1) Is the Legal Aid Office currently seeking to fill the positions of Director and three Assistant Directors?
- (2) Has Mr Barrie Ffrench been engaged to assist in this process and what role does he fulfil?
- (3) Is Mr Ffrench a part-time Commissioner of the Criminal Justice Commission?
- (4) Who engaged Mr Ffrench to undertake this task for the Legal Aid Office?
- (5) What remuneration is Mr Ffrench receiving in this instance?
- (6) Is there any potential conflict of interest between Mr Ffrench's role at the Criminal Justice Commission and his engagement by the Legal Aid Office?

Mr Beanland (8/8/96):

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Legal Aid Commission of Queensland, an independent Statutory Authority, has engaged Mr Barrie Ffrench as an independent Human Resources Consultant to advise the Commission on process and to liaise with the President of the Commission in respect of the suitability for interview of applicants.
- (3) Mr Ffrench's term concluded on 31 July 1996.
- (4) The Legal Aid Commission of Queensland through the President.
- (5) Mr Ffrench is receiving \$100.00 per hour for his services.
- (6) I am advised by Mr Michael Baumann, President of the Legal Aid Commission of Queensland that, when Mr Ffrench was interviewed for appointment, he indicated that he held Counsel's opinion, together with the opinion of the Chair of the Criminal Justice Commission, Mr Frank Clair, that he was entitled, since his appointment as a part-time Commissioner, to be engaged as a freelance consultant. Mr Baumann has advised me that the Legal Aid Commission of Queensland did not at the time of appointment, nor does it now, see any conflict of interest. I have not had the benefit of seeing any of the legal advice mentioned by Mr Ffrench.

481. Kennedy Report; Common Law Claims

Mr FOURAS asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (11/7/96)—

As he has adopted the Kennedy Report recommendations, is it now the case that for a young labourer with a 14 per cent disability of the whole body from, say, a back injury and a valid common law claim, the young worker (a) would suffer regular severe pain if forced back to labouring work, (b) probably couldn't continue labouring, (c) would recover insufficiently under the statutory scheme to compensate him for the risk that he may never work again and (d) would recover from the statutory scheme only a very small proportion of what he would recover at common law?

Mr Santoro (8/8/96): Recommendations in the Kennedy Report are based on work related impairment, not 'whole body' impairment, therefore the reference to 'whole body' impairment does not reflect the Inquiry's recommendations.

A condition resulting in a work related impairment of 15% or less is considered a mild impairment by the eminent medical specialists consulted during the Inquiry and documented in the Report. These specialists also state that many other factors can contribute to back conditions including congenital or constitutional factors.

The percentage of work related impairment is the proportion of the impairment attributable to work and does not necessarily equate to the percentage disability of the whole body.

(a) In the absence of a definite medical diagnosis, it is not possible to determine the probability of the young labourer you have described experiencing continuing pain if forced back into labouring work.

(b) In the absence of a definite medical diagnosis, it is not possible to determine the probability of the young labourer you have described not being able to return to labouring.

(c) Advice given to the Kennedy Inquiry by eminent medical specialists indicates that generally workers with a work related impairment level not greater than 15% still have a significant capacity to work. Further, to assist workers in returning to work, the statutory benefits system provides medical and rehabilitation services.

(d) It is not possible to quantify the amount this worker may have recovered from common law. As demonstrated by cases provided to the Inquiry by the Queensland Law Society, there are large variations in the amounts received at common law for similar injuries. It must also be remembered that success at common law is dependant upon proving employer negligence.

Statutory lump sum benefits however will, under the Kennedy Recommendations, be increased by 30% in addition to weekly benefits for up to five years whilst the worker is incapacitated, as well as all necessary medical and rehabilitation expenses. Furthermore, in all cases where a work related impairment of 50% or greater exists an additional lump sum payment of up to \$100,000 is also to be made under Mr Kennedy's Recommendations.

482. Government Projects

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (11/7/96)—

With reference to the 'Schoolsafe' program initiated by the former Government, and projects approved by former Minister Elder prior to the change of Government, will he detail (a) the full list of projects approved by the former Government for 1995-96, (b) the projects that had not commenced prior to the change of Government and (c) the projects that have commenced since the change of Government?

Mr Johnson (5/8/96):

(a) Information supplied by the Department of Transport indicates Mr Elder approved two separate components of the Schoolsafe program in 1995-96 under the former Government. These components are:

- (1) the ongoing yearly \$1 million under the so called Schoolsafe Subsidy Scheme; and
- (2) an additional \$3 million allocation specifically for the provision of pick-up and set-down areas as part of the former Government's "School Transport and Safety" package announced during the 1995 State election.

The first component, submitted on 22 September 1995 and approved by Mr Elder on 11 December 1995, contains 88 projects. The second component was submitted on 23 January 1996, approved by Mr Elder on 9 February 1996, and it contains 119 projects at 116 existing schools and 6 projects at 6 new schools.

(b) and (c) As progress reports for Schoolsafe projects were compiled at monthly intervals, it is not possible to ascertain which projects have or have not commenced prior to the change of Government.

However, of the \$1 million component, 17 projects had commenced as at the end of March 1996. Of the second component, project work had commenced on 3 projects at 3 new schools as at the end of March 1996. Owing to the fact that the 119 projects for the 116 existing schools were only approved on 9 February 1996 by Mr Elder, none of these had commenced prior to the change of Government.

Subsequently the Coalition Government has confirmed funding for these projects and I have advised Local Authorities to proceed with the necessary work.

I am pleased to table complete details of the Schoolsafe program and Safe Pick Up and Set Down programs for 1995/96. Projects marked with an asterisk are known to have commenced as at the end of March.

483. University of Queensland, Ipswich Campus

Mr HAMILL asked the Minister for Education (11/7/96)—

With reference to the proposed Ipswich campus of the University of Queensland—

- (1) Has he received correspondence from the University of Queensland requesting the site of the Challinor Centre for their new campus?
- (2) What is the State Government's position on this matter?
- (3) Is the State Government prepared to make the site available to the university?
- (4) What arrangements will be put in place for Challinor residents should the State accede to the university's request?
- (5) When will the site be available to the university for their new campus development?

Mr Quinn (9/8/96):

(1) The University of Queensland has advised that Challinor is the preferred site of the Senate, subject to the resolution of a range of matters.

(2) The final location of the University campus in Ipswich has yet to be considered by State Cabinet.

(3) The State Government has yet to consider any proposal for the allocation of the Challinor site for university purposes.

(4) The Government is aware that no final decision on the use of Challinor for university purposes can be made until a satisfactory outcome for the existing residents of the Centre has been negotiated, and put in place.

As this matter is yet to be considered, this question is premature and more specific details are unavailable.

(5) This question has yet to be considered by the Government.

484. Prison Camp/Outreach Centre, Mount Byron

Mr BEATTIE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (11/7/96)—

With reference to plans by the Queensland Corrective Services Commission to establish a prison camp/outreach centre at Mt Byron in the Esk district—

- (1) How many prisoners will this facility be able to accommodate?
- (2) What class of prisoner will serve time there?
- (3) Will these prisoners perform community work in the Esk district; if so, what type?
- (4) What will be the staff/prisoner ratio?
- (5) What funding is he seeking for this facility in the coming State budget?
- (6) What exact location is being investigated for the facility?
- (7) What community consultation has occurred on this matter so far?
- (8) What reaction has he received from local residents?
- (9) Has Esk Shire Council been fully consulted over this proposal; if so, what is their position?

Mr Cooper (26/7/96): The facility in question is a wilderness camp for young offenders. The facility is no longer to be located in the Esk District. The Commission, having taken account of public concerns, has been investigating other more acceptable locations. Plans are now under way, providing finance is available, to locate the facility at Palen Creek on the Prison reserve.

- (1) The maximum current capacity of the facility, regardless of location, will be 20 prisoners. However, in the pilot program, it is planned to run with 12 prisoners.
- (2) Prisoners of classification Open, Low and Medium and between the ages of 17 and 25 will participate in the Program. They must be within twelve months of their earliest release eligibility. Prisoners with a history of violence or serving sentences for sexual offences will be excluded.
- (3) There are no plans for these prisoners to perform community work.
- (4) The current total staff establishment, including management and administration, is eight staff to twelve prisoners.
- (5) Recurrent funding for a full year is \$650,000 and has been requested.
- (6) The location now being investigated is on the Palen Creek Prison Reserve.
- (7) There were lengthy discussions and meetings with the Esk Community in relation to the Esk site. There has been some discussion with the Palen Creek community in relation to the new proposed site. If the program is funded there will be full community consultation.
- (8) At Esk, while some of the locals were in favour and supported the proposal, there was also a number of residents who objected to the location of the Program in the district. As a result of this, the plan to locate the camp in the Esk area was terminated and a new site was sought.

(9) When Esk was the original proposed site, the Esk Shire Council was fully consulted and was supportive of the proposal.

485. Community Recreation Centre, Maryborough

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (11/7/96)—

Will he give an undertaking to grant the \$1m towards a Community Recreation Centre for Maryborough that was promised to the Maryborough City Council and the community by the previous Government, as Maryborough unfortunately has very high unemployment and I view this assistance as urgent?

Mr Veivers (9/8/96): In response to the specific question made by Mr Dollin, I can advise as follows: I am aware of the Maryborough City Council's application for funding under the 1996 Community Recreation Centres Program. To the best of my knowledge this application was not formally recommended or approved for funding by the previous Government. Due to the actions of the previous Government I have been left with no capacity to consider additional projects outside the budget context.

486. Kennedy Report

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (11/7/96)—

With reference to the "Commission of Inquiry into Workers Compensation and Related Matters in Queensland"—

- (1) How many reports of the inquiry were printed?
- (2) What was the total cost of the inquiry?
- (3) How much was spent on wages/salaries and other payments to members of the inquiry?
- (4) What was the total costs of their personal expenses?
- (5) How much was spent on travel for members of the inquiry?
- (6) What is the total printing and distribution costs of the reports?

Mr Santoro (8/8/96):

- (1) My office obtained 170 copies of the full Kennedy Report (Executive Summary, Volumes 1 & 2 and the Appendices) and 130 copies each of the Executive Summary and Volumes 1 & 2. Goprint advise that they have printed 100 copies of the Executive Summary and 200 copies of Volumes 1 & 2 of the Kennedy Report for sale to the public. It is expected that a further 50 copies of Volumes 1 & 2 will be printed by Goprint in the near future.
- (2) As at 29 July 1996, the total cost of the Inquiry was \$314,726.44. There are some minor invoices outstanding.
- (3) The total cost to date of wages/salaries/ consultancy fees is \$183,209.24.
- (4) The total cost to date of personal expenses is \$2,289.20

(5) The total cost to date of travel is \$5,958.97.

(6) Printing costs for the copies of the Report obtained by my office total \$17,882.00. Copies of the full Report obtained by my office were delivered to Parliament, key stakeholders and the media, for which minimal delivery costs were incurred. Copies of the Executive Summary and/or Volumes 1 & 2 obtained by my office were forwarded to relevant stakeholders at an average postal cost of \$3.50 each.

487. Rev. A. Male; Shaftesbury Citizenship Centre

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (11/7/96)—

With reference to his answer to Question on Notice No. 216 and specifically to the Shaftesbury Citizenship Campus situated at Deception Bay—

- (1) Does Reverend Allan Male pay any rent for the residence he occupies on the Deception Bay Campus; if so, how much?
- (2) Has Reverend Male ever received rent free accommodation; if so, when?
- (3) Is any of the funding allocated by his department used for the youth leadership and other programs at the Deception Bay Campus?

Mr Lingard (31/7/96): I am advised that the answer to each of the questions is "No".

488. Railway Crossing, Blackwater

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (11/7/96)—

With reference to recent media statements, in which he advised that, following an incident at the Blackwater rail crossing, boom gates would be installed in the interests of safety for motorists and train crews—

- (1) What is the timeframe for the planning and installation of boom gates at this crossing?
- (2) Will the requirement for signals on the western leg angle of the rail line to South Blackwater Mine delay the planning and installation process?

Mr Johnson (5/8/96):

(1) Queensland Rail anticipates that design and installation of boom gates to supplement the existing flashing lights will take approximately eight months, subject to the qualification in the response to the second part of this Question. The upgrade is not a simple addition of boom gates at the crossing itself, the extra time required for the lowering of the boom mechanism requiring a complete redesign of the train detection circuits on the approach tracks to produce a safe warning cycle of lights flashing and booms dropping, prior to a train crossing the road. Long lead times on manufacture of some of the equipment required and commitments to installation of active protection at other level crossing sites, will also make it unlikely that an earlier commissioning can be achieved.

(2) Queensland Rail advises that the need to integrate the new boom gate train detection circuitry with other proposed changes in the signalling system, including commissioning of signals for the new western leg angle connection to South Blackwater Mine, might delay the level crossing upgrade by two or three months.

However, Queensland Rail is currently investigating the feasibility of speeding up the associated signalling changes so as to avoid any significant delay to the level crossing works.

489. Kennedy Report

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (11/7/96)—

With reference to the Kennedy Report which he has adopted and which proposes limiting access to Common Law to workers with a 15 per cent 'work-related impairment', such impairment which is defined as 'the level of permanent impairment that results from a work related injury', and as it is not clear how the 15 per cent is calculated—

Is it 15 per cent of the injured part of the body, or 15 per cent of the whole body?

Mr Santoro (8/8/96): The 15 per cent is not expressed as a proportion of the injured part of the body or of the whole body but as a measure of Work Related Impairment (WRI). This is the percentage of the statutory maximum compensation payable, calculated from the Table of Injuries as contained in the Workers' Compensation Regulation 1992 (current maximum of \$100,000 is to be increased by 30% to \$130,000). In order for a worker to access common law, they would need to have a WRI of greater than 15 per cent, which in effect means a lump sum amount payable from the Table of greater than 15 per cent of \$130,000 (currently \$100,000) ie. a lump sum amount payable greater than \$19,500 (currently \$15,000).

490. Queensland Health, Staffing

Mr De LACY asked the Minister for Health (11/7/96)—

- (1) What is the total number of job losses as a consequence of the decision not to renew temporary or contract appointments in Queensland Health, as well as the number of jobs lost as a result of the dismantling of regionalisation; that is, in addition to and separate from any VERs offered to former regional health employees or public servants in central office?
- (2) Specifically, of the remaining former regional health authority employees redeployed, how many of the total number of 264 were placed in temporary or short-term positions?
- (3) Will he list the total number of SES positions and the total number of funded positions to be cut which was referred to in a memorandum to all staff in his department and signed by the Deputy Director-General (Planning & Systems)?

- (4) Was this memorandum a severe breach of existing public sector standards and guidelines by imposing an unacceptably short timeframe on staff to express an interest in a VER?
- (5) Did he authorise his Deputy Director-General (Planning & Systems) to issue this memorandum or was it cleared via his ministerial office?

Mr Horan (5/8/96):

(1) Temporary and contract appointments are not necessarily renewed, and there are many reasons for this. Many are never intended for renewal. Most are Commonwealth funded. In total opposition to Labor's approach, funds which come available from temporary positions will be used to maximise spending on services and minimise spending on administration. Exact numbers will depend on further negotiations with the Commonwealth.

In the same way, a decrease of 200 administrative positions in regional and corporate administration, including VERs, has enabled Queensland Health to refocus on service delivery, not administration.

- (2) Sixty-four.
- (3) Of about 200 administrative positions to be saved, 12 are expected to be SES positions.
- (4) No.
- (5) No.

494. Waiting List, Gold Coast Hospital

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Health (11/7/96)—

With reference to the unacceptably long waiting period at the Gold Coast Hospital for certain elective surgery procedures, including cataract surgery—

- (1) Will he provide details of the status of waiting lists (number of people awaiting surgical procedures and appointments to see specialists) across all categories at the Gold Coast Hospital for elective surgery procedures (day surgery and non-day surgery)?
- (2) Was an article which appeared in the June edition of Queensland Health's official publication, *Healthmatters*, entitled 'Gold Coast solves elective surgery woes' misleading because it gives the impression that waiting times for elective surgery at the Gold Coast Hospital were satisfactory?
- (3) Was this edition of *Healthmatters* cleared by a staff member on his ministerial staff?
- (4) Does he accept or reject comments by his own spokesperson reported in the *Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin* (June 22-23 1996) that ". . . at the Gold Coast Hospital, where some patients still had several years to wait for some procedures"?
- (5) Has he attempted to inform the *Gold Coast Bulletin* of the limited services to be provided at the Robina Hospital?
- (6) Will he be considering the advice of certain sections of the community including doctors on the South Coast, and reconsider his plan to spend up to \$40m building a hospital at Robina

and fix services and staffing levels at the Gold Coast Hospital first?

- (7) Will he take up the Commission of Audit's recommendation to the Government to have an independent health service planning body composed of eminent people drawn from outside Government to address the principles for the location and size of hospitals?

Mr Horan (1/8/96):

(1) An Audit and survey of waiting lists at the Gold Coast Hospital was conducted in November 1995. By way of comparison, I attach details of waiting times by speciality as at 1 July 1996 at the Gold Coast Hospital.

These show that in the period from November 1995 to 1 July 1996, the number of Category 1 patients waiting longer than 30 days at the Gold Coast Hospital has reduced from 64 to 25. At 1 July 1996 there were no Category 1 Ophthalmology patients waiting more than 30 days for surgery.

At 1 July 1996, of the 711 Category 2 patients on the list, 242 or 34 per cent of patients exceeded the recommended waiting time of 90 days. There were only five ophthalmology patients who had exceeded the recommended waiting time.

Of the 1,943 Category 3 patients ready for care at 1 July 1996, 643 or 33.1 per cent had waited more than one year for surgery.

(2) No, the article is not misleading. The article discusses the significant changes that the Hospital and its staff have made to address elective surgery issues.

The level of surgical activity at the Gold Coast Hospital has increased due to the improved work practices, a reduction in the length of stay of patients, and the introduction of the post acute care scheme and other programs which provide care in the home. In addition, the appointment of a Director of Day Surgery has seen the Day Surgery Unit fully utilised.

(3) The editors submit the draft format of *Healthmatters* to the Office of the Director—General and the office of the Minister for Health prior to publication. Final approval of the publication of *Healthmatters* rests with the Director-General.

(4) The quote was made in relation to Day Surgery and the proposed Robina Hospital, in that the establishment of the hospital would relieve waiting lists for day surgery. This is absolutely true, and I find your opposition to a new hospital on the Gold Coast irrational and cruel to those still waiting on Labor's legacy, the waiting lists.

Robina will address the problem, and further steps taken by the Coalition have already reduced Gold Coast waits. For example, the Gold Coast Hospital's Day Surgery Unit has appointed a Director and throughput in the Unit has increased, allowing the Unit to be fully utilised.

It is to the shame of the former Labor Government, including you as Labor's Gold Coast representative, that Gold Coast people have been on waiting lists for a considerable length of time. Those who require an overnight stay are usually Category Three patients particularly in the Orthopaedic area. Other

such patients are those who require some type of specialised surgery.

(5) The *Gold Coast Bulletin* has been briefed on the Coalition's intentions for Robina.

(6) No: under no circumstances will the Coalition abandon the people of southern Gold Coast in any way, let alone the way you are suggesting it should. It is committed to the establishment of a Hospital at Robina, despite Mr Beattie's \$1.2 billion overcommitment of the hospital rebuilding fund. I have no doubt that your electors will call you to account for opposing to this project, when they realise that a vote for Merri Rose is a vote against the Robina Hospital.

(7) No. Processes which took place concurrently with the Commission of Audit have superseded this recommendation. Specifically, the development of the new Corporate Office structure, extensive consultation on District boundaries and supporting legislation, and establishment of a Capital Works Task Force have already occurred.

Attachment 1

GOLD COAST HOSPITAL—WAITING TIMES FOR ELECTIVE SURGERY BY URGENCY CATEGORY AND SPECIALTY—JULY 1996

SPECIALTY PROCEDURE	DAYS WAITING			
	Category 1			
	0-30	Over 30 days	Total Cat. 1	% Long wait
Cardio-thoracic surgery	0	0	0	—
ENT surgery	1	4	5	80.0
General surgery	5	0	5	—
Gynaecology	3	2	5	40.0
Neurosurgery	0	0	0	—
Ophthalmology	0	0	0	—
Orthopaedic surgery	9	18	27	66.7
Other	9	0	9	—
Plastic & reconstructive surg	0	0	0	—
Urology	1	0	1	—
Vascular surgery	0	1	1	100.0
Total surgery	28	25	53	47.2
	Category 2			
	0-90	Over 90 days	Total Cat. 2	% Long wait
	Cardio-thoracic surgery	0	0	0
ENT surgery	49	35	84	41.7
General surgery	77	31	108	28.7
Gynaecology	41	10	51	19.6
Neurosurgery	5	2	7	28.6
Ophthalmology	8	5	13	38.5
Orthopaedic surgery	85	102	187	54.5
Other	160	35	195	17.9
Plastic & reconstructive surg	6	3	9	33.3
Urology	26	18	44	40.9
Vascular surgery	12	1	13	7.7
Total surgery	469	242	711	34.0

	Category 3			% Long wait
	0-365	365+	Total	
Cardio-thoracic surgery	0	0	0	—
ENT surgery	261	111	372	29.8
General surgery	166	97	263	36.9
Gynaecology	76	1	77	1.3
Neurosurgery	76	7	83	8.4
Ophthalmology	43	24	67	35.8
Orthopaedic surgery	433	279	712	39.2
Other	151	27	178	15.2
Plastic & reconstructive surg	7	18	25	72.0
Urology	76	72	148	48.6
Vascular surgery	11	7	18	38.9
Total surgery	1300	643	1943	33.1

Category 1: Very early admission desirable for a condition that has the potential to deteriorate quickly, to the point that it may become an emergency. Admission within 30 days desirable.

Category 2: Admission within 90 days acceptable for a condition causing some pain, dysfunction or disability, but which is not likely to deteriorate quickly or become an emergency.

Category 3: Admission at some time in the future acceptable for a condition causing minimal or no pain, dysfunction or disability, which is unlikely to deteriorate quickly and which does not have the potential to become an emergency.

496. Aged Care Budget

Mrs EDMOND asked the Minister for Health (11/7/96)—

With reference to the recent Health Minister's meeting in Hobart and having publicly indicated his support for the hand over of responsibilities previously held by the Commonwealth in aged care—

- (1) What will be Queensland's total budget for aged care services as a result of the devolution of aged care resolution ratified at COAG?
- (2) What does he anticipate will be the total aged care budget for Queensland to be provided by the State Government?
- (3) Did he secure any additional financial assistance from the Commonwealth during discussions on the planned transfer of aged care to the States which he said he would; if so, how much?
- (4) Has he received broad support for the devolution from the key stakeholders in aged care?

Mr Horan (6/8/96): Thank you for re-asking Question Number 445 of the Member for Ipswich West, who asked the question two days before you. Unfortunately, the benefit of these two days was lost: your question contains just as many errors of fact as his does. I repeat what I said then: at the recent meeting of the Health and Community Services Ministerial Council in Hobart (not COAG), 'in principle' agreement was reached. However, nothing will occur unless the financial assistance

offered by the Commonwealth is adequate. The Council established a working group on the strategy and issues for devolution. Discussions between Queensland Health and the

Commonwealth have just commenced. No agreement has been reached on responsibilities or funding.

(1&3) Wrong again: no handover has been ratified by COAG. I expect that bilateral discussions will take place in 1997 on the terms of any responsibility transfer. Funding will be considered then: my demand (of at least \$600 million) remains an absolute condition of transfer. Further, I reserve to the State of Queensland the right to raise the value of this absolute condition should, as a result of those discussions, a higher minimum is found to be necessary to protect Queensland's aged and its taxpayers.

(2) Any contribution from the State of Queensland will improve the quality and quantity of services delivered to the aged. I have no difficulty in explaining where the Coalition's spending in health has gone: on services. You would do better to explain to the taxpayers of Queensland where Mr Beattie and Mr Elder's \$72 million overruns went, or how the Workers' Compensation Fund could go \$176 million further into the red during your tenure as Minister for Employment and Training.

(4) Discussions have begun with service providers and peak bodies. The Borbidge Government is committed to a consultative process. This will see all concerned groups with the opportunity for genuine input, before any change is made.

The Coalition is committed to removing duplication and ensuring that the lowest possible level of government delivers services. As I told the Member for Ipswich West, Labor may wish to see Queensland hand control of everything to Canberra. We do not.

497. Community Facility Funding, Nudgee

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (11/7/96)—

With reference to his answer to my Question on Notice (No. 380) regarding a community recreation facility in Zillmere in the electorate of Nudgee, where he acknowledges that Zillmere did identify in the top ten areas of need in the State, and given his recent correspondence to me dated 9 July 1996, where he acknowledges the need for a community facility in the area—

When will funds be made available for construction of this facility?

Mr Veivers (9/8/96): In response to the specific question made by Mr Roberts, I can advise as follows: In my answer to Mr Robert's previous question (No. 380), I indicated that no application had been received from the Zillmere area for funding under the Community Recreation Centres Program.

Funding allocations for any future facility construction will be made in the context of the budget to be brought down in September.

498. Brisbane Women's Prison

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (11/7/96)—

With reference to the accommodation crisis in the Brisbane Women's Prison which has a maximum capacity of 81, and which on 5 July was accommodating 134 women prisoners by doubling up—

What action is he taking in the short term to address this highly unsatisfactory position?

Mr Cooper (26/7/96): Over the last six months, the Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre has experienced an unprecedented high growth in prisoner numbers resulting in up to 50 double-ups. The Centre has single cell accommodation for 81 prisoners, the state as of 17 July 1996 was 129 prisoners.

The Queensland Corrective Services Commission commenced to investigate alternative placement options for female offenders in South-east Queensland. A resolution to the alternative placement of female offenders is particularly difficult due to the fact that no other secure facility exists for this prisoner group in South-east Queensland. The QCSC infrastructure plan provides for the construction of a new secure Correctional Centre in South-east Queensland and a twenty bed annexe to the Numinbah Correctional Centre. It is anticipated that the construction of the Numinbah annexe will be completed by the end of 1996.

In order to address the current overcrowding at the Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre prior to the completion of construction of the Numinbah annexe, other short term alternative placement options are currently being considered by the QCSC and it is expected that interim arrangements will be in place within a period of eight weeks.

Specific measures have been put in place to ensure the safe and secure management of prisoners at the Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre. The Centre has been provided with six additional staff positions to provide adequate staff cover and ensure service delivery for the increased prisoner population. The employment profile for prisoners at the Centre has been increased by twenty positions and specific efforts have been made to increase the educational and recreational programs at the Centre. Measures have also been taken to ensure that additional prisoners can be accommodated. It must be noted that the QCSC has no control over the prisoner admission rate to the Centre due to its multi-purpose function as a remand, reception and placement centre for female prisoners.

499. Bowen State High School

Mrs BIRD asked the Minister for Education (11/7/96)—

With reference to several representations to the Department of Education from myself and the Bowen State High School Parents and Citizens Committee to establish a recreational and shaded building for school students—

- (1) What funding is available for the P & C to progress this positive initiative?
- (2) When will he grant funding?
- (3) If funding is not forthcoming will he outline the reasons?

Mr Quinn (9/8/96):

(1) The Department of Education administers the School Improvement Assistance Scheme, which assists parents and citizens' associations with finance to undertake projects that are deemed to be outside the scope of facilities provided as a full responsibility.

The maximum level of subsidy available for major shade structure projects is \$50,000.

(2) Bowen State High School has applied for the maximum subsidy level of \$50,000 to construct a Multi-Purpose Covered Area, in the 1997-98 grant year. The Northern Regional Office of the Department of Education has afforded this project the highest priority.

The Parents and Citizens' Association will be advised by 31 October 1996 as to whether their project has received funding, and if so the year for which it has been scheduled.

(3) Yes.

506. Workers' Compensation Claims

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (11/7/96)—

With reference to workers' compensation claims—

- (1) What percentage of cases which have been referred to the Medical Assessment Tribunals has resulted in permanent impairment assessments in excess of 15 per cent of whole person impairment in 1989-90, 1990-91, 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96?
- (2) What percentage of cases which have been referred to the Orthopaedic Board has resulted in permanent impairment assessments in excess of 15 per cent of whole person impairment in 1989-90, 1990s-91, 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96?

Mr Santoro (8/8/96): The Labor Government, as part of the 1995 Reform Package, recognised the difficulties and inconsistencies with the previous Table of Injuries and introduced the current, more comprehensive Table. The Minister for Employment, Vocational Education, Training and Industrial Relations, then stated that the new Table "will achieve consistent assessments and equity for injured workers".

- (1) Consistent data is not available for the periods specified.
- (2) Consistent data is not available for the periods specified.

507. Koala Coast State Planning Policy

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Environment (11/7/96)—

With reference to recent calls from the Brisbane City Council in its submission on the Koala Coast State Planning Policy for the State Government to give them and other local authorities the power to downgrade the development rights of private land owners particularly in koala habitats—

- (1) Will he support such a proposal if it is brought forward formally to the Minister for Local Government; if not, why not?
- (2) Will he support amendments to Queensland legislation to remove the compensation aspects of such "downgrading" as occurs in most other Australian States; if not, why not?
- (3) Will he agree with another council recommendation to shift the onus to developers to prove their proposals are compatible with the Koala Coast State Planning Policy; if not, why not?
- (4) Does he intend to alter the abundance rating currently given to the koala in Queensland; if so, what will he change it to and what scientific justification exists for this change?

Mr Littleproud (31/7/96):

1. In its submission on the Koala Coast State Planning Policy, Brisbane City Council claims that the Policy appears to limit the actions of Council in regard to downgrading of development rights. Council further asserts that scope should be available for Council to pursue the downgrading of development rights where it considers this action necessary. The State Planning Policy does not affect Council's existing right to downgrade development rights. The Policy does state that Council is not required to downgrade development rights where such action would render the Council susceptible to financial compensation claims. However, Council is free to take such action where it considers necessary. Council's submission also states that Council recognises that associated injurious affection claims may result if Council chooses to downgrade development rights.

2. No. The Coalition Government does not support the removal of existing rights without fair and reasonable compensation.

3. The submission from Brisbane City Council requests that the principles of the Policy be expanded to include a statement that it is the responsibility of development proponents to demonstrate that proposals are compatible with the requirements and principles of the Policy as part of any application. This suggestion is being considered in the review of the Policy.

4. The conservation status of fauna and flora in Queensland was carefully assessed in order to prepare the schedules of Protected Wildlife for the Nature Conservation Act 1992. Those schedules (contained in the Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulation 1994) commenced operation on 19 December 1994. The assessment was conducted by recognised scientific experts and was ratified by the Scientific Advisory Committee that reports to the Minister for Environment.

Under the Act, Protected Wildlife may be prescribed to be Presumed Extinct, Endangered, Vulnerable, Rare or Common. Common wildlife is fully protected under the legislation. The status of any species listed as Common wildlife does not diminish the ability of the Queensland legislation to provide regulatory control over processes that may threaten that species or any particular population of the species.

A proposal to include a new classification of 'potentially vulnerable fauna' is currently being considered. Such a classification would ensure the continuing protection of these species, but would reduce public concern about use of the term 'common' in association with certain high profile species of wildlife.

509. Rules Beach, Bundaberg

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Environment (11/7/96)—

With reference to the controversy regarding a fence being built on the beach at Rules Beach, north of Bundaberg—

- (1) Has the Government purchased or resumed land at Rules Beach so that the fence can be removed; if so, could he name the people from whom the land was purchased?
- (2) When was the land purchased?
- (3) What was the price paid for the land?
- (4) What is the area of the land purchased?
- (5) What is the legal description of the lands purchased?
- (6) Will the Government purchase land from other landholders whose land is eroded into the sea and who threaten to fence off Queensland beaches to the public?

Mr Littleproud (31/7/96):

1. The acquisition of an area of freehold land owned by the Rules has been successfully negotiated by officers of the Department of Environment and the Department of Natural Resources.

2. The purchase was negotiated several weeks ago. The settlement will not occur until the survey is finalised.

3. That is confidential information until the contract is finalised.

4. About 3.7 hectares. The exact area will not be known until the survey is finalised.

5. Part of Lot 1 on RP 618453, County of Cook.

6. The purchase of this area was justified as it provides a practical land access to the Baffle Creek Conservation Park which previously had no dedicated landward access.

Other cases of freehold title extending below high water mark because of erosion would be assessed on a case by case basis.

512. Rail Freight Subsidy

Mr ELDER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (11/7/96)—

- (1) Will he outline the amount and details of the rail freight operating subsidy that was paid in 1995-96?
- (2) What policies will he be pursuing in relation to the payment of the subsidy in future years, in particular, does he expect the subsidy to be increased or decreased over the next three (3) financial years?

Mr Johnson (5/8/96): The freight subsidy paid in 1995-96 was \$126,410,000 on an accrual accounting basis.

The rail freight operating subsidy is a transitional payment corresponding to the amount by which Queensland Rail's freight business revenue and associated operating CSO payments fall short of freight working expenses. The subsidy is additional to operational CSOs and subsidies paid for Q-Link and low volume freight routes, associated network costs and surplus staff. Continuing improvement of Queensland Rail's freight business over the next three years will result in a progressively decreasing requirement for this transitional subsidy.

513. Mr M. Yanner; Legal Aid

Mr McGRADY asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (11/7/96)—

With reference to his Government's decision to fund the costs of a barrister to assist a Mr Yanner of Burketown at the recent District Court case at Mt Isa and as Mr Yanner was receiving legal aid from the North West Aboriginal Legal Aid Service based at Mt Isa and was in full time employment—

Was the practice and procedures applied to Mr Yanner's application exactly the same as those applied to every other application and will he assure the Parliament that the same consideration will be given to every application for legal aid as that given to the above named person?

Mr Beanland (8/8/96): The decision to grant legal aid to Mr Yanner to enable him to be represented at his trial in Mt Isa was not a decision of the Government. It was a decision of the Legal Aid Commission (Queensland), an independent statutory body, performing its functions under the name of the Legal Aid Office (Queensland).

I am advised by the Director of the Legal Aid Office (Queensland) that two days before trial was to commence, the solicitors for Mr Yanner made an application for legal aid on behalf of Mr Yanner for his trial on a charge of unlawful assembly in the Mt Isa District Court. Aid was initially refused as a financial contribution by Mr Yanner was assessed at \$1 150 which was greater than the estimated costs of paying for the services of a private lawyer. An appeal was lodged and the initial decision was reversed. Aid was granted without a contribution on the conditions that Mr Yanner be represented by the same Legal Aid Office counsel briefed to represent the co-accused and that the case proceeded in the current Mt Isa sittings. The grant of aid was for disbursements only and made on the basis that the matter was urgent with a trial scheduled to commence in two days. The Legal Aid Commission

claims the application was not dealt with in any different manner to applications for legal aid of a similar nature. I am, however, concerned that a person, with the financial ability to contribute to their defence, has been provided with legal aid without contribution at a time when great pressures exist on available legal aid resources. I have written to the President of the Legal Aid Commission urging that the Legal Aid Commission vary their existing policy so as to obtain a contribution from those legally aided persons with the financial capability to make a contribution.

519. Turtles, Moreton Bay

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Environment (23/7/96)—

With reference to recent television reports of turtles in Moreton Bay showing ulcerative symptoms of a "pox" like condition which renders them unable to swim and, therefore, at severe risk of fatal injury—

- (1) Based on overseas experience, is there any linkage between the occurrence of this condition and water pollution levels?
- (2) Is the condition occurring at close to 80 per cent levels in the more heavily used southern sections of the bay, as opposed to a 10 per cent occurrence rate in the northern parts of the bay?
- (3) Are these results reflected in water quality monitoring being conducted in different parts of the bay?
- (4) What resources (staff, funding) is he currently directing to studying the emergence of this condition?
- (5) What funding is he seeking in the coming State budget to address this concern?
- (6) Has a treatment for the condition been devised; if so, are staff of the department currently administering it to affected turtles?

Mr Littleproud (8/8/96):

(1) There is no direct linkage between this green turtle fibropapilloma disease (GTFD) and pollution. All research in USA directed to this issue has failed to identify a correlation between GTFD and either heavy metal pollution or pesticide pollution. However, the places in both USA and Australia where this disease has been identified as common among green turtles have been in partially enclosed waters with a modified catchment (agriculture and/or industrial modifications).

(2) Yes. In a study by a USA Fulbright Scholar working collaboratively with Department of Environment staff in 1995, GTFD was identified among more than 70% of green turtles examined in the southern areas of Moreton Bay and at approximately 10% among green turtles inhabiting the Moreton Banks in the more open areas in the northern part of the Bay.

The results of this study were presented at a seminar at Department of Environment Central Office in 1995 to which the scientific community and conservation groups were invited.

(3) Until an agent is identified, no cost effective monitoring can be conducted. In Moreton Bay, Departmental staff are monitoring water salinity and temperature, suspended solid loads and nutrients in response to the impacts of the recent flooding in southeastern Queensland.

(4) Since the high incidence of the disease in Moreton Bay was reported in 1995, Departmental turtle research staff have checked the occurrence of the disease among turtles at Shoalwater Bay, Princess Charlotte Bay area and the reefs of the southern Great Barrier Reef. The disease is uncommon at these other sites.

Departmental staff monitor the stranding of sick, injured and dead marine turtles and mammals in southern Queensland. There is no indication that GTFD has caused a major increase in turtle mortality in south Queensland in recent years, since 1990s.

Departmental research staff are collaborating with University of Queensland veterinarians to increase study efforts on this disease.

Departmental staff are in communication with veterinarians in the USA who are investigating this disease.

(5) The budget has not been finalised.

(6) There is no treatment currently available for wild turtles with the disease.

Departmental staff are monitoring the survival of GTFD infected turtles in Moreton Bay. While some turtles with the disease certainly die, recent recaptures of some previously infected turtles have shown near total regression of the external growths. These results suggests that some turtles are capable of natural recovery from the disease. These studies are continuing.

The disease is still poorly understood. It is believed to be caused by a virus. It can be transmitted from turtle to turtle in experimental situations. The natural vector for the disease is unknown.

526. Woodwark Bay

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (23/7/96)—

With reference to his party's strident criticism of the previous Labor Government's decision regarding the Woodwark Bay proposal in the Whitsundays and to the impending July deadline for that proposal to commence stage one—

- (1) Will he, in accordance with the Government's rights under the agreement with the developer, terminate the agreement on the basis of a lack of performance; if not, why not?
- (2) Will the Coalition give effect to the previous Government's plan in this situation and return the 60 hectares of previous national park land to Dryander National Park as well as retain in the park the 70 hectares of Woodwark Bay land as set out in the agreement; if not, why not?

Mr Littleproud (8/8/96):

(1) Under the Land Tenure Deed agreed to by the Labor Government, Stage 1 is due to commence by

23 November 1996, or a later date agreed by both parties. The performance conditions set in the agreement with the developer are a commercial arrangement and contract. Non compliance with these conditions by either party has legal consequences. All decisions on this matter will be made in this framework.

(2) Any consideration in this regard will depend on the outcome of (1).

528. Century Zinc

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Economic Development and Trade and Minister Assisting the Premier (23/7/96)—

With reference to his recent statement to Parliament on the Century Mine, particularly the section in which he says the mine will draw water from an aquifer feeding perennial streams that are completely separate from that feeding Lawn Hill Gorge—

- (1) Which perennial streams is he referring to?
- (2) What monitoring is intended or occurring on these effects?
- (3) Is a mechanism in place to halt this drawdown if unacceptable effects are detected?

Mr Slack (8/8/96):

(1) The extensive evidence collected to date includes IAS, Review by an independent consultant of IAS findings for the United Gulf Region Aboriginal Corporation and report submitted by Century Zinc Limited as part of its dewatering licence application. There is at this stage absolutely no evidence to indicate that Lawn Hill Creek and Lawn Hill Gorge face any threat from the dewatering operations.

(2) Monitoring of dewatering is required by the terms of the dewatering licences issued to Century Zinc Limited in December 1995. This includes monitoring prior to the start of dewatering to assist in the better quantification of aquifer response and predict the impacts of dewatering operations. The monitoring network includes bores to monitor groundwater levels between the mine and Lawn Hill Creek and the eastern and north-eastern sectors of the Thornton limestone to monitor the flow in the limestone and the impact on stock bores. Monitoring of bore water levels and water quality will be carried out quarterly.

(3) Borefield Performance Review Reports are required at intervals determined in the dewatering licences. Topics addressed in any Borefield Performance Review Report shall include:

- (a) the volume of water extracted;
- (b) any changes in water quality;
- (c) any changes in the uses of the water from those proposed in support of the applications for the licences for the bores comprising the Century Borefield;
- (d) the piezometric levels in the monitoring bores;
- (e) an assessment of any material departure of the performance of the Century Borefield (including piezometric impact) from the performance predicted in the report of consultants Minenco Pty Ltd titled:

"Century Zinc Project, Report on Aquifer Dewatering for the Century Zinc Project—27 October 1995";

- (f) an assessment of the need for adjustment of the model used to assess piezometric impact;
- (g) details of any adjustment during the reporting period of the model used to predict piezometric impact, and if adjustments have been made to the model in the reporting period, plans are to be provided showing:
 - (i) the revised prediction, made using the adjusted model, of the total piezometric impact as at the end of the licence period from the commencement of pumping; and
 - (ii) the difference between these predicted piezometric impacts and the piezometric impacts as predicted at the time of application for licences for the bores comprising the Century Borefield as set out in the reports described in the dewatering licence;
- (h) plans showing the piezometric impact caused by the operation of the Century Borefield predicted, using the then current model, to exist at the time the next scheduled Borefield Performance Review Report is due;
- (i) details of any restoration measures carried out during the reporting period in respect of pre-existing bores unduly affected by the Century Borefield including details of piezometric drawdown, bore description and licence number;
- (j) details of any pre-existing bores which are predicted by the then current model to be unduly affected during the next scheduled reporting period; and
- (k) assessment, for the reporting period, of the possibility of any impact of the operation of the Century Borefield on the flow history in Lawn Hill Creek and the Gregory River.

Monitoring reports are required from Century Zinc Limited every year of the licence's operation, apart from those years when Borefield Performance Review Reports are required. The Chief Executive of the Department of Primary Industries may, as a result of the Borefield Performance Review Reports, regard the dewatering as impacting outside design. If this is the case, the Chief Executive may:

- (a) require redevelopment of the model used to predict piezometric impacts; and
- (b) alter the monitoring and reporting requirements that are set out in the dewatering licence.

If the Century Borefield is impacting outside design, and in the reasonable opinion of the Chief Executive the borefield is measurably diminishing flow in Lawn Hill Creek or the Gregory River or causing other unacceptable environmental impacts, then the Chief Executive will require that remediation measures be taken to prevent that diminishment. The remediation measures could include reinjection of water to the underground or other measures.

530. Pacific Highway

Mr D'ARCY asked the Premier (23/7/96)—

- (1) Did Mr Eric Finger, a Main Roads and Premiers Department Director-General, brief Cabinet, of which he was a member in the late 80s, on the need for an alternate road to the Gold Coast; if so, what proposals were suggested?
- (2) What was Mr Finger's opinion of what would happen to the current Pacific Highway if no action was taken by the late 1990s?

Mr Borbidge (29/7/96):

- (1) As the Honourable Member should be aware:
 - (a) At no time was Mr Erik Finger a member of Cabinet; and
 - (b) Cabinet proceedings are confidential, and the doctrine of cabinet secrecy applies to disclosures of matters that are discussed within the confines of the Cabinet room.
- (2) See answer to 1.

534. Local Government Guidelines

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Local Government and Planning (23/7/96)—

With reference to reports that the National Party is trying to force State Government to establish a committee to establish guidelines for councils to be forced into formulating policies for the implementation of differential rating in council areas—

Will she confirm that she would not tolerate moves such as this which would strike at the very heart of council autonomy?

Mrs McCauley (6/8/96): The honourable member is clearly behind the times. I wrote to all local governments in late June to refute this issue.

But for his benefit, I will state again that the Coalition did not go into the last election with any such policy and it is not my intention as Local Government Minister to set up such a committee.

Coalition policy supports the autonomy of local government which enables Councils to set differential rates, just as they set their own remuneration levels, and answer to the public at an election every three years.

Intervention in the setting of rates would be totally against the State Government's commitment to local government autonomy and to dealing with local government as partners.

539. Wet Tropics Management Authority

Mr BEATTIE asked the Minister for Environment (23/7/96)—

With reference to his current plans to revamp the membership of the Board of the Wet Tropics Management Authority—

- (1) Has he had discussions with property developers or business people in North Queensland in recent times in relation to membership of this board; if so, who was

spoken to, and what was the nature of these discussions?

- (2) Did any of these people propose Councillor Chapman to chair the board or be represented on it?
- (3) In his discussions with the Mayor of Atherton Shire, Councillor Jim Chapman, was the position of chair of the board discussed, and in particular, Councillor Chapman's interest in accepting the position?
- (4) Did he put Councillor Chapman's name forward to the Federal Environment Minister, Senator Robert Hill, as a potential chairman of the board; if so, what reaction did he get from Senator Hill with this nomination?
- (5) What other nominees did he put forward to Senator Hill for chair of the board and membership of the board?
- (6) Is he considering putting himself on the board?
- (7) Will the legislation be altered to allow this?
- (8) Did Senator Hill propose Councillor Mike Berwick, Chairman of the Douglas Shire to chair the board?
- (9) Do you support this nomination; if not, why not?
- (10) Is he intending to cut back the State Government's financial contribution to the authority's annual funding?
- (11) Will this cut back include staff reductions; if so, how will these reductions be achieved?

Mr Littleproud (31/7/96):

- (1) I have had confidential discussions with several people from different sectors of the community regarding this and other issues.
- (2) Councillor Chapman has been suggested as a Board member.
- (3) No.
- (4) Discussions between Senator Hill and myself are confidential, though I have confirmed in the House that Councillor Chapman's name was raised.
- (5) Refer (4).
- (6) No.
- (7) Refer (6).
- (8) Refer (4).
- (9) Refer (4).
- (10) Funding for all areas of Government is the subject of ongoing Budget deliberations, which have to take into account the mess left by Labor at both State and Commonwealth levels.
- (11) Refer (10).

543. Post School Options Programs (Book 8)

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (23/7/96)—

With reference to two pilot post-school options services for Brisbane and North Queensland for young people with permanent disabilities, (physical,

intellectual, sensory and psychiatric) who will be leaving special schools—

When will these programs be implemented as \$2.1m was made available for 1995/96 and a further \$3.48m for 1996/97 and 1997/98?

Mr Lingard (30/7/96): Both of the Post School Options Programs are implemented and presently providing a service to school leavers who have significantly high support needs because of their disabilities. The Programs are operating for school leavers in the Townsville and Thuringowa area and school leavers in the Logan and Gold Coast area.

Funding to the Logan/Gold Coast Post School Options Project and "Pathways", Townsville was approved in January 1996 from the \$1.5million allocated for 1995/96. The Programs are linking school leavers to a range of options in the community. These include further education, employment/supported employment, recreation, living skills, personal development and social networks.

The funding for 1996/97 and 1997/98 will be announced in the context of the forthcoming State Budget.

545. Open Family

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (23/7/96)—

With reference to a community based organisation in Logan called "Open Family"—

- (1) Has he received correspondence from this organisation; if so, what is the nature of that correspondence?
- (2) Is this organisation in a desperate financial situation and has it approached his department for financial assistance?
- (3) Is he aware that Mr Jim O'Sullivan is connected to this organisation and has Mr O'Sullivan made submissions on the behalf of Open Family to either him or his Director-General; if so, what is the nature of these submissions?
- (4) Has he approved Open Family any assistance from his department; if so, what is the nature of that assistance?

Mr Lingard (30/7/96):

(1) Yes. I received a letter from Mr Stirling on 25 June 1996. The nature of this correspondence concerned the availability of funding for the organisation's youth streetwork and open space programs in Logan City.

(2) Open Family Australia Inc. is an organisation with a large national corporate structure. I am unable to comment on the organisation's financial situation.

The organisation has made representations to my Department for financial assistance.

(3) Yes. I am aware that Mr Jim O'Sullivan is a member of The Queensland Advisory Council, Open Family Australia Inc.

In this capacity Mr O'Sullivan and Mr Nathan Stirling, Chief Executive Officer of Open Family met with the Director-General of my Department the Reverend Allan Male on 21 June 1996. The nature of this

meeting was to seek financial assistance for the organisation's streetwork program in Logan City.

(4) Yes. Open Family Australia Inc. received a \$30,000 one-off grant from my Department in March 1996 to plan and establish a program in Logan City which will address the issue of Young People's use and access to Public Spaces in the City.

547. Natural Gas Franchise, Bundaberg

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (24/7/96)—

- (1) What is the expected date for a natural gas franchise to be provided for the Bundaberg district?
- (2) If the date is not this year (i.e., some time in 1996), why not?
- (3) Will he take immediate action to ensure natural gas is provided to Bundaberg at the earliest possible time?

Mr Gilmore (8/8/96):

(1) Applications have been received from two major gas distribution companies to reticulate natural gas to the city of Bundaberg. Both companies have been asked to prepare and present to me a more detailed submission which will enable me to ensure that the best applicant is given the Bundaberg gas franchise. The selection of the preferred candidate will be undertaken expeditiously with a decision expected in the next two months.

(2) The gas franchise will be granted in 1996.

(3) The provision of gas to Bundaberg will depend on a number of factors including the construction of a pipeline to supply gas to the city. This will require a number of approvals including for environmental and native title clearance before proceeding. A gas reticulation system will also need to be designed for the city. I can assure members that every effort will be made to have natural gas available to the citizens of Bundaberg as soon as possible.

556. Agricola Gold Mine

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (24/7/96)—

With reference to the ongoing pollution problems resulting from the Agricola Gold Mine in the Conondale ranges north of Brisbane—

- (1) What stage of rehabilitation has now been reached?
- (2) What costs have been incurred in getting to this stage?
- (3) What work is still to be done?
- (4) How frequently is monitoring of the pits, the groundwater and the nearby Booloumba Creek occurring?
- (5) What cyanide levels are being detected by this testing?
- (6) What work has been done to stabilise the walls to prevent overflow of cyanide and heavy metals during periods of heavy rainfall?

- (7) What security is presently in place at the mine and at what cost?
- (8) What funding is he seeking in the upcoming budget for further rehabilitation work at Agricola?

Mr Gilmore (8/8/96):

- (1) Capping of the tailings dam was completed in 1991.

Preliminary water chemistry studies have been completed.

Treatment of copper contaminated pit waters completed.

Pumping of pit waters scheduled to start 29/7/96.

Bio-monitoring stations have been installed in Booloumba Creek by Griffith University.

Filling and capping of two open pits currently under way.

Limestone remediation of acid generating waste rock under way.

Revegetation contract has been awarded, native tree seed collection has commenced and planting of the 12 hectare site will be completed during 1996/97 wet season.

Contract for the supply of mulching material has been awarded.

- (2) \$372K to date plus
Value of current contracts—\$499K.
Estimated value of contracts to be finalised—\$164K.
- (3) Completion of discharge of pit waters into Booloumba Creek
Earthworks (filling two pits, lime treatment, recapping tailings dam, silt control)
Revegetation of the whole site.
- (4) During the past 12 months there has been an intensive water sampling program on the mine site and in nearby Booloumba Creek. (Extensive sampling and analysis has been carried out on 10 separate occasions). The data has been required for the development of the pit detoxification and pumping program. Intensive monitoring will continue during and after the discharge of the pit water into Booloumba Creek.

In addition, Griffith University is undertaking bio-monitoring of shrimp and crayfish populations in Booloumba Creek before, during and after pumping.

(5) Over the past 12 months all cyanide levels have been below the detection limits, with the exception of a single reading in Booloumba Creek in November 1995 (0.03 milligrams per litre) and a reading in October 1995 of 0.19 milligrams per litre in one of the monitoring bores. This bore has, in the past, recorded 6 milligrams per litre.

(6) The capping of the tailings dam in 1991 prevents the overflow of cyanide and heavy metals during periods of heavy rain.

(7) Access to the mine is restricted by a number of locked gates installed jointly by the Department of

Mines and Energy and the Department of Environment (Cost approx \$2K). The high walls around the pits are fenced off with barbed wire and appropriate signage is in place. (Cost of approx \$2K)

(8) No funding sought in upcoming budget because sufficient funds are available from Special Rehabilitation Package 091 (carryover from 1995/6 and allocation for 1996/7).

567. Caboolture Court House

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (24/7/96)—

When will staff lunchroom facilities at Caboolture Courthouse, approved under the former Labor Government, be provided for the dedicated staff working at the courthouse?

Mr Beanland (8/8/96): Work has commenced on providing the new staff facilities. It is expected that the work will be completed by 12 August 1996.

This facility is additional to the staff area provided at the time the new courthouse was constructed.

568. Moreton Bay Marine Park

Mr FOURAS asked the Minister for Environment (24/7/96)—

With reference to the ongoing delays in finalising the Moreton Bay Marine Park zoning plan—

- (1) What timeframe is he now working on to finalise this plan?
- (2) What is delaying this finalisation?
- (3) Will QCL's dredging applications be finalised this month or will we see yet another postponement?
- (4) Why haven't QCFO and Sunfish been consulted on the plan since the change of Government?
- (5) Will the question of fishing in the bay still be left to a fisheries management plan under Primary Industries control or will he agree to set aside "recreational only" fishing areas in the bay, as sought by Sunfish?
- (6) Will he put in place a Moreton Bay Marine Park Authority, as promised by the previous Government?

Mr Littleproud (8/8/96):

(1) Finalisation of the zoning plan is proceeding and expected to be submitted for Governor in Council approval later this year.

(2) Delays in finalising the zoning plan have occurred due to the need for further consultation with key stakeholders and deliberation by the Department of Environment to resolve a number of difficult issues.

(3) Dredging is an environmentally relevant activity under the Environmental Protection Act 1994 for which an environmental authority is required from the Department of Environment. QCL lodged a single application for an environmental authority for activities carried out at Darra cement works and for coral dredging in Moreton Bay. The Department of

Environment advises that the application was formally considered on Monday 8 July 1996 and a licence granted. I said in March that an immediate stop to coral dredging by QCL in Moreton Bay would be ideal but issues which need to be taken into account include the previous Government's agreement with QCL to allow dredging to continue until 1998.

(4) QCFO and Sunfish have been consulted previously and consideration given to their views. When the zoning plan is being finalised, these views will be taken into account.

(5) Responsibility for fisheries management rests with the Department of Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry and the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority under the Fisheries Act 1994. Decisions on the sharing of fish stocks between the recreational and commercial sectors are best resolved through Management and Zonal Advisory Committees, established under the Fisheries Act 1994. The Zoning Plan does not directly address the management of fisheries (other than that they be ecologically sustainable), but rather, its focus is on enhancing the Bay's conservation values. Under the proposed zoning plan, other than where there is a need to curtail fishing to protect the Bay's conservation values (eg. in national park zones such as Flinders Reef where fishing will be prohibited), fisheries management is left to the fisheries management agencies.

(6) The new government has examined the proposal to establish a Moreton Bay Authority and concluded that the Marine Park can best be managed by existing agencies under current legislation. Part of the reason for the Budgetary situation inherited by this Government was Labor's penchant for duplication and increased bureaucratisation through establishment of bodies such as a Moreton Bay Authority.

590. Mr A. Callaghan

Mr WELLS asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (25/7/96)—

- (1) Did he attend the Cabinet meeting at which the appointment of Mr Callaghan to a statutory authority was discussed?
- (2) Did he attend the Executive Council meeting at which the appointment was recommended?
- (3) Did he receive a briefing from Crown Law or any other agency of his department regarding the lawfulness of the appointment?
- (4) Did he provide any advice to Ministers regarding the lawfulness of the appointment?
- (5) Did he provide any advice to the Governor regarding the lawfulness of the appointment?

Mr Beanland (8/8/96):

1. Yes.
2. Yes.
3. No.
4. I do not propose to reveal the content of any discussions at Cabinet or Executive Council.
5. See (4).

592. Workers' Compensation Claims

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (25/7/96)—

With reference to Workers' Compensation claims—

- (1) What percentage of cases which have been referred to the Medical Assessment Tribunals has resulted in permanent impairment assessments in excess of 15 per cent of whole person impairment in 1989-90, 1990s-1991, 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96?
- (2) What percentage of cases which have been referred to the Orthopaedic Board has resulted in permanent impairment assessments in excess of 15 per cent of whole person impairment in 1989-90, 1990s-1991, 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96?

Mr Santoro (8/8/96): I refer the honourable member to my answer to Question on Notice No. 506 of Thursday, 11 July 1996.

593. Tree-clearing Guidelines

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Natural Resources (25/7/96)—

With reference to his recent ministerial statement to the Queensland Parliament on the subject of tree-clearing in Queensland—

- (1) How many clearing permits for leasehold land have been issued by his department State wide since the Coalition came to power in February?
- (2) What area of land do these permits cover?
- (3) Which shires are affected by these permits?
- (4) Which vegetation communities are affected by these permits, and to what extent?
- (5) How many of these permits have now been acted on either partially or totally?
- (6) What reporting requirements are in place for land-clearing permit holders to inform officers of the Natural Resources Department when the permit is acted on, and to what extent?
- (7) Is the preliminary tree-clearing policy as put in place by Labor while in Government being used in issuing new land-clearing permits for leasehold land in Queensland; if not, on what basis are these permits being issued?

Mr Hobbs (6/8/96):

1. 288 permits have been issued in Queensland since 19 February 1996, of which 180 were for broadscale clearing, and the balance for other minor purposes such as cutting of timber for building fences and yards and clearing fencelines.
2. The area covered by those permits is 345 200 hectares of which 70 percent is for clearing of regrowth and clearing for fodder for droughted stock.
3. Permits have been issued in at least 50 of the 126 Local Government areas in Queensland since 19 February 1996, those Shires being the ones where there is a predominance of leased State Land.

4. Permits have been issued to clear a wide range of vegetation types, however permits generally have not been issued to allow clearing of virgin vegetation types that are endangered, vulnerable or have some other high conservation value.

5. It is not known how many of the permits have been acted upon because that is not information that the department requires.

6. There are no reporting arrangements in place as once a tree clearing permit has been issued to the lessee, as it is the lessee's prerogative to act upon it when they choose, taking into account their personal circumstances. Given that the lessee has obtained permission to clear it is considered an administrative burden to continually require them to report on progress. However permits are only issued for a maximum of five years, whereupon the lessee must reapply to have the permit renewed if they have not acted upon it.

7. The preliminary tree clearing policy is being used as the reference document to develop local tree clearing guidelines around the State, and in conjunction with the provisions of the Land Act 1962 (as amended) is being used as a relevant document to issue tree clearing permits.

594. Tree-clearing Guidelines

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (25/7/96)—

With reference to the important State and national significance of tree-clearing because of its critical impacts on land degradation and greenhouse emissions—

- (1) Does he accept that controls on land-clearing are necessary?
- (2) Does he accept that these should be guided by accurate data on the extent of past and current tree-clearing?
- (3) For how many hectares of leasehold land were clearing permits given in Queensland in (a) 1993, (b) 1994 and (c) 1995?

(4) How many hectares of leasehold land were cleared in (a) 1993, (b) 1994 and (c) 1995?

(5) What input will he have into setting controls on clearing in current and future years?

Mr Littleproud (8/8/96):

(1) I support the need for controls on land clearing to set the broad parameters to be adopted by the community. However, such controls should be developed conjointly by all interested stakeholders including the landholders, policy and scientific officers and the conservation movement.

(2) Yes, in addition I have instructed staff of the Department of Environment to provide such data to substantiate the conservation status applied to various regional ecosystems.

(3) I am advised by my colleague, the Honourable Howard Hobbs, Minister for Natural Resources, that figures were not collated for 1993. However, for 1994 permits were issued to clear 1,079,300 hectares and in 1995 permits were issued to clear 551,700 hectares.

(4) It is my understanding that the Department of Natural Resources does not require lessees to report when they have cleared land under tree clearing permits. Given that the lessee has obtained permission from the Department to clear, it is considered an administrative burden to continually require them to report on progress. However, permits are only issued for a maximum of five years, whereupon the lessee must reapply to have the permit renewed if they have not acted upon it.

(5) Staff of the Department of Environment are represented on the State Trees Group and have participated in the development of the Preliminary Policy. Staff have also been involved in the working groups for the development of local guidelines in Broad-scale Tree Clearing on leasehold land. There is a Memorandum of Understanding among the major Departments involved in tree clearing, including the Department of Environment. I envisage that this active involvement will continue as the Broad-scale Tree Clearing policy is reviewed and refined, based on an enhanced knowledge base.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

417. Public Housing, Nudgee Electorate

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (9/7/96)—

With reference to public housing in the Nudgee electorate—

- (1) How many dwellings are currently available to public housing tenants in each category of dwelling (a) seniors units, (b) townhouses, (c) units and (d) detached houses (2, 3 bedroom, etc.)?
- (2) What is the projected number of dwellings required in each category for 1996-97 and 1997-98?
- (3) How much money has or will be allocated for (a) construction of new dwellings, (b) purchase of new dwellings or land, (c) refurbishment/improvements to dwellings and (d) maintenance for 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98?
- (4) Will he guarantee that public housing tenants will not be worse off financially as a result of outcomes from the current negotiations on the Commonwealth/State housing agreement?

Mr Connor (9/8/96):

(1) There are 887 public housing dwellings available in the Nudgee electorate. This total comprises of 241 seniors units; 343 detached houses; 22 cluster homes; 187 attached houses and 94 apartments. In addition to the public rental housing stock, the Department has 10 leases to individuals in boarding house style accommodation.

(2) It is not possible to determine how many of the households waiting for accommodation will be housed as vacancies occur over the next 12 months. As such it is difficult to project the number of dwellings that will be required in each category.

My practice is to supply housing to the area where wait times are longest.

Given that for the year 97/98, discussions between the State and Federal Governments concerning the form of the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement are still ongoing, it is difficult to project the number of dwellings which can be provided.

(3) Final allocation of funding for new construction; purchase of new dwellings or land; refurbishing or upgrading; and maintenance of dwellings for 1996/97 and 1997/98 is dependent upon negotiations with the Commonwealth Government in relation to funding under the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement and the State's budget deliberations.

In 1995/96, \$2,077,568 was spent on construction of 22 new dwellings, on land valued at \$535,000. New construction targets for 1996/97 are to be finalised as part of the 1996/97 budget process. It is not possible to provide projections for 1997/98 until the Commonwealth clarifies future funding arrangements.

With regards to the purchase of new dwellings or land, expenditure amounted to \$910,240 on properties which settled in 1995/96. A further \$778,000 was committed on properties which will settle this financial year.

The refurbishment and improvement of dwellings included three significant estate improvement projects undertaken during 1995/96 on public housing units at Kolberg Street, Ewing Street and Muller Road. Expenditure on these three projects totalled \$2,288,920.

Approximately \$1.2 million was spent on maintenance of the 887 public housing units in the Nudgee electorate.

(4) I have no reason to believe tenants will be financially disadvantaged under the new interim CSHA which commenced on 1 July 1996. I am supported in this stance by a statement attributed to the Prime Minister where he proposed that under the one year interim agreement, Commonwealth State Housing grants to the States in 1996-97 be held at the same level as for last year. Longer term funding arrangements proposed by the Commonwealth are still subject to considerable negotiation. I have expressed my concern publicly and in this House about these longer term arrangements and I will be working hard to ensure Queensland gets the best possible deal from the negotiations with the Commonwealth.

420. Timber Harvesting, Gladstone Region

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (9/7/96)—

What is the status of timber harvesting and forestry protection in forests surrounding Gladstone, Calliope and Monto?

Mr Perrett (9/8/96): Several large State Forests in the Gladstone, Calliope and Monto region are affected by Interim Management Arrangements (IMAs) being developed under the umbrella of the Greater Planning Certainty (GPC) policy. State Forests (SF) 391 Bompa (Bulburin), 54 Bania, 316 Winterbourne (Kroombit Tops), 27 Curtis Island and Timber Reserve (TR) 353 Dawes are the main Crown native forest estates affected in the region.

In June 1995 the previous Government announced logging moratoriums over Bulburin, Kroombit Tops, Curtis Island and more than 90% of Bania. Harvesting operations current in these areas at the time were suspended (no sales were current on Curtis Island).

These logging moratoriums have been reviewed by the Department of Natural Resources in consultation with the Department of Primary Industries Forestry and the Department of Environment. Consistent with the GPC policy, it was agreed that harvesting operations could proceed in the areas of Bulburin and Bania which had not been identified, via a previously agreed process, as "major large areas of old growth and/or wilderness of high conservation value". This makes about 55% of Bulburin and 75% of Bania now available for harvesting. It was further agreed that harvesting operations in Kroombit Tops would not proceed prior to May 1998, by which time the status of the reserve was to be determined through the comprehensive regional assessment (CRA) process.

These draft IMAs are being considered by the Forest Working Group, an advisory group reporting to the Honourable H W T Hobbs MLA, the Minister for

Natural Resources, prior to a decision on their implementation by the Minister.

The Government has given a commitment that Crown timber allocations will not be reduced in the interim as a result of the application of IMAs. Adjustments to Crown allocations may be necessary once the allocation of forests to various uses is completed following the CRA process.

434. Public Housing, Mount Gravatt Electorate

Ms SPENCE asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (9/7/96)—

- (1) Which Department of Housing properties in the Mt Gravatt Electorate is the Government planning to sell?
- (2) What is the Government's timetable for the sale of these properties?
- (3) How is the Government determining which properties to sell?
- (4) How will the sale of these properties be conducted?

Mr Connor (9/8/96):

(1) The Department plans to sell a 3 bedroom house at Logan Road, Mt Gravatt as it is structurally unsound. The structural condition of the dwelling will be fully disclosed to all potential purchasers. A structural engineer's report will be attached to the conditions of sale.

No other housing properties have been identified for sale in the Mt Gravatt electorate.

- (2) It is expected the property will be sold as soon as possible.
- (3) The Department identifies stock for disposal based on a number of criteria. These include: the stock having reached the end of its economic life; there is no (or limited) demand for public housing for a property of this type in this location; or the property is considered no longer suitable to retain for public housing.
- (4) The property will be offered for sale through open listing with a real estate agent.

440. Commercial Fishermen, Pumicestone Passage

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (9/7/96)—

With reference to the Government payout to commercial fishermen excluded from Pumicestone Passage—

What is (a) the name of each person who received a payout, (b) the total amount received by each person, further dissected to show (i) the amount deemed to be "compensation" for exclusion between 20 October 1995 and 1 December 1995 later judged to be invalidly made, (ii) the amount deemed to be an "ex gratia" payment in relation to equipment replacement and (iii) any other amount(s) making up the individual payment and (c) the remaining endorsement held by each person including an indication as to areas permitted to be fished

consequential to the holding of those endorsements?

Mr Perrett (9/8/96):

(a) The Crown Solicitor has advised that the Crown has a legal obligation to maintain confidentiality under the relevant deeds of settlement.

(b) Accordingly, it is not possible to disclose any information in relation to the deeds of settlement. However, the ex-gratia payments made to the relevant fishers were not uniform, but were adjusted to take account of the individual circumstances relating to each of the fishers.

(c) The obligation of confidentiality contained in each deed of settlement precludes the provision of a specific answer to this question as to do so would disclose the identity of the relevant fishers. However, all the fishers concerned retained fishing licences with a range of endorsements including the following ex-pumicestone fishery carried range of endorsement for line fishery, crab fishery, trawl fishery and net fishery.

447. Mr A. Callaghan; Appointment to Library Board

Mr FOLEY asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (10/7/96)—

- (1) Did she apply her mind to the provisions of Section 13(b) of the Libraries and Archives Act 1988 prior to recommending to the Governor in Council the appointment of Allen Callaghan to the Library Board?
- (2) Was any document brought into existence outlining any expression of her opinion of the circumstances of Mr Callaghan's offence prior to the appointment of Mr Callaghan; if so, will she table such document or documents?
- (3) Did she inform the Governor in Council of Mr Callaghan's circumstance of disqualification under Section 13 of the Libraries and Archives Act in the documentation recommending Mr Callaghan's appointment; if so, will she table such documentation; if not, why not?
- (4) If she did form an opinion under Section 13(b), was she aware at the time that Mr Callaghan still owed more than \$40,000 misappropriated from the Government?

Mrs Sheldon (9/8/96):

(1) I sought verbal advice from Departmental officers in relation to Section 13 (b) and other sections of the Act prior to making my recommendation. I also sought advice on Mr Callaghan's experience as a former Library Board member.

(2) No.

(3) As the Honourable Member would know, the Governor requires advice in relation to the background, qualifications and suitability of all candidates recommended for board appointments.

(4) I was advised at the time that Mr Callaghan was paying restitution. I was also advised that should Mr Callaghan's appointment proceed, any remuneration from the Library Board in relation to his meeting fees

etc, would be paid to the RSPCA and not to Mr Callaghan, who is an RSPCA employee.

463. Commonwealth Revenue Assistance and Hospital Grants

Mr HAMILL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (10/7/96)—

As a result of the recent Premier's Conference and Loan Council, will Queensland receive \$2,986.8m from the Commonwealth in General Revenue Assistance in 1996-97 and \$713.1m in base hospital grants from the Commonwealth in 1996-97?

Mrs Sheldon (9/8/96): Under the real per capita guarantee escalation arrangements for general revenue grants, Queensland expected to receive an amount of \$3,101 million in 1996-97, and this figure had been factored into revenue forward estimates.

The Commonwealth escalated the pool of general revenue grants in accordance with the guarantee, but at the 1996 Premiers' Conference, States and Territories were told that they would be required to make fiscal contributions back to the Commonwealth of \$619 million in 1996-97, \$640 million in 1997-98 and \$300 million in 1998-99. This transferred a large part of the burden of the Commonwealth's deficit reduction strategy onto States and Territories. The cost to Queensland of these payments to the Commonwealth for 1996-97 will be \$114.2 million.

Consequently, even though general revenue funding for 1996-97 is \$35.2 million greater than in 1995-96, the overall shortfall on the starting point for the budget is \$114.2 million from general revenue grants alone. An estimated \$70 million decrease from the combined impact of further Commonwealth funding cuts to specific purpose payments and the Commonwealth's motor vehicle sales tax measure brings the anticipated reduction in the budgetary starting point from these sources to around \$185 million.

Furthermore, owing to population growth in Queensland that is twice the national average, general revenue funding for each Queensland in 1996-97 is expected to decrease from \$890 to \$881. This per capita reduction does not include the effects of inflation.

Similarly, for base hospital funding grants, the majority of the expected \$34.1 million increase for this year had been factored into the Government's starting revenue position for consideration during the current budget round.

465. Department of Public Works and Housing

Mr MACKENROTH asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (10/7/96)—

What delegations within his department has he changed or amended and what are the changes?

Mr Connor (9/8/96): On a progressive basis, I am reviewing all delegations in force within the Department to reflect the new Department structure.

When I am satisfied that new structures and accountabilities are fully in place, my Director-General and I will consider the issue of delegations

as may be necessary for the effective operation of the new Department.

480. Public Housing

Mr MACKENROTH asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (11/7/96)—

With reference to the \$50m accelerated capital works program of the Housing Department—

- (1) To date how many properties have been purchased under this scheme or approved for purchase?
- (2) What is the location of these properties, identifying the electorate in which they are located?
- (3) How many properties were put forward for approval by the department which he did not approve?
- (4) What is the location of these properties (identify electorate)?

Mr Connor (12/8/96):

(1) As at Monday 12 August I have approved the purchase of 276 units of accommodation and 38 are in the process of being acquired.

(2) I have approved the purchase of properties in 43 electorates. Details are in Attachment A.

(3) The Department has submitted 16 properties to me which I have not approved.

(4) The properties I have declined have been in the following areas:

Electorate—No. of Properties

Aspley—1;	Bulimba—1;	Chatsworth—1;
Chermside—1;	Clayfield—1;	Currumbin—5;
Kurwongbah—1;	Mansfield—2;	Sunnybank—1;
Tablelands—2		
TOTAL:—16		

ATTACHMENT A

Electorate—Units of Accommodation

Albert—9;	Archerfield—12;	Aspley—5;	Barron River—8;	Broadwater—37;	Bulimba—11;
Burleigh—13;	Cairns—3;	Caloundra—1;	Capalaba—3;	Chatsworth—2;	Chermside—3;
Cleveland—1;	Cook—2;	Currumbin—25;	Everton—15;	Gladstone—2;	Greenslopes—2;
Hervey Bay—1;	Hinchinbrook—8;	Ipswich West—2;	Kallangur—1;	Kurwongbah—5;	Lytton—2;
Mansfield—12;	Maroochydore—1;	Merrimac—7;	Mirani—1;	Mooloolah—2;	Mt Gravatt—2;
Mulgrave—7;	Murrumba—4;	Nerang—21;	Noosa—1;	Nudgee—8;	Redlands—1;
Sandgate—5;	South Brisbane—1;	Southport—17;	Sunnybank—8;	Surfers Paradise—2;	Thuringowa—1;
Yeronga—2					
TOTAL:—276					

TOTAL:—276

491. District Health Councils

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Health (11/7/96)—

With reference to his recent announcement concerning the imminent appointment of members to the district health councils—

- (1) Will he provide details relating to the procedures and processes to be utilised in the selection of council members?
- (2) How many council positions will be assigned to each district health service and will these be paid positions; if so, will he give details of payments proposed?
- (3) Will he provide a figure on the total recurrent cost associated with payments anticipated for council members per each district?

Mr Horan (9/8/96):

(1) Selection of District Health Council members will take place following an extensive recruitment process comprising:

- calling of expressions of interest,
- supply of information kit containing selection criteria, application form, and terms of reference to interested parties,
- selection of members, and
- recommendation of appointments to Governor in Council.

I will appoint members having regard to the need for representation from the community, and the expertise and experience necessary for the exercise of the Council's functions.

(2) The Government proposes that each District Health Council will consist of between eight and ten members. District Health Council members will, subject to their right to waive payment, receive remuneration and allowances as approved by the Governor in Council. Queensland Health will pay such remuneration on a most modest scale, which is likely to be less than that paid under the former Government's remuneration policy.

(3) An accurate total recurrent cost associated with payments to Council members per district is not possible at this stage. The estimate will vary depending on the number of members per Council, the remuneration to be set, and the number of meetings held by each Council.

Queensland Health is likely to pay more modest remuneration than under the previous Government's remuneration policy. Therefore, the total annual cost of payments will be less than \$6,600 per annum per district, not including travelling expenses. This contrasts dramatically with the total cost for members of the 13 Regional Health Authorities: for the 1994/95 financial year (the last year full year figures are available) these payments were \$379,802, an average of \$29,216 per Regional Health Authority.

492. Queensland Health, Staffing

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Health (11/7/96)—

With reference to public sector job shedding affecting employees of Queensland Health and the former regional health authorities—

- (1) Did he mislead the House on 30 April in giving an answer to a question from one of his colleagues in this place on the subject of the number of voluntary early retirements resulting from staff cuts approved by him for his department?

- (2) Does he admit that his figure of 20 VERs recorded in the Hansard is incorrect and admit that he gave the House information which he knew to be dubious but gave it anyway for political advantage?
- (3) Is the tally on the number of VERs alone far greater than 20 and rising, and that the real figure ranges anywhere between 59 and 200?
- (4) Will he admit he knew he had given the House unreliable information on 30 April and apologise unreservedly; if not, will he table information in this place to verify his initial claim?

Mr Horan (9/8/96):

(1) No.

(2) & (3) No. The member for Cleveland is confused. He uses the numbers from my advice to this House of 30 April, which related only to staff employed by the former Regions; he then tries to make some comparison with a figure that includes regional *and* Corporate Office staff numbers. On 30 April I informed the House that, with respect to Regional staff, "we anticipate that there will be only 20 VERs", and this was true.

However, any process which is strategic, fair to staff, and financially responsible is not perfectly predictable. Fairness is not a matter forcing people to confirm to some predetermined outcome. Forty-two (42) staff employed by the former Regions have accepted VERs to date. There have also been 23 acceptances by Corporate Office staff. This compares with the 93 that Labor accepted when it moved to its failed regionalised system.

I cannot understand the member's concern with an accepted process that results in staff voluntarily exiting an organisation to the benefit of those concerned.

(4) No; I hope that the information provided in this answer addresses the honourable member's concerns.

493. Private Hospitals

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Health (11/7/96)—

With reference to the comments contained in the "Report of the Queensland Commission of Audit" regarding the scope for improved utilisation of public and private hospitals—

Will he undertake to ensure that private/not-for-profit hospitals treat public patients and end his previously stated opposition to such a proposal?

Mr Horan (9/8/96): I am not opposed to the treatment of public patients by private/not-for-profit hospitals. In fact, I am pleased to advise the House that Queensland Health has signed a \$14 million, two-year contract with the Mt Olivet Private Hospital to provide free services to the public. Queensland is very lucky to have a hospital which delivers such professional and dedicated care. I am most happy to see the renewal of this contract, which will see the provision of free public services in palliative care and specified aged care.

495.Regional Arts Development Fund

Mr FOLEY asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (11/7/96)—

With reference to her slashing of the capital base of the Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) from \$15m to \$10m—

- (1) How many projects will be refused funding as a result of her funding cut?
- (2) Will she table the details of those arts projects throughout regional Queensland to be refused funding as a result of her funding cut?
- (3) Which Queensland local government authorities will have their funding under this program reduced or denied as a result of her funding cut?
- (4) When will the funding under RADF, expected by local government authorities in May, be delivered?

Mrs Sheldon (9/8/96):

(1), (2) & (3) The Opposition Spokesman is incorrect in asserting that the capital base has been reduced from \$15 million. In fact, it has never reached \$15 million. The Coalition Government has not cut funding to the RADF program. Indeed, I have sent a letter to Greg Hallam, Executive Director of the Local Government Association of Queensland, confirming our ongoing support for the program and the maintenance of the current level of funding (\$820,000) based on a notional capital fund of \$10 million. Local government authorities were not required to submit details of specific project details in their 1996/97 funding bid. Queensland's local government authorities will receive funding at comparable levels to 1995/96 allocations.

(4) Funds will be processed in the near future.

500.Schools, Rockhampton Electorate

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Education (11/7/96)—

With reference to recent announcements concerning the upgrade of schools in the Rockhampton electorate—

- (1)(a)What type of structure will the \$900000 shade structure proposed for Glenmore State High School be, (b) what is the start and completion date and (c) how many students will be able to be accommodated within this structure?
- (2) As the Hall State School was to receive major upgrades under the Better Schools Program what upgrades does he intend for this school now that that program has been scrapped?
- (3) With the proposed removal of the older building at the Park Avenue State School what replacement shade structures and teacher aide preparation rooms will be provided?
- (4) What capital works are proposed for Rockhampton State High School in the 1996-97 budget?

Mr Quinn (12/8/96):

- (1) (a) An indoor sporting facility.
(b) & (c) The final design of this facility is yet to be determined, and as such no further details

with respect to the tender process, construction times and size are available presently.

(2) Contrary to assertions by members of the Opposition, the Building Better School Program has not been scrapped, nor have any funds been reallocated. To reiterate this commitment, I have attached, for the information of the Honourable Member, a media statement from my office.

The Hall State School is programmed to have two classrooms refurbished during the 1998-99 financial year.

(3) The refurbishment of classrooms and the construction of shade structures at Park Avenue State School have been included in the 1997-98 schedule of the Building Better Schools Program. If required, the provision of teacher aide preparation area would be considered as part of the scope of work for the refurbishment of classrooms.

(4) None.

503.Privatisation of Health Services

Mr NUNN asked the Minister for Health (11/7/96)—

With reference to the Commission of Audit report and its chapter devoted to health and community services—

- (1) What is his response to chapter eight (pp. 177-178) of the report entitled 'Which Business Activities Should Government Sell?' which recommends, as part of a list of business units within departments which could be privatised, that in-patient care/ambulatory care microbiology/pathology services and pharmacy services could be sold out to the private sector?
- (2) Is the privatisation of the provisions of these services in the new Harvey Bay Hospital under consideration?

Mr Horan (12/8/96):

(1) Wherever practical, the Government will fully fund and fully staff these functions. Wherever providing these services from within our own resources is not practical, the Coalition will look to outsourcing to guarantee that services are delivered.

(2) In the same way, wherever practical, the Government will fully fund and fully staff these functions as they relate to the Hervey Bay Hospital. Where it is impractical to provide these services from within our own resources, the Government will look to outsourcing to guarantee service to the people of Hervey Bay. This is also the policy of the ALP, approved by the Goss Cabinet on 8 August 1994. As you well know, the policy of the Coalition in Government is, and has always been, to fully fund and fully staff the Hervey Bay Hospital.

504.Police Staffing, Deception Bay

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (11/7/96)—

- (1) Is the police to population staffing ratio 1:650 (State average), while the ratio for the Deception Bay Police Station is 1:1400?
- (2) Will he seek the advice of the Police Commissioner as to whether the shortage of police at Deception Bay can be remedied?

Mr Cooper (12/8/96):

(1) No. The police/population ratio for the State is estimated to be approximately 1:518/519.

The police/population ratio for the Redcliffe Police District is estimated to be approximately 1:854.

The police/population ratio for the Deception Bay Police Division is estimated to be approximately 1:1490.

These ratios are identical to those that existed at the time of my government taking office.

However, in determining the effectiveness of delivery of policing services there are other factors that must be considered rather than relying on police/population ratios in isolation.

The demographics and social characteristics of the population to be served, the proportion of police performing operational duties, the number of specialist positions and civilian staff available to support general duties police officers, changes in technology, and the efficiency and effectiveness of police systems and procedures have become increasingly important in measuring the standard of policing services.

(2) Yes. The Commissioner of Police advises that the Queensland Police Service constantly monitors the need for police numbers on a Statewide basis.

The equitable allocation of staff throughout the State is based on the relative needs of districts/regions as determined by a comparison of districts/regions on factors which are common to regions, e.g., crime statistics, population measures, isolation issues, traffic incidents, etc.

The current staff allocation determined for the Redcliffe Police District is 178 officers. The actual number of officers attached to the district as at 1 July 1996 is 178.

The authorised strength for Deception Bay Police Station is 18 officers. The actual strength is 19 officers as at 1 July 1996.

When considering policing services provided to the Deception Bay Policing Division, the duties performed by officers attached to district functions such as the Redcliffe District Traffic Branch, Criminal Investigation Branch, and others, should be taken into account. Officers attached to all district functions perform operational duties throughout the Redcliffe Police District which includes Deception Bay Division.

505. Office of Women's Affairs, Survey

Ms SPENCE asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (11/7/96)—

With reference to the survey of 5000 Queensland women being carried out by the Office of Women's Affairs—

- (1) Will consultants be used for this project?
- (2) What methodology will be used in conducting this survey?
- (3) How will survey respondents be selected?
- (4) What is the total cost of this survey?
- (5) When will the survey commence?
- (6) When will the results be available?

Mrs Sheldon (9/8/96):

(1) The questionnaire development and fieldwork will go to tender.

(2) The survey will consist of three stages: background research, focus groups and in the final stage a questionnaire. Simple random sampling will form the core methodology.

(3) Respondents to the survey will be selected at random.

(4) No costs, other than staff costs, have been incurred at this early stage.

(5) The background work to the survey has already commenced.

(6) Results from the survey will be available in mid 1997.

508. Visit to Japan by Deputy Premier

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (11/7/96)—

With reference to her recent trip to Japan and to comments made by her since her return that a number of senior Japanese business people expressed the view to her that a significant barrier to investing in Queensland was the absence of a major financial institution's headquarters based in Queensland—

- (1) What meetings did she attend during her recent trip to Japan and with whom were these meetings held?
- (2) Which senior Japanese business people expressed to her the view regarding the absence of a headquarters of a major financial institution in Queensland and which companies are they employed by?

Mrs Sheldon (9/8/96):

(1) For information on the meetings I attended on my recent trip to Japan, I refer the Honourable Member to the report which I made to the Parliament on 25 July 1996.

(2) It is not appropriate to disclose the names of the business people with whom I had discussions.

That information should not become a matter for the public record, as it would be a betrayal of business confidence.

510. Assistance for Disabled Students

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education (11/7/96)—

With reference to the statement made in Parliament by his predecessor on 18 October 1995 detailing a \$72m package to guarantee better educational outcomes for students with disability—

What is the current state of implementation of this package with specific reference to (a) the additional 120 teachers, (b) 9056 hours/week teacher aide time, (c) 30 therapy positions, (d) 4 nursing positions, (e) the improved capital facilities, (f) appropriate staff training, (g) the special project in senior schooling and (h) the enhanced transport assistance provided, all funded under the package?

Mr Quinn (12/8/96):

(a), (b), (c) & (d) In the 1995-96 financial year 60 teachers, over 8082 teacher aide hours per week, 15 therapists and four nurses have been funded to provided enhanced educational provision for students with disabilities. Funding for an additional 60 teachers and 15 therapists have been included in the 1996-97 budget considerations for the Department of Education.

I would also draw the attention of the Honourable Member to the fact that 974 hours of teacher aide time planned for interpreting support to assist deaf and hearing impaired students, has not been provided due to a focus on note-taking.

(e) A planning process with regions is currently under way to develop a consolidated capital plan to provide facilities for students with disabilities. Furthermore, the Building Better Schools Program has allocated \$1.7 million to improve capital facilities for students with disabilities, over the three year period to 1997-98.

(f) Professional development packages for teachers, teacher aides and other staff are being developed. A teacher package, prepared in collaboration with Griffith University will be available for trial in schools early next year. Training for teacher aides who provide note-taking services, for students with hearing impairment, will begin this month.

(g) A taskforce has been established to extend and refine arrangements for the provision of education in schools for all students of a post-compulsory age, including those in special schools.

(h) New transport guidelines have been developed and are currently on trial in two regions.

511. Department of Public Works and Housing, Retrenchment of Staff

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (11/7/96)—

- (1) How many staff of the Department of Public Works and Housing have been terminated since 26 February 1996?
- (2) In which program areas have these terminations occurred and how many terminations have occurred in each program area?
- (3) How many terminations have been the result of voluntary early redundancies?
- (4) What level and in what status (i.e. permanent, temporary, contract, S.34 etc.) were the terminated staff employed?
- (5) What was the age and gender of each staff member terminated?

Mr Connor (9/8/96):

(1) Termination Reason—Number of Terminations

Dismissal—4
 Voluntary Early Retirement (VER)—6
 Ill-health Retirement (employer initiated)—5
 Contract Terminated (temporary staff only)—102

Total Terminations—117

(2) Program Area—Number of Terminations

Housing—50
 Project Services—3
 QPM Property Management—5
 Q-Build—48
 Sales and Distribution Services—1
 Q-FLEET—1
 GOPRINT—1
 CITEC—1
 Government Services Group—4
 Corporate and Executive Services—3

Total Terminations—117

(3) 6 terminations have been as a result of voluntary early retirements.

(4)

Classification Level	Appointment Status	Total Staff
AO1	4 x temporary	4
AO2	1 x part-time	
24 x temporary	25	
AO3	2 x permanent	
7 x temporary	9	
AO4	2 x permanent	
5 x temporary	7	
AO5	3 x temporary	3
AO6	2 x temporary	2
AO7	2 x temporary	2
Apprentice	5 x permanent	5
CEO3	1 x permanent	1
Level 1	1 x permanent	1
Level 4	1 x permanent	
	32 x temporary	33
Level 5	1 x permanent	
3 x temporary	4	
Level 6	2 x temporary	2
OO2	1 x permanent	
1 x part-time	2	
OO3	2 x temporary	2
OO4	1 x part time	1
OO5	1 x temporary	1
OO6	1 x temporary	1
PO2	4 x temporary	4
PO3	7 x temporary	7
PO4	1 x temporary	1
Total Terminations		117

(5) The attached spreadsheet (see Attachment 1) identifies the staff terminations by gender and age.

515. Police Staffing, Gracemere and Mount Morgan

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (23/7/96)—

With reference to the current Government which, when in Opposition, campaigned in the lead-up to the 1995 State Election and the 1996 Mundingburra By-Election on law and order issues which saw the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the now Minister for Police and the Police Union—

- (1) Will he attend a public meeting in Gracemere in order to explain why a police station or, as a minimum, a Police Beat Program cannot be established in an effort to address escalating criminal activity in the town?
- (2) Will he also attend, on the same day, a public meeting in Mount Morgan so as to justify to residents a reduction in police numbers which has seen the town move from a low crime rate locality to one of increased criminal activity?

Mr Cooper (27/8/96):

(1) No. The establishment of a police beat area office at Gracemere, similar to the Toowoomba project, was researched and considered by Queensland Police Service during 1995.

Following a submission from the Assistant Commissioner, three Senior Constable positions were approved on 19 January 1996 to create three Beat Area Offices at North Rockhampton, Rockhampton and Gracemere.

These positions were advertised in the Queensland Police Gazette on 26 January 1996.

The Assistant Commissioner received supplementary information from the Deputy Commissioner, Executive Director, Operations, on 16 April 1996 concerning additional community beats at Cairns, Townsville and Rockhampton. The report included advice to the effect that "Until such time as priorities are established and funding is clarified, the selection process in respect to the advertised vacancies should be postponed and the applicants advised accordingly."

Accordingly, no further action is being taken in relation to the Police Beat positions at regional level until further advised.

Planning for new police stations is undertaken by the Queensland Police Service Capital Works Program and there are no current plans within that program relating to the building of a police station at Gracemere.

However, the Assistant Commissioner is supportive of the establishment of community beat policing program at Gracemere subject to appropriate resources and accommodation being available.

(2) No. During 1995, Mount Morgan Station received a Model Allocation of two in a Regional Staffing Model; however, having regard to policing needs in the area and overall regional resource considerations, the Assistant Commissioner recommended an authorised strength of four in the Regional Resource Plan which was approved.

Having regard to the regional priorities, the Assistant Commissioner does not consider it appropriate that the authorised strength of Mount Morgan be increased at the expense of reducing the authorised strength of any other establishment in the Region.

The Assistant Commissioner has referred a request to the Human Resource Division for review of the staff model allocation for Mount Morgan in any review of regional staff model allocations.

For the period 1/1/96 to 30/6/96, compared to the period 1/1/95 to 30/6/95, there was some increase in overall reported crime at Mount Morgan.

The Assistant Commissioner supports the community policing concept in addressing local problems and is aware plans exist to establish a Neighbourhood Watch at Mount Morgan.

516. Kennedy Report; Workers Compensation Fund

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (23/7/96)—

As the final form of legislation to address the Workers' Compensation Fund problems has not been clarified and particularly recognising that consultation is continuing on the Kennedy report implications—

What purpose will be found for the implementation committee as reported by him and wouldn't their work be pre-emptive of the consultation process results?

Mr Santoro (22/8/96): I am continuing to receive feedback in relation to the Kennedy Report recommendations and the implications of the recommendations. I am obviously taking very serious note of this feedback and am passing it onto the Implementation Task Force. You would appreciate that the Kennedy Report and its recommendations are based on the most extensive process of consultation ever undertaken in relation to the Workers' Compensation System of Queensland. This comes on top of the extensive and intensive debate that took place during last year's amendments of the Act. Mr Kennedy recommended that the Task Force be established and its work is an integral part of the consultation process involved in implementation of the recommendations.

I hope that you would agree with me and the Government that the time has arrived when action must be quickly taken to restore the Fund to a viable financial situation. However, I reiterate that the views I receive are being passed onto the Implementation Task Force for their consideration. In addition, I have invited major stakeholders, including the relevant Opposition Spokesperson, to be briefed by the Board's Actuary who has advised governments of both political persuasions over recent years.

517. Public Service, Reductions in Staff

Mr NUNN asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (23/7/96)—

With reference to the spate of staff cuts to the public service under the new Government—

Will she provide the following information, in table form, including (a) the name of the department, (b) the name of the units in each department, (c) the number of staff working in each unit as of 19 February 1996, (d) the number of staff removed from each unit, (e) the number of staff removed from each

department, (f) the number of temporary staff removed from each department, (g) the number of permanent staff removed from each department, (h) the number of contract staff removed from each department, (i) the total number of voluntary redundancies taken in each department, (j) the total number of sackings from each department and (k) the total number of temporary, permanent and contract staff removed from all departments?

Mrs Sheldon (22/8/96): Information on these matters is not collected by the Queensland Treasury Department.

518. Public Housing, Mackay Region

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (23/7/96)—

With reference to public housing administered by the Mackay Whitsunday Area Office of the Department of Public Works and Housing—

- (1) How many dwellings are currently available to public housing tenants in each category of dwelling (a) apartment—dwelling containing 1 to 3 bedrooms in building of two or more storeys, (b) attached house or townhouse dwelling unit of 1 to 4 bedrooms, (c) cluster house, (d) duplex—containing 1 to 5 bedrooms, (e) detached house—containing 1 to 5 bedrooms and (f) seniors units?
- (2) Where are these dwellings located in each category?
- (3) How many people are currently on waiting lists in each category?
- (4) What is the waiting time for each category?
- (5) What is the project number of dwellings required in each category for 1996/97, 1997/98 and 1998/99?
- (6) How much money has or will be allocated for (a) construction of new dwellings or land, (b) purchase of new dwelling or land, (c) refurbishment/improvements to dwellings and (d) maintenance for 1995/96, 1996/97, 1997/98 and 1998/99?
- (7) Will he guarantee that public housing tenants and future public housing tenants will not be worse off financially as a result of outcomes of the current negotiations on the Commonwealth/State housing agreement?

Mr Connor (22/8/96):

(1) As at 30 June 1996, there was a total of 1,278 public housing dwellings in the area, administered by the Mackay-Whitsunday Area Office. Included in this total were 132 apartments, 141 attached houses, 96 cluster houses, 85 duplex units, 6 dual occupancy units, 689 detached houses and 129 seniors' units.

(2) Public housing dwellings are available in 23 localities within the Mackay-Whitsunday region. These localities are Airlie Beach, Andergrove, Beaconsfield, Blacks Beach, Bucasia, Cannonvale, Clermont, Dysart, Eimeo, Glenella, Mackay, Middlemount, Mirani, Moranbah, Mount Pleasant, Nabilla, Nindaroo, North Mackay, Proserpine, Sarina, Shoal Point, Slade Point and Walkerston.

(3) As at 30 June 1996, there were 1,026 applicants whose first preference for obtaining public housing was in the Mackay-Whitsunday region. This total includes 149 households waiting for apartments, 30 applicants requiring attached houses, 81 applicants listed for cluster houses, 163 clients listed for duplex units, 484 households waiting for detached houses and 119 single people and couples requiring seniors' units.

(4) Within the Mackay-Whitsunday area, wait times for Seniors' units are between 18 and 60 months. For one bedroom dwellings, 30 to 60 months; for two bedroom dwellings, 3 to 32 months; for three bedroom dwellings, 3 to 60 months; and for four or more bedroom dwellings, 6 to 48 months.

(5) It is not possible to determine how many of the households waiting for accommodation will be housed as vacancies occur over the next 12 months. As such it is difficult to project the number of dwellings that will be required in each category.

My practice is to supply housing to the area where wait times are longest.

Given that for the year 97/98 and beyond, discussions between the State and Federal Governments concerning the form of the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement are still ongoing, it is difficult to project the number of dwellings which can be provided.

(6) In 1995/96, approximately \$7.25 million was expended on construction of new dwellings in the Mackay-Whitsunday region with a further \$1.12 million estimated expenditure on spot purchases of dwellings. A total of \$832,000 was spent on land acquisition in the region. Upgrading of stock accounted for \$461,976 with a further \$1.14 million dedicated to maintenance.

Final allocation of funding for new construction, purchase of new dwellings or land, refurbishing or upgrading and maintenance of dwellings for 1996/97 and subsequent years is dependent upon negotiations with the Commonwealth regarding future funding arrangements and the State's budget deliberations.

(7) I have no reason to believe tenants will be financially disadvantaged under the transitional Commonwealth State Housing Agreement which commenced on 1 July 1996. I am supported in this stance by a statement attributed to the Prime Minister where he proposed that under the interim agreement, Commonwealth State Housing grants to the States in 1996-97 be held at the same level as for last year. Longer term funding arrangements proposed by the Commonwealth are still subject to considerable negotiation. I have expressed my concern publicly and in this House about these longer term arrangements and I will be working hard to ensure Queensland gets the best possible deal from the negotiations with the Commonwealth.

520. Arts Council Performances in Schools

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Education (23/7/96)—

With reference to his answer to my Question on Notice (No. 285), in which he advised that it was his

view that it was desirable for an entry fee to be charged for Arts Council events put on for schools because "the revenue from larger schools provides the council with sufficient income to subsidise smaller schools and more geographically isolated schools"—

- (1) Is he aware that at some schools in my electorate the proportion of children attending Arts Council performances is as low as 20 per cent?
- (2) Is he aware that the reason given in nearly all of these cases is lack of money by the child's family, and that with so many unable to attend, his advice that the school can pay is unhelpful, because to do so is beyond the means of large schools in disadvantaged areas?
- (3) Is he aware that collecting entry fees from children in large schools to subsidise performances in remote schools involves collecting that subsidy in areas of economic disadvantage, where many of the large schools are located?
- (4) Is he aware that, since his policy causes large numbers of children to stay away from these performances in disadvantaged areas, he is merely substituting one kind of disadvantage for another, by enabling geographically disadvantaged students access to cultural activities at the expense of economically disadvantaged students?
- (5) Will he undertake to contact the Minister for the Arts suggesting that a new initiative application be made to Treasury to obtain direct Government funding for Arts Council performances put on for remote schools so as to end reliance on cross subsidy by disadvantaged students?
- (6) Will he now agree to ensure that all Arts Council performances in State schools are fully funded so that children from poor families do not experience the grief and discrimination of being left behind when other students in the class are able to attend these cultural events?

Mr Quinn (22/8/96):

(1), (2), (3), (4), (5) & (6) It would appear that the Honourable Member has had a recent conversion to the concept of funding fully Queensland Arts Council programmes. Investigations reveal that, when Minister for the Arts, the Honourable Member did not adhere to the same opinions that he is now espousing, given that he supported the existing policy.

As stated in my response previously, the Department of Education and the Queensland Arts Council recognise that there are cases where family circumstances can make the, \$3.00 per student, cost of performances prohibitive. The Department and the Arts Council have policies to ensure that children are not forced to miss performances because of financial circumstances.

Individual schools have the ability to make decisions regarding the funding of performances in schools. I am advised that schools of any size can opt to

subsidise at least one performance, at the school, in any given year. This is in addition to Queensland Arts Council policy which states that:

"Where cases of genuine hardship exist principals may, at their discretion, allow families of three or more students to attend for a special rate of \$8.00. Principals also have the right to allow any student to view a performance free of charge if in their opinion they cannot afford to pay admission."

Furthermore, schools in disadvantaged and low socio-economic areas receive additional funding, through Commonwealth programmes, which could be allocated to subsidise performances by the Queensland Arts Council.

To provide an equitable system of free admission for all Queensland students, based on the program currently on offer by the Queensland Arts Council, the taxpayers of Queensland would need to pay, approximately, \$7,000,000.00 per year. The only known overseas attempt to create such a system occurred in Canada, where \$2,000,000.00 was provided to ensure equitable access by every child. The government could not sustain this commitment and the eventual result was a collapse of the system. This collapse caused great disadvantage to students and artists. I do not wish to have similar circumstances jeopardising the work of the Queensland Arts Council.

In conclusion, the Honourable Member may wish to note that I have been advised of the fact that average attendance by students, at Queensland Arts Council performances, in his electorate is in the vicinity of 74 per cent.

521. South East Freeway; Pollution Levels

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (23/7/96)—

With reference to concerns expressed by residents in Underwood, Springwood and Rochedale that, on average, 100,000 vehicles pass by their homes on the South East Freeway everyday and that this has a detrimental effect on the community's air quality and health, and to the Government's proposed widening of the South East Freeway to eight lanes which will allow for an increase in the carrying capacity of this road by at least 30 per cent, and the fact that many residents of these suburbs will live less than 20 metres from his proposed "Super Highway"—

- (1) What air quality testing has been done or will be done prior to Cabinet finalising their decision to widen the South East Freeway to determine existing pollution levels in the suburbs of Underwood, Springwood and Rochedale?
- (2) What modelling has been done or will be done to assess the impact in these suburbs on air quality levels of a further widening of the South East Freeway to eight lanes and the resulting increased carrying capacity of this road?
- (3) What are considered to be acceptable levels of air pollution in suburbs such as Underwood, Springwood and Rochedale and what guidelines does the Department of Transport

and Main Roads currently use to assess the impact of pollution on human health?

- (4) What assurances will he give the residents of Underwood, Springwood and Rochedale that his proposal to further widen the South East Freeway and increase its carrying capacity will not result in a further deterioration in air quality levels in these suburbs?

Mr Johnson (22/8/96):

(1) The increase in capacity of the highway over what currently exists will result in lower congestion levels and consequently lower pollution levels, than would otherwise occur. Further, if the increase in capacity is done in a way that encourages higher vehicle occupancies, then the pollution levels will be reduced even further.

(2) This would be an issue to be considered during the preparation of an Impact Management Plan as part of the detailed planning stage for the upgrading of the highway.

(3) Air pollution is monitored and assessed against National Standards across South-East Queensland by the Department of the Environment. I have been advised that pollution levels adjacent to roadways have been getting progressively lower, despite increasing traffic volumes, because of improved engine design and reduced lead content in petrol.

(4) As explained in my answer to Question 1, the increased capacity in the corridor, particularly if achieved in a manner which encourages increased vehicle occupancy, is not expected to cause a deterioration in air quality levels.

522.Consolidated Fund

Mr HAMILL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (23/7/96)—

What was the accumulated cash balance of the Consolidated Fund at the end of June 1996?

Mrs Sheldon (22/8/96): Treasury officers are finalising details of the end of year outcome and an announcement will be made shortly.

523.Capricorn Training Company

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (23/7/96)—

- (1) Is he aware that the Capricorn Training Company has tendered to build four houses for his department in the Rockhampton area?
- (2) Is he also aware that the Capricorn Training Company is currently undergoing serious difficulty in continuing to retain and employ staff while this company waits for the above tender to be let; if so, when does he intend to let this tender and will it go to the Capricorn Training Company?

Mr Connor (22/8/96):

(1) Officers of my Department have advised that the Capricornia Training Company Limited has tendered to construct four houses in the Rockhampton area.

(2) This Government is committed to entering into contracts with financially viable contractors. As part of the process, the Queensland Building Services

Authority (QBSA) undertakes financial assessments of prospective tenderers on behalf of the Department. I understand the QBSA has finalised its financial assessment of the Capricornia Training Company. I have approved for the Capricornia Training Company Limited to be awarded the work.

524.Office of Women's Affairs; Queensland Women

Ms SPENCE asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (23/7/96)—

With reference to the newspaper *Queensland Women* produced by the Office of Women's Affairs—

- (1) What was the total cost of the first edition of this paper?
- (2) Were consultants used in the production of this paper?
- (3) How many copies of the first edition were produced?
- (4) How frequently will this paper be produced?

Mrs Sheldon (22/8/96):

(1) The total cost of the production, printing and distribution of first edition of *Queensland Woman* was: \$11,377.45.

(2) The newspaper was produced inhouse by the Office of Women's Affairs. The only consultant used was a graphic artist who drew the cartoon strip at a cost of \$300.

(3) 20,000 copies of *Queensland Woman* were printed by the Office of Women's Affairs.

(4) It is anticipated that *Queensland Woman* will be produced quarterly.

525.Timber Industry

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (23/7/96)—

With reference to his recent announcement of a purchase of privately owned plantation forest near Woodford to expand the State forest plantation area, and his announcement of an expansion to the forestry nursery at Beerburrum, both of which are designed to ensure the future of softwood operations in south east Queensland and as my advice is that the biggest threat to softwood operations in Queensland is the price demanded by his department for timber when compared to interstate prices—

Will he take action to ensure that Queensland based businesses in the timber industry are not placed at a competitive disadvantage by comparative high timber prices in Queensland?

Mr Perrett (22/8/96): While I acknowledge Queensland is a market leader in the prices it has secured for its quality hoop and exotic pine plantation log timber, I reject the Member for Caboolture's inferences that Queensland-based businesses are placed at a disadvantage by plantation log timber prices in this State.

Although some plantation timber in Queensland is sold under an administered royalty, prices for the majority of the plantation resource are set by the

market, not demanded by my department. Virtually all plantation timber is sold by an open, competitive tendering system in which the prospective buyers nominate the price they are prepared to pay to purchase a particular resource.

Successful tenderers normally are offered sales of between five (5) and twenty (20) years. The sales contracts contain provision for regular reviews of the price paid. The price review provisions of the contracts allow for purchaser involvement in the review process and at major price reviews the purchaser normally has recourse to arbitration if they disagree with the price.

The open, competitive sales system used in Queensland provides the fairest and most equitable means of allocating the resource to industry. This market based approach is supported by the recommendations of the Resource Assessment Commission's 1992 Forest and Timber Industry Inquiry, the 1991 Ecologically Sustainable Working Group's report on Forest Use, and the National Forest Policy Statement.

The current plantation pricing and allocation system has been in use for many years now and has not hindered the development of a large, efficient and diverse processing sector, which includes companies such as CSR Timber who operate a major sawmill at Caboolture, a particleboard plant at Gympie, a doorskins plant at Bundamba and supply large quantities of wood chip to both domestic and overseas buyers; Hyne & Son of Maryborough, who own and operate one of the most modern and efficient exotic pine sawmills in Australia and the State's largest hoop pine sawmill at Imbil; Laminex Industries, whose medium density fibre board plant near Gympie is currently being expanded at a cost of some \$100 million; Boral Hancock Plywood of Ipswich, Australia's largest plywood manufacturer; and numerous smaller sawmillers, plymillers, treated roundtimber, pole and landscaping timber producers. The development of such a diverse, integrated and competitive plantation forestry industry base would not have occurred if my department's sales and pricing policies were inappropriate.

The recent expansion of the Crown plantation estate in the Beerburrum area by this Coalition Government will ensure that we have sufficient regional timber resources to support an internationally competitive softwood processing industry in south-east Queensland, now and in the future.

527.60s and Better Program

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Health (23/7/96)—

With reference to the 60s and Better Program on the Southern Gold Coast—

- (1) Will the Government continue to fund this program in the 1996/97 budget; if so, what level of funding will be made available?
- (2) What was the level of funding provided by the previous Government?

Mr Horan (19/8/96):

- (1) If the Honourable Member for Currumbin had been closely following the situation, she would be

aware that in May 1996 every 60s and Better Program received a copy of a memorandum that I requested the Director-General to send affirming this Government's support for the Program. That commitment remains and the 1996/97 State Budget will include funding for the Southern Gold Coast 60s and Better Program. Although the precise level of funding for this Program has not yet been finalised, these figures will be available after the announcement of the State budget. Individual 60s and Better Programs have already received a first quarter payment which was based on an interim budget determination and represents a downpayment upon the National-Liberal Government's funding commitment.

- (2) Previous funding comprised \$50,926 for 1995/96.

529.TAFE Funding, Bundaberg

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (23/7/96)—

With reference to the high unemployment levels in Bundaberg which is now estimated at 20 per cent—

- (1) What special provisions are being made by the State Government to provide employment programs?
- (2) In view of the below average funding of TAFE in Bundaberg in terms of student contact hours, what special initiatives are being made for TAFE in Bundaberg?
- (3) Will he initiate special training programs for Bundaberg?
- (4) Will he confer with other Ministers to initiate special works programs to create employment in Bundaberg?

Mr Santoro (22/8/96):

(1) Any special provisions will be announced in the context of the State budget. Of course, it is the Commonwealth which has prime responsibility for programs for the unemployed. My Department of Training and Industrial Relations will, through its training programs, continue to enhance the employment skills of Queenslanders. This Government is committed to the creation of long term, real and sustainable jobs in the private sector. Its aim is to facilitate employment creation generated through investment (both public and private sector) in capital works, creating a flexible labour market through industrial reforms and workplace agreements, and appropriately skilling potential employees.

(2) It is not appropriate to suggest that 1996/97 funding for the Bundaberg TAFE College will be below average. The level of funding will be dependent on the State and Commonwealth budgets as well as the college's success in attracting funds under various competitive arrangements.

(3) I intend seeking the advice of the Bundaberg TAFE College Council on the appropriateness of local programs, after its constitution.

(4) I have already conferred with my colleague, the Minister for Public Works and Housing regarding the Housing Industry Trade Training Program which saw

the construction of a substantial number of dwellings completed in Bundaberg. Similarly, in planning the design of the Horticulture Facility for the Bundaberg TAFE College, my Department of Training and Industrial Relations has worked closely with the Department of Public Works and Housing.

531. Forestry Depot Land, Salisbury

Mr FOLEY asked the Minister for Natural Resources (23/7/96)—

- (1) What are the Government's plans in relation to the forestry depot land at Evans Road, Salisbury?
- (2) Does the Government propose to cease using the land as a forestry depot of the Department of Primary Industries; if so, does the Government intend to sell or lease the land for the purposes of erecting a plastics factory?
- (3) If the Government proposes to cease using the land as a forestry depot, will other Government land be used to maintain native shrubs and trees including any on the endangered species list?
- (4) Will the Government reconsider its plans for the site after careful consultation with local residents?
- (5) Is he aware of concerns among local residents at the prospect of losing the "buffer zone" of the existing forestry depot and being exposed to the loss of amenity and other problems of being adjacent to a plastics factory?

Mr Hobbs (22/8/96):

1. As the Honourable member will be aware the previous government entered into negotiations regarding the potential sale of the land. However, I have now determined that the site be retained.
2. As outlined above, it is not proposed to cease using the land as a forestry facility.
3. Refer to Answer 2.
4. Refer to Answer 2.
5. I am aware of the concerns of local residents which is clearly more than can be said for the previous government.

532. State Budget

Mr De LACY asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (23/7/96)—

With reference to State Budget Paper No. 2 1995/96 Table 1.2, which provides both surplus and net financing requirement on a Government finance statistics basis—

Will this detail again be provided in the 1996/97 Budget Papers, i.e. both surplus and NFR details?

Mrs Sheldon (22/8/96): In Queensland, the Labor Opposition is campaigning for the State Government to dip into superannuation reserves held for public servants to pay for budget shortfalls caused by Labor mismanagement and Federal budget cuts. This course of action was followed by the disgraced former Labor Government in Victoria.

It is unacceptable to the Coalition on financial and moral grounds.

To justify its position, the Opposition uses the surplus identified under the GFS accounting system in which superannuation assets are counted but superannuation liabilities are not.

Because of its failure to properly account for superannuation liabilities, the GFS system is an irrelevant measure of our State's capacity to cut its cloth and to balance the flow of revenue and expenditure. Nevertheless, GFS figures are included as part of an agreed format for budget presentation in Australia. For this reason, the 1996-97 Budget Papers will contain details of the Government's surplus and Net Financing Requirement on the Government Finance Statistics basis.

533. Wahroonga Retirement Village, Maryborough

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Health (23/7/96)—

With reference to cottages and units at Maryborough Base Hospital's Wahroonga Retirement Village which are being left vacant in spite of a very long waiting list of Maryborough citizens who are desperately seeking this accommodation—

Why is this the case and what is planned in the future for this retirement village?

Mr Horan (19/8/96): The decision not to accept further patients at Wahroonga Retirement village was made last year during the Labor Party's period in office and therefore the Honourable Member's own colleague and former Minister for Health, Mr Beattie MLA, may be able to assist him with a more complete outline of the reasons for this direction.

As for the present circumstance, I am advised that for the people of the Wide Bay area who require residential services, options apart from Wahroonga currently include other local residential care accommodation such as Fairhaven Home for the Aged, Groundwater Hostel, Masters Lodge, Torquay Retirement Village and Chelsea Peace Hostel.

Currently, 21 residents are accommodated at Wahroonga. However, contrary to the Honourable Member's claim that there is "a very long waiting list of Maryborough citizens who are desperately seeking this accommodation", I am advised that there have in fact been only three applications for accommodation there since last year.

According to my department, the taking up of residency at the alternative sites mentioned would appear to have reduced the demand for occupancy at Wahroonga and allowed the health service to concentrate its resources into specialised acute care.

While I cannot say what fate might have befallen the existing residents of Wahroonga had Labor remained in power, I can assure both the residents and the Member for Maryborough that this government will continue to provide them with accommodation.

535. Railway Station, Fitzgibbon

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (23/7/96)—

With reference to the proposed train station at Fitzgibbon—

- (1) Does he support the decision by his predecessor to build a train station at Fitzgibbon on the Caboolture rail line between the Carseldine and Bald Hills Stations?
- (2) When can local residents and commuters expect the new station to be fully functional?
- (3) Will he detail the time frame for the project?

Mr Johnson (22/8/96):

(1) This Government supports an expanded role for passenger rail transport in South East Queensland.

Proposals in the Draft Integrated Regional Transport Plan for South East Queensland which will be released soon for public discussion include significant upgrading of the Brisbane Suburban rail network as well as further expansions to serve regional growth centres. The proposed Fitzgibbon Railway Station will be a part of this future upgrade.

However, priority towards the development of the Fitzgibbon Railway Station will depend on population build up and patronage demand growth.

(2) The proposed Fitzgibbon Railway Station is part of a proposal for an overall residential/mixed business development in the Fitzgibbon area. If the project proceeds, timing for the station will be dependant on the development of the overall project.

(3) As this project is dependent on the residential/mixed business development mentioned in (2) above, I am unable to commit until this is resolved.

536. Police Service

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (23/7/96)—

As morale among police officers in Townsville—Thuringowa is very low because of a perceived lack of support by the administration, including the fact that officers have been reported to the Criminal Justice Commission for such minor misdemeanours as failing to wear their hat at an armed hold-up, smoking in a police vehicle, failing to come to a complete stop at a red light en route to an emergency and given that a caution book is kept at Townsville Police Station to record the details of cautions issued to officers and that the Kirwan Police Station is known as "the lazy K" in the service due to the lack of active policing done there—

Will he intervene to change the attitude of senior officers from one of criticism and punishment to one of encouragement and support, thereby lifting the morale of officers on the beat?

Mr Cooper (19/8/96): The Kirwan Police Station received the nickname "the lazy K" in 1984 when it was established, because it was located some distance from surrounding buildings in the area and thus resembled an American ranch house. The name did not arise for the reasons inferred in Mr McElligott's letter.

All members of the Queensland Police Service are subject to a Code of Conduct and a Code of Dress and Appearance which determine standards expected of them. Failure to comply with either of these Codes could result in disciplinary action not only for the officer concerned, but for the officer's supervisor as well. In accordance with the Service's Code of Dress and Appearance, headdress must be worn by police, except when a member is in a police station or building, where the construction of a motor vehicle makes the wearing of headdress impractical, or where the circumstances do not call for the wearing of headdress. There would have to be exceptional circumstances for an officer not to wear headdress when attending the scene of an armed hold-up.

In relation to smoking in a police vehicle, the Queensland Police Service has a smoke free workplace policy, placing a total ban on smoking in all police establishments and vehicles. This policy resulted from the 1988 Cabinet decision which endorsed a total ban on smoking in all Queensland Government buildings.

With regard to the issue of a police vehicle not coming to a complete stop at a red light en route to an emergency, it is Service policy for the driver of a police vehicle responding to an emergency not to drive against a red traffic control signal unless the vehicle's siren and flashing lights (where fitted) are operating, and this may only be done after first stopping to ensure entry into the intersection will not endanger other road users.

It is a common misconception that the disciplinary process is all about punishment. It is, in fact, about maintaining and enhancing the reputation of the Queensland Police Service and increasing public confidence in the Service as an organisation and in its members in general.

537. Noise Barriers, Bulimba Electorate

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (23/7/96)—

- (1) As the standard gauge rail line to the Port of Brisbane is now operational when will the promised noise barriers be constructed in the Bulimba Electorate to give residents some relief from the increased noise?
- (2) Will he also have his department immediately investigate any complaints received from residents about the increased noise levels with the view to putting in noise barriers to relieve the problem?
- (3) Will he give serious consideration to having noise barriers placed along Armstrong Road, Cannon Hill where residents had land resumed for the rail line, thereby placing them closer to the line?
- (4) When will construction commence at Hemmant on the proposed Port Road?
- (5) Will the Transport Department consider purchasing homes and businesses between Lytton Road and the proposed Port Road which are not directly in the path of the road,

but have been severely devalued as a direct result of this proposal?

- (6) What feeder roads are planned for Hemmant Tingalpa Road and Lytton Road?
- (7) What changes if any, are planned for existing roads?
- (8) Will residents be able to move around Hemmant without obstruction?

Mr Johnson (22/8/96):

(1) The commissioning of the new signalling works at Cannon Hill on 13/14 July 1996 enabled Queensland Rail freight trains to operate along the dual gauge line from Dutton Park to Murarrie. The first freight service operated on this line on Monday, 15 July 1996.

Progressive signalling commissionings will be staged at Lytton Junction, Murarrie then Fisherman Islands. The first Queensland Rail train to run the full length of the new dual gauge line to the Port will occur in late August and the first standard gauge train will operate at the end of October when the line will be fully commissioned. The commissioning of the track for standard gauge traffic is expected to result in only a marginal increase in traffic in the short term.

Queensland Rail proposes to advise those residents nominated for noise barriers along the standard gauge line about barrier location and heights in August and September. Construction is planned to commence in January 1997, following calling of public tenders for works and is expected to be completed by December 1997. A precise construction program has not been developed for the Bulimba electorate at this stage.

(2) As part of the Impact Assessment Study, extensive noise monitoring was undertaken by specialist noise consultants, which identified locations along the standard gauge line where noise levels from existing QR operations and future predicted rail traffic exceeded the guidelines established for railway corridor noise. It is Queensland Rail's policy to only provide noise barriers at locations that exceed this criteria.

QR is aware of the problems that rail noise causes for residents adjoining the corridor and is undertaking a wide range of other practical measures such as welded rail, track and rollingstock maintenance programs as well as a commitment to purchase quieter diesel locomotives over a ten year period, which will assist in reducing railway noise.

(3) The residents along Armstrong Road who were affected by a partial resumption of their property, were all involved in the negotiation process with Queensland Rail and agreed to the compensation package. These packages compensated the residents for the loss of their land and any 'injurious affection' arising as a result of the project, which included matters such as noise and visual pollution.

As part of the resumption negotiations, Queensland Rail also agreed to replace its standard chain wire security fence with a 1.8 metre high timber butted fence. Since this fence has been erected, I understand Queensland Rail has not received any further noise complaints from the affected residents.

(4) After I have carefully examined the Final Impact Assessment Study Report and discussions with relevant State Departments and the Brisbane City Council have been finalised, I will be making recommendations to Government on the Port of Brisbane Road. No decision has been made on construction of the road.

(5) The Department of Main Roads is not empowered to purchase property which is not directly affected by a specific road reserve encroachment. The Port Road Impact Assessment Study has addressed the growing traffic demand to the Hemmant Industrial precinct and the Port of Brisbane and determined that the least impact to Hemmant residents is to provide an additional road facility to accommodate this increase. This new corridor has the advantage of being provided with noise fences which will shield both noise and visual intrusion to residences.

(6) There are no feeder roads planned for Hemmant-Tingalpa Road or Lytton Road as part of this current Study or road planning.

(7) There are no planned changes to the existing roads in Hemmant.

(8) If the proposed Port Road was built, residents would be able to move around Hemmant without obstruction.

538. Scarborough State School

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (23/7/96)—

With reference to his answer to a Question on Notice (No. 346) referring to the need for an electronic alarm system for Scarborough State School, in which he states that Scarborough State School is equipped with an extensive alarm system—

- (1) Does he regard an alarm system with nine (9) detectors covering less than a third of the school buildings as extensive?
- (2) Is he aware that the installation of this system was fully funded by P&C funds?
- (3) When will he carry out the previous Labor Government's commitment to full electronic security at this school?

Mr Connor (22/8/96):

(1) The information supplied concerning the extent of the security system at Scarborough State School was of a nature, which did not specify the number of detectors or the extent of the coverage.

The security system at Scarborough State School comprises detection devices located in buildings which are considered to be the highest risk buildings on any school campus. Providing the member with the exact number of detectors at the site would in itself have the potential to be a security risk. If the member would like to speak to me directly, I will inform him of the detail of the schools' alarm system.

(2) The existing system has official status, meaning that it has passed an inspection by Q-Build. It is therefore monitored by State Government Security at Department of Education expense, and maintained by Q-Build as part of the Asset Maintenance

Program. My department advises me that there were no records of original funding sources kept.

(3) A review of the risk ratings of all schools has recently been completed by Department of Education regional offices. This is to ensure that the Security Upgrade Program continues to address areas of highest risk and therefore most need.

The 1996/97 and 1997/98 security upgrade program is still being finalised by the Department of Education. Part (3) of this question is a Department of Education responsibility and should be directed to the responsible Minister.

540. Queensland Rail

Mr ELDER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (23/7/96)—

- (1) Will he be increasing the CSOs paid to Queensland Rail for low volume branch lines over the next two years; if so, will this be new money or come from savings in other programs?
- (2) Will the overall level of Csos be maintained or reduced during 1996/97 and 1997/98?
- (3) If it is to be reduced, from what areas will those reductions be made?

Mr Johnson (22/8/96):

(1) The final quantum of CSOs to be paid to Queensland Rail for low volume branch lines over the next two years has yet to be finalised, but will reflect any future increases in services as well as any improvements in efficiency. My Government will be providing capital funding to meet the costs associated with the Forsyth Line, Drummond Range Works, Charleville Depot and Townsville Workshops. This will not be at the expense of other services.

(2 & 3) The overall level of CSOs including both passenger and freight has also yet to be finalised. In contrast to the previous Government's performance, it is my long term aim to see a decrease in CSOS payments to be offset through greater efficiency of Queensland Rail.

541. Education, Review of Schooling

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education (23/7/96)—

With reference to the review of flexible schooling which was established in April 1995 to evaluate arrangements for flexible progression through the early childhood years—

Given that the report of this review was finalised in December 1995 can he advise the current status of its recommendations?

Mr Quinn (22/8/96): The Executive Management Committee, of the Department of Education, has noted the value of multi-age grouping, as an approach to provide appropriate learning environments that allow for flexible progression through the early childhood years and beyond.

The Department of Education recognises the degree of community and school interest in multi-age education. Consequently, the Department believes the report will provide support for those schools currently implementing multi-age approaches, as well as for those schools wishing to investigate multi-age schooling as an option within existing classroom organisational structures.

The remaining recommendations in the report have been noted and referred to relevant program and subprogram managers.

The Department of Education has sent a copy of this report to all Regional Executive Directors, Assistant Executive Directors (Studies) and School Support Centre Co-ordinators. Furthermore, the Deputy Director-General of Education (Curriculum) acknowledged, in *Education Views*, the publication of this report and its potential use for schools.

It should also be noted that this recognition of multi-age grouping, as one approach that allows for flexible progression, is given within the current resource allocation of the Department of Education.

542. Beenleigh Station Project

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (23/7/96)—

With reference to the proposed, highly supported and much needed development known as "Beenleigh Station", to be constructed on land adjoining the Beenleigh Railway Station, owned by Queensland Railways and the Gold Coast City Council—

- (1) Has the amount of the transport infrastructure contribution required of the developer Leighton Properties been determined; if so, (a) what is the amount, (b) how was it determined and (c) when will it be payable?
- (2) When will the construction of the project be able to begin?

Mr Johnson (22/8/96):

(1) The transport infrastructure contribution required to offset the impact of the Beenleigh Station development now has been determined.

(a) The amount of the road infrastructure contribution for Stage 1 of the development is \$320,636.

(b) This amount was determined by Ove Arup, the consultants for the Joint Venture Partner, Leighton Properties, based on their assessment of the impact on the State-controlled road network and has been accepted by Main Roads.

(c) Timing for payment is yet to be determined. However, it would need to be made prior to commissioning the development for use.

(2) Timing for commencement of construction of the development is a matter for the proponent, subject to approvals from relevant authorities being in place.

544. Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation

Mrs BIRD asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry (23/7/96)—

With reference to an answer he gave during question time on 11 July in which he stated "The tourism industry in this State is pleased for the first time for many years, following bungled appointments by the former Government of CEOs (of the QTTC) who had no credibility within the tourism industry in Queensland and no support from the tourism industry in Queensland"—

Will he name those to whom he was referring and provide evidence he has to support his claim the individuals or individual involved were bungled appointments without credibility in the tourism industry?

Mr Davidson (22/8/96): As the Member for Whitsunday moves around Queensland and talks to people within the tourism industry she will appreciate the enormous support for Stephen Gregg's appointment and I suggest she discuss with key people in the tourism industry whether or not Stephen Gregg is not a more appropriate appointment than previous Chief Executive Officers.

546. Cape York Land Use Agreement

Mr BEATTIE asked the Premier (24/7/96)—

With reference to the National Farmers' Federation comprehensive response to the Federal Government's proposed amendments to the Native Title Act and their agreement that voluntary land access agreements were an option in resolving indigenous issues in that leaseholders and Aboriginal groups could negotiate to establish their own terms of access to land under question—

- (1) Has the National Farmers' Federation, like the Cattlemen's Union in Cape York, got it wrong?
- (2) Will he now acknowledge he is grossly out of step with current thinking in rural circles on this issue?
- (3) Will he now acknowledge the Cape York Land Use Agreement, put together by graziers, Aboriginals and conservationists gives Cape land, uses a legal, efficient and workable solution to the differences that have existed in that area for years?

Mr Borbidge (22/8/96): The response by the National Farmers' Federation (NFF) to the Federal Government's proposed amendments to the Native Title Act 1993 (NTA) promotes individual voluntary access agreements between landholders and indigenous groups but makes it clear that such agreements should not confer any interest in the land title nor should there be a requirement that voluntary agreements be registered under s.21 of the NTA. Further, the NFF makes it clear in its response that it would not expect such agreements to apply to pastoral leases. Indeed, the NFF expresses its concern at attempts to establish statutory access rights as native title rights, noting that such a situation would result in pastoralists being unable to operate their lease without outside interference.

The NFF has not "got it wrong" on voluntary land access agreements, indeed the NFF's views are very similar to those of the Queensland Government. That is that it is the Crown and not the leaseholder who is entitled to concede any rights in relation to title.

Leaseholders are only able to enter into agreements about matters that do not affect the title to the land.

The Queensland Government's views are totally in accord with the views of rural people on this issue.

The Cape York Peninsula Land Agreement was entered into on 5 February 1996 between the Cape York Land Council, the Peninsular Regional Council of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission, the Cattlemen's Union of Australia, the Australian Conservation Foundation and the Wilderness Society. The Agreement is stated to be the first step towards a Regional Agreement under s.21 of the NTA but is silent upon whether it is intended to be legally binding. The stated aims of the Agreement include that it will provide cattlemen with security of their pastoral leases and Aboriginal people a resolution of native title issues and access to areas of traditional significance on pastoral leases.

A s.21 agreement is between native title holders and the government and legally authorises the government to do future acts in relation to land over which native title does or may exist. Although the issue must ultimately be settled by the High Court, the law as it presently stands is that native title is extinguished by the grant of a pastoral lease under the Land Act 1962. It follows that there are no native title rights over pastoral leases, no native title holders, and no one for the government to enter into a s.21 agreement with.

The Agreement, in so far as it relates to lawful access arrangements between individual pastoralists and Aboriginals, is a matter for the individuals involved and does not require the State to be a party. Nevertheless, the Queensland Government recognises that an agreement that expresses respect and recognition of Aboriginals' former position as traditional owners of the land, although it is not binding, is a genuine step in the reconciliation process.

548. Workers' Compensation; Common Law Claims

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (24/7/96)—

- (1) How many public sector employees made successful workers' compensation claims during 1995-96?
- (2) In which departments and at what levels were these staff employed?
- (3) For what injuries and illnesses were these claims made?
- (4) How many of these claims were for whole of body injuries of 15 per cent or less?
- (5) How many claimants are pursuing common law claims for injuries / illnesses?
- (6) How many successful common law actions resulted in payments to public sector employees and how much was awarded in each case?

Mr Santoro (22/8/96):

- (1) In 1995/96 there were 8903 accepted claims lodged by Queensland public servants.

(2) These claims were associated with 29 Government Departments/Agencies as follows:

Administrative Services—990; Auditor-General—5; DBIRD—12; Consumer Affairs—4; CJC—9; Minerals & Energy—28; DTIR—497; Education—1944; Environ. & Heritage—100; Family Svcs, A & I Affairs—516; Forestry—9; Goprint—1; Health—53; Housing & Local Govt—94; Justice—83; Lands—45; Parliament House—15; Police—1117; Premier's—17; Primary Industries—321; Q Fleet—3; Corrective Services Comm.—208; Emergency Services—90; Qld Elect. Comm—2; Queensland Rail—2134; Tourism Sport Racing—15; Transport—572; Treasury—18; Water Resources Comm.—1

These policies may not directly relate to current departments as changes to some departmental structures and areas of responsibility are currently being addressed. As classification levels are not relevant to the determination of entitlement to compensation, this information is not required or retained with the claims statistics.

(3) I table a list of the injuries/illnesses for these claims.

(4) Consistent data is not available.

(5) In the 1995/96 financial year, 321 new common law claims from Government Sector employees were commenced.

(6) In the 1995/96 financial year, 27 Government Sector common law claims were settled with damages paid at an average cost of \$95,947.65 each. I table the details of the damages paid for each claim.

INJURY/ILLNESS TYPE FOR GOVERNMENT SECTOR STATUTORY CLAIMS 1995/96

Abrasions—72; Aids—2; Amputation—11; Arthritis—5; Asbestosis—5; Asphyxiation—1; Bite—89; Blister—7; Broken Medical Aid—43; Bruise—697; Burns—123; Bursitis—2; Cancer—5; Cardiac Unspecified—2; Carpal Tunnel Syndrome—49; Cerebral Haemorrhage—1; Concussion—37; Contusion—32; Crush—74; Cut—348; Dermatitis—36; Dislocation—51; Epicondylitis—10; Exposure—13; Femoral Hernia—1; Flash Burns—9; Foreign Body—244; Fracture—444; Haematoma—17; Headache—9; Heart Attack—5; Heat Exhaustion—4; Industrial Deafness—482; Inguinal Hernia—60s; Laceration—353; Loss of Sense of Smell—1; Mesothelioma—3; Multiple Injuries—115; Myocardial Infarction—1; Poisoning—27; Puncture—69; Q Fever—3; Repetitive Strain Injury—5; Respiratory Disease—16; Solar Skin Disease—13; Strain/Sprain—4401; Stress—707; Sunburn—1; Tendonitis—56; Tenosynovitis—4; Thrombosis—2; Traumatic Deafness—3; Tumour—3; Ulcers—4; Umbilical Hernia—17; Unspecified Deafness—3; Unspecified Disease—12; Unspecified Hernia—3; Unspecified Nature—72; Viral Infection—20; Zoonotic Unspecified—1

GOVERNMENT SECTOR COMMON LAW CLAIMS SETTLED IN 1995/96

Common law claim and damages

1—\$13,735.51; 2—\$5,816.45; 3—\$12,572.05;
4—\$22,770.00; 5—\$75,148.20; 6—\$34,000.00;
7—\$27,500.00; 8—\$52,684.22; 9—\$85,753.86;

10—\$70,905.17; 11—\$47,000.16; 12—\$45,086.42;
13—\$64,344.02; 14—\$70,000.00; 15—\$55,614.59;
16—\$95,946.34; 17—\$91,412.77; 18—\$124,988.53;
19—\$135,050.65; 20—\$156,558.18; 21—\$125,187.76;
22—\$145,634.44; 23—\$145,644.98; 24—\$179,272.26;
25—\$159,988.29; 26—\$235,897.22; 27—\$313,074.55

549. Community Beats

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (24/7/96)—

With reference to the very successful community beat model adopted by police in Toowoomba and given the extreme community concern across Queensland about the perceived escalation in juvenile crime—

- (1) Why has the Toowoomba community beat concept not been introduced to other centres in Queensland?
- (2) Can we expect to see the model operating in Townsville / Thuringowa; if so, when?

Mr Cooper (19/8/96):

(1) There are two community beats in Toowoomba which both commenced in May 1993. Other beats do operate in Queensland. One operates at West End in Brisbane and was established in December 1994. Beats also operate at Leichardt and Silkstone in Ipswich and both were established in January 1995.

(2) There are no plans to establish any further community beats in the next 12 months.

550. Prisons Rebuilding Program

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (24/7/96)—

With reference to the \$151.5m prisons rebuilding program announced on 25 March and as this decision determined that public tenders would not be called for the projects involved in this program, despite strong Treasury advice that public tenders should be called, which was ignored—

How can the public be confident that it is getting good value for money in this program without the calling of public tenders?

Mr Cooper (15/8/96): A distinction must be made between how centres are constructed and how they are managed.

Concerning construction, it has been, and remains, the policy of this government to submit all major construction projects including correctional centres to competitive tender.

Concerning the operation of correctional centres, the government will be seeking to achieve the most effective and cost efficient outcome. In this regard, consultations are continuing between the QCSC and Treasury.

551. Service Centres, Morayfield

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (24/7/96)—

With reference to the recent conditional approval by Caboolture Shire Council for the construction of twin service centres on the Bruce Highway at Morayfield—

Will an appeal be lodged by the Department of Transport, given they were the main objector to this application?

Mr Johnson (22/8/96): The Department has recently been informed of Caboolture Shire Council's decision to approve the proposed Twin Service Centres on the Bruce Highway at Burpengary. Council's conditional approval requires the developer to comply with the requirements of the Department of Main Roads and the Federal Department of Transport, with respect to highway access.

The Department is currently assessing the conditions of approval issued by Caboolture Shire Council and is considering an appropriate position to take with respect to the proposed development.

552. Superannuation

Mr De LACY asked the Premier (24/7/96)—

With reference to his answer to a question on 11 July 1996 where he said that superannuation estimates in the National Fiscal Outlook average about \$950m a year—

What are the components of this amount in relation to (a) interest on investment, (b) employer contributions and (c) payments to beneficiaries?

Mr Borbidge (12/8/96): The response on 11 July related to broad estimates to indicate the overall magnitude of the figures.

The NFO scenario projects a surplus of \$447m on average over the period 1996-97 to 1998-99. This surplus includes a net contribution via superannuation investments estimated to average \$972m. Excluding superannuation investments, the underlying NFO position is a deficit of \$524m on average over the same period. The estimate of \$972m in superannuation investments comprises:- interest on superannuation investments of \$665m, plus employer contributions of \$701m, less payments to beneficiaries and administration costs of \$394m.

553. Engine Noise, Cleveland Rail Line

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (24/7/96)—

- (1) Will he direct his department to commission work to reduce the noise on diesel and electric engines on the Cleveland line?
- (2) Does he know that these engines are amongst the oldest in the fleet and that the new, quieter engines are being used to haul coal on the country runs?
- (3) Does he know that a substantial noise reduction of up to 15 decibels is being achieved at an approximate cost of \$10,000 per engine taking the noise from the present high 80s, low 90s to a tolerable mid-70s decibel reading?

Mr Johnson (22/8/96):

- (1) Noise from locomotives is generated from a number of sources other than the engine, such as

compressors, converters etc. Because of this, major works would be required to reduce the noise generated from existing locomotives which are nearing the end of their economic life. It is a better solution to purchase new locomotives which will be designed to achieve specific noise targets that comply with modern standards.

It is interesting to note that the previous Government did not where near enough in terms of investing in new locomotives for Queensland Rail. However this Government has made a commitment to purchase quieter diesel locomotives to reduce noise levels along the Cleveland line. Because of the long lead time required to manufacture these locomotives and the significant capital cost involved, they will be introduced into service over a ten year period.

It is a shame that the previous Member for Lytton and the Member for Bulimba did not show more concern for their residents when the decision was taken for the rail line to the port.

(2) The quieter locomotives were purchased to replace Queensland Rail's oldest diesel rollingstock which services the region north of Rockhampton and includes the passage of trains through a number of major regional centres along the coast between Rockhampton and Cairns. The quieter locomotives were specifically designed to haul freight and mineral traffic for this region and cannot be used in the Brisbane area without substantial track and bridge strengthening, tunnel rebuilding and improving clearances. Because of the prohibitive cost of these works it is more desirable to invest in quieter new generation diesel electric locomotives.

(3) Queensland Rail has undertaken extensive world wide research into noise reduction for diesel locomotives. This research indicates, generally speaking, an additional three tonnes of silencing equipment is required for noise suppression on diesel locomotives. Because of Queensland Rail's space constraints and clearances it is not feasible to achieve this with the existing rollingstock and is more cost efficient to purchase specially designed quieter rollingstock.

I would welcome more information about how to reduce diesel locomotive noise by 15 decibels for an approximate cost of \$10,000.

554. Schools, Nudgee Electorate

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Education (24/7/96)—

With reference to primary and secondary schools in the Nudgee Electorate—

- (1) What are the enrolments or predicted enrolments for the years 1990 through to 2006?
- (2) What actions has the department taken, or does it intend to take, to maintain viability of schools within the electorate?

Mr Quinn (22/8/96):

- (1) With reference to primary and secondary schools in the Nudgee electorate, it is my understanding that enrolments for the years 1990 to 1996 have been:

YEAR—ENROLMENT

1990—1921
 1991—1989
 1992—1868
 1993—1814
 1994—1747
 1995—1741
 1996—1732

whilst predicted enrolments are expected to be:

YEAR—ENROLMENT

1997—1719
 1998—1741
 1999—1771
 2000—1791
 2001—1833
 2006—1941

(2) The Metropolitan East regional office maintains regular monitoring of enrolments and demographic trends for all schools in the region.

555. Social and Community Services Award

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Health (24/7/96)—

With reference to the introduction of the Social and Community Services Award as from 26 July 1996 to cover workers of which 80s per cent are women—

- (1) Does his Government support the introduction of this award?
- (2) Have they determined what financial impact this award will have on community based organisations?
- (3) Have they determined what impact this award will have on service delivery to clients by community based organisations if recurrent funding isn't increased to offset the financial implications of the introduction of the award?
- (4) Will the Government increase recurrent funding to enable these organisations to carry out their work to the same level within the community prior to the introduction of the award; if not, what strategy will the Government adopt to ensure that clients will not be disadvantaged?

Mr Horan (19/8/96):

(1) On 26 June 1996 the Australian Industrial Relations Commission made a new award to regulate employment in non-government social and community services in Queensland. The award was made by consent between the Australian Services Union (ASU) representing employees, and employer groups. The employer groups were principally represented by the Queensland Confederation of Commerce and Industry (QCCI) and the Queensland Community Services Employers Association (QCSEA). The Queensland Government did not oppose the making of an award but would have preferred a delayed implementation, on the basis that there had been insufficient time to make an assessment of the funding impact.

(2) The Government is not a direct party to this award, but is indirectly affected to the extent that funding subsidies are provided to community based organisations to assist with meeting salary costs.

While the award will take effect from 26 July 1996, the Commission had allowed the parties 4 months to fully consider the award and determine appropriate classification levels for the employee positions. My Department is currently developing advice on the financial impact to the community services sector of the award.

(3) As the full cost implications of the award are yet to be determined, it is difficult to assess the impact on social and community services organisations and their clients.

(4) The Government will determine its position when the full cost impact is known. As a number of funding programs administered by my Department are jointly funded with the Commonwealth, it is necessary for the Federal Government to be included in any deliberations on this matter. The concerns of the community organisations are acknowledged.

557. Century Zinc Project

Mr DOLLIN asked the Premier (24/7/96)—

With reference to his often repeated claims that the State Government will be contributing a \$30m package to Gulf Aboriginal communities in addition to the \$60m already committed by Century Zinc to offset the impacts of the worlds biggest zinc mine proceeding on their traditional lands—

- (1) To what exact use will the \$30m be directed?
- (2) Over what period will these funds be offered?
- (3) Will the Gulf communities, particularly the Waanyi people, the Carpentaria Land Council and the United Gulf Region Aboriginal Community have a say in how this money will be spent?
- (4) Which Government department will administer these funds?

Mr Borbidge (12/8/96):

(1) The proposed \$30m will include expenditure on roads, a Social Impact Assessment of the North West Queensland Minerals Province, environmental regional planning processes and support for education and training initiatives for the Gulf Region. Expenditure of between \$18-\$20m for the Fiery Creek/Gregory Road and a contribution of \$500,000 towards the upgrade of the Gregory River Bridge will form a significant portion of the proposed \$30m.

(2) The funds for Road and Bridge construction are under consideration in the development of the 1996/97 budget. Additional expenditure on Social Infrastructure for Gulf Aboriginal Communities will be subject to a needs analysis and the outcome of the Social Impact Assessment.

(3) Yes. All these groups will be invited to have their say in how the money would best be spent. This will be done through joint meetings with representatives of the Gulf communities, representatives from the Departments of the Premier and Cabinet, Economic Development and Trade, Treasury and other relevant Departments.

(4) The proposed allocation of \$600,000 for the Social Impact Assessment will be administered by

the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (State Development Division). Relevant Queensland Government Departments and agencies will administer the program funds.

558. Advertisement in *South Burnett Times*

Mr NUNN asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (24/7/96)—

With reference to an advertisement appearing on page 8 of the *South Burnett Times* on 4 June 1996—

- (1) Who paid for the advertisement?
- (2) What was the cost of the advertisement?
- (3) Did the Department of Primary Industries assist in the production of the advertisement?
- (4) Who organised for the advertisement to be placed in the *South Burnett Times*?
- (5) Did the advertisement appear anywhere else in Queensland other than his local electorate?
- (6) Was the advertisement conducted on his behalf as the Minister for Primary Industries or as the Member for Barambah?
- (7) If the advertisement is on his behalf as the Member for Barambah, why does the official DPI logo appear in the right-hand corner of the advertisement?
- (8) If the advertisement is on his behalf as the Minister for Primary Industries, why does it refer to the "Coalition" and make reference to his Kingaroy electorate office?
- (9) If the advertisement is on his behalf as the Minister for Primary Industries, why is his department paying for advertising on an issue for which it is not responsible?
- (10) What guidelines does the Government or his department have in place with regards to the use of taxpayers money to fund political advertising?
- (11) If departmental funds were used to pay for the advertisement, from which program were the funds taken?
- (12) Did he seek the approval of any other Minister or the Premier before ordering the placement of the advertisement?

Mr Perrett (23/8/96):

1. The advertisement was booked to "Trevor Perrett, Glendon Street Arcade, Kingaroy" and will be paid for by the Member for Barambah.

NOTE: Copy of the original advertisement copy, the advertisement itself and the newspaper account for it are attached.

2. In view of the answer to No 1, the answer is only of concern to the Member for Barambah.
3. No.
4. The Member for Barambah.
5. No.
6. Member for Barambah.
7. The request to the newspaper's advertising department was to include a photograph of the Member for Barambah plus the copy material in the advertisement. There was no request to the

newspaper for the DPI logo or State crest to be included.

8. Not applicable in view of answers to questions 1 and 4.
9. Not applicable in view of answers to questions 1 and 4.
10. Not applicable to private advertising.
11. Not applicable in view of answers to questions 1 and 4.
12. Not applicable in view of answers to questions 1 and 4.

559. Q-Fleet and Q-Build, Accommodation in Australian Government Centre

Mr MILLINER asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (24/7/96)—

With reference to the office space recently taken by Q Fleet and Q Build in the Australian Government Centre at 295 Ann Street—

- (1) How many square metres of office space will each agency lease in the building?
- (2) What increase is this figure on the previous office space used by each agency?
- (3) How much per square metre did each agency pay previously?
- (4) How much per square metre will each agency pay under the new arrangements?
- (5) How many staff did each agency house in the previous accommodation?
- (6) Has there been an increase in staff at either agency to justify the need for additional office space; if so, what are the staff increases?
- (7) What increase in accommodation costs will result from the move to the Australian Government Centre for each agency per year?
- (8) What are the relocation costs for each agency?
- (9) What other costs will be involved in the change of office space, e.g., new letterhead, car parking, etc.?
- (10) What is the total cost of this decision, per year, for Queensland taxpayers?

Mr Connor (22/8/96):

- (1) In the leased office space at 295 Ann Street, Q-Build will occupy 1683 square metres and Q-Fleet will occupy 1163 square metres (subject to survey to BOMA standards 1989 revision).
- (2) These figures do not represent an increase on the previous office space used by each agency.
- (3) In the previous office accommodation, both agencies paid \$241 per square metre per annum.
- (4) Under the new arrangements, both agencies will pay \$220 per square metre per annum.
- (5) In the previous office accommodation, Q-build housed 105 permanent staff, and Q-Fleet housed 78 permanent staff.
- (6) There has been no increase in staff.
- (7) There is no increase in accommodation costs resulting from the move to the Australian Government Centre for either agency.

(8) All costs will be covered in the lease incentive provided by the lessor.

(9) Any business-related costs resulting from the change in office space will be accommodated within existing operational budgets.

(10) This decision implements a component of the overall Brisbane CBD accommodation strategy which will not involve additional costs to the Queensland taxpayer.

560. South East Freeway/Pacific Highway

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (24/7/96)—

With reference to the super highway—

(1) What are the estimated costs of this highway on the Gold Coast, Logan and Brisbane Councils?

(2) Will he outline (a) what relocations of service roads, services and other infrastructure and (b) the estimated costs that are being foisted on the ratepayers of these councils?

Mr Johnson (22/8/96):

(1) Rather than a super highway we are building a world class motorway, to be known as the Pacific Motorway. North of the Logan Motorway, should a busway be an element of the approved plan, Brisbane City Council will be requested to contribute funding towards it. Apart from this, no funding is requested from Gold Coast City or Logan City for the upgrading of the highway.

South of the Logan Motorway, Main Roads is presently undertaking an economic appraisal of the planning layouts, as part of the Impact Management Plan process. The cost of works will be documented in the Impact Management Plan and made available to the public in mid September 1996.

(2)(a) For the section north of the Logan Motorway, final details of relocations of service roads, services, and other infrastructure are not known at this stage, and will be determined during the detailed design phase. South of the Logan Motorway, planning for and relocation of service roads is currently being done. The nature and extent of the works will be documented in the Impact Management Plan.

(b) Some relocation and reinstatement of service roads and services will be necessary to accommodate the eight laning. The cost of these works will be considered part of the costs to upgrade the highway. No costs of this nature will be imposed on Councils.

561. Arts Budget

Mr WELLS asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (24/7/96)—

With reference to new initiatives budgeted for in the 1995-96 budget relating to the Art Gallery, Museum and Libraries, for example, (not an exhaustive list, but illustrations) \$1.62m plan for enhancement of library services for indigenous communities, \$1.08m to bring country lending service libraries on line with the computer Internet, \$150,000 to tour South East

Asian Art to country centres, and \$560,000 for the establishment of a mineral and fossil branch of the Museum at Mt Isa—

(1) Which of the Arts new initiatives in the 1995-96 budget have proceeded, and in those cases how much has been expended?

(2) How many have not proceeded, and for what reason have those not proceeded during 1995-96?

Mrs Sheldon (22/8/96):

(1) All initiatives referred to were introduced during 1995-96 with a total of \$1.03m expended. Note that the figures quoted by Mr Hayward are planned expenditure over the life of these initiatives rather than a 1995-96 budget figure.

The enhancement of library services for indigenous communities commenced with purchase of suitable bookstock and four country lending service libraries were supplied computers as part of the library computer initiative. The establishment of a mineral and fossil branch of the Museum at Mt Isa has occurred with local community support. The touring of South East Asian Art to country centres also commenced during 1995-96 with dates for locations finalised. The touring exhibition will continue in 1996-97.

(2) Savings of \$0.2m occurred during 1995-96 due to difficulties experienced in implementation of the development of a Far North Queensland branch and poor telecommunication networks in regional Queensland. Development of a Regional Art Gallery Database commenced during 1995-96.

562. Howard State School

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education (24/7/96)—

With reference to ongoing concerns which have been raised by parents at Howard State School about staffing at the school—

(1) What staffing was allocated to Howard State School at the start of the 1996 school year?

(2) What is the current staffing at the school?

(3) What reason has the department given for changing the staff allocations and transferring a teacher from the school?

(4) As the principal of the school has taken long service leave, would it have been better to delay the transfer until after the principal returned at the end of term, and at least minimise disruption to the school and its students?

Mr Quinn (22/8/96):

(1) At the commencement of the 1996 school year Howard State School had an allocation of:

1 principal

7 teachers.

(2) The current staffing at the school is:

1 principal

6.5 teachers

(3) In response to this question, the Department advised that Howard State School had been staffed over-entitlement for six months.

Increased enrolments anticipated by the Principal, and based upon empirical data, did not result. Consequently a decision was made, after the school was given the opportunity to achieve enrolment targets, or plan for the possibility of staff redeployment, to adjust the staffing entitlement.

Another factor for consideration, when assessing staffing adjustments at Howard State School, was the fact that a nearby school had below entitlement staffing. The redeployment of staff assisted a school with a higher demonstrated staffing need.

(4) The Department of Education had given Howard State School six months notice of the need to improve enrolments, or incur staffing adjustments. Likewise the need for additional staffing at the nearby school was not diminishing.

The Department tries to minimise disruption to students during periods of staffing adjustment, or leave. There is an inherent difficulty in balancing the competing needs of various students, schools and staff. Consequently it is not unlikely that some initial disruption will regrettably occur during such periods.

I am confident that in this instance the staff involved will be able to deal with all the needs of students concerned.

563.Sunshine Motorway

Mr HAMILL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (24/7/96)—

With reference to the Sunshine Motorway—

- (1) What was the level of debt on the motorway at the time the tolls were abolished?
- (2) Has this debt now been repaid?
- (3) If this debt has not been repaid, which department or agency now holds this debt?
- (4) What is the estimated level of repayments on this debt in 1996-97?
- (5) Which department or agency is responsible for meeting these repayments on the Sunshine Motorway debt?
- (6) Over what period will this debt be repaid?

Mr Johnson (22/8/96):

(1) The toll on the Sunshine Motorway was removed from midnight on 8 March 1996. At 31 March 1996, the market value of debt on the facility stood at \$192.886 million.

(2) The matter of funding of Sunshine Motorway Company Limited debt is currently under consideration in a budget context. It is anticipated that a decision will be announced when the State Budget is brought down.

(3) The Sunshine Motorway Company Limited.

(4) \$12.6 million.

(5) The Department of Main Roads will make payments to the Sunshine Motorway Company Limited to enable the Company to make payments towards the debt. {See also answer (2) above}

(6) The debt will be extinguished prior to the conclusion of the franchise period. {See also answer (2) above}

564.Blackwater Hospital

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Health (24/7/96)—

- (1) Is he aware that the Blackwater Hospital does not have the funds to carry out minor maintenance works and repairs, which means the hospital is being allowed to run down to the detriment of staff and the community; if so, what action has been taken to rectify a dangerous electrical situation in the female patients' toilet and, among other things, to repair holes in the wall of the hospital kitchen, broken doors and guttering around the building?
- (2) Will he confirm or deny that Queensland Health will close down the hospital's laundry therefore removing the need to replace the hospital's industrial iron?

Mr Horan (20/8/96):

(1) Minor maintenance at hospitals is the responsibility of the facility and the relevant District Health Service. Generally, this work forms part of the commitments built into the normal operating budgets allocated to District Health Services each year.

In response to the specific problems of Blackwater Hospital, while the Member for Fitzroy will appreciate that there is a need to prioritise minor maintenance requirements and the decisions in regard to this are the responsibility of the facility and the relevant District Health Service, I am informed that local management has the situation in hand and necessary repairs will be undertaken.

Funding of \$15,000 has also been provided from the Capital Works Program as part of the priority minor works package announced by this Government in March 1996. These funds had been allocated to repairing the roof to meet current Building Act requirements and the priority was established by local management.

(2) You should be aware that I have already confirmed in a statement that Blackwater Hospital will retain its laundry.

565.Public Housing, Redcliffe Electorate

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (24/7/96)—

With reference to construction of public housing in the Redcliffe electorate—

Has the "Sheldon" freeze caused the cessation of public housing construction in the Redcliffe electorate; if not, will he detail current building projects and the projected completion of public housing in the Redcliffe electorate for 1996-97?

Mr Connor (23/8/96): There has been no cessation of public rental housing construction in the Redcliffe electorate.

The individual projects to be included in the 1996/97 Capital Works Program will be determined in the context of the 1996/97 State Budget.

566.Runcorn State High School

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (24/7/96)—

With reference to the decision by the previous Government to build a community sports facility at Runcorn State High School, which the P&C Association, the Brisbane City Council and the Education Department have all committed funding for—

Is he committed to supporting this innovative and much needed project; if so, when will work on this project commence?

Mr Veivers (23/8/96): In response to the specific question made by Mr Robertson, I can advise as follows: Yes, I am committed to building a community sports facility at the Runcorn State High School. My Department has committed an amount of \$580,000 towards the project.

I have recently formalised the arrangements necessary to progress the construction of this facility and have advised all stakeholders accordingly. The Department of Public Works and Housing is currently preparing the design documentation in readiness for the calling of tenders.

The time frame associated with the appointment of a contractor and the commencement of actual building works is estimated to be between three and six months. Works can only occur after the tender process is complete and approval from Executive Council is gained.

It is anticipated that the appointment of the contractor will occur in approximately December 1996. Construction would commence in January 1997 during the annual school closure.

569.South East Freeway

Ms SPENCE asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (24/7/96)—

With reference to the recent letter from the Department of Transport sent to the people in the Mt Gravatt Electorate regarding their plans to widen the South East Freeway and as the letter announces that 70 resumptions will occur—

- (1) Will he detail the location of the properties that will be resumed?
- (2) Will he give a timetable for these resumptions?
- (3) Will additional properties be subject to partial resumptions?
- (4) Does he acknowledge that his failure to announce Stage 11 of his Super Highway is causing unnecessary stress to the residents of Holland Park West, Mt Gravatt and Mansfield who live along the freeway because they don't know how close the proposed widening of the freeway will bring that road to their homes?

Mr Johnson (22/8/96):

(1) Property owners that might be affected have been advised directly by Queensland Transport/Department of Main Roads.

(2) Following a decision by Government on the plan for eight laning, detailed planning and design will commence. Actual property requirements will be determined at that stage and resumption details can then be made available to the public.

(3) Those properties identified to date are expected to be the only properties where land acquisition will be necessary to achieve 8 laning between the city and Logan Motorway.

(4) The Government is aware of the need to make an early decision and has taken steps to consult with property owners and people who live within the corridor to keep them informed of progress. Such consultation will continue throughout the detailed planning, design and construction phases of the project.

570.Counter Disaster Services Budget

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (24/7/96)—

With reference to a statement made in the Parliament on 23 July by the Acting Minister for Emergency Services, Mrs McCauley, that a document indicating over \$800,000 would be cut from the counter disaster services budget had not been sighted by either the Minister or the Director-General of the Department—

- (1) Has he now viewed that document?
- (2) Who prepared this document?
- (3) Why was it prepared?
- (4) Given that it was circulated throughout Regional Queensland, what action will he take to assure regional SES units that the document has no status?
- (5) Will he confirm that it is not his intention to proceed with the cuts outlined in the document?
- (6) Will there be any cuts in the Counter Disaster budget; if so, what areas will be cut?

Mr Veivers (23/8/96):

(1) The document referred to has now been viewed by myself and the Director-General of the Department.

(2) The document was prepared by the previous Executive Director, Counter Disaster Services.

(3) The document was an internal Counter Disaster Services indicative budget which was prepared for divisional managers in early June 1996. As an indicative budget, its purpose was to allow divisional managers to commence program planning for the financial year 1996/97.

(4) The status of the document is that of an internal indicative budget only. Given the time of its release (early June) the document could not possibly be anything else.

(5) A proposed funding cut of \$201,000 in enhanced Regional Capability Special Funding, put forward by the previous Director-General is included in the document. This funding had been previously provided by the Director-General in 1994/95 and 1995/96.

Reference to the remaining funds within the internal indicative budget as cuts is a misrepresentation of the facts. The facts are:

Approved carry over figures of unexpended budget funds from 1994/95 of \$259,000 plus \$35,000 for cadets are not budget cuts.

A decision has not been made as yet regarding "special funding" to the ATSI Community Emergency Services Groups initiative. A non-salary budget has not been allocated to this initiative, pending Budget considerations. As such, the special funding provided in 1995/96 was not included in the indicative budget.

The document also indicated a decrease in National Disaster Relief Arrangements (NDRA) funding which is provided by the Commonwealth Government. Since the release of the indicative budget NDRA funding has been increased from \$100,000 to \$500,000. Notwithstanding this change, increases or decreases reflected in the indicative budget are irrelevant as the Government provides disaster funding for operational costs above any budget amount.

The \$11,000 for superannuation is funded by Treasury so any increase or decrease shown in the indicative budget is irrelevant.

(6) The budget for the Counter Disaster area is currently under consideration.

571. Public Housing, Gold Coast Region

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (24/7/96)—

With reference to properties recently purchased by his department in the Gold Coast region for public housing—

- (1) How many properties have been purchased over the past 4 months?
- (2) Will he provide a breakdown, by suburb, of where the properties were purchased and the cost of the properties purchased?

Mr Connor (23/8/96):

(1) As at Thursday, 25 July 1996 I have approved the purchase of 73 homes in the Gold Coast Region.

(2) I have approved the purchase of properties in 21 suburbs for a total cost of \$9,414,250.00. These suburbs are:

Arundel, Ashmore, Burleigh Heads, Burleigh Waters, Carrara, Coolangatta, Coombabah, Currumbin Waters, Elanora, Helensvale, Labrador, Merrimac, Miami, Mudgeeraba, Nerang, Oxenford, Palm Beach, Paradise Point, Parkwood, Robina, Southport.

572. Boyne Island School

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Education (24/7/96)—

With reference to the amount of planning done by staff at the Boyne Island School after promises of funds for shade structures at the school—

- (1) Will he reconsider his about-face on funding?
- (2) Will he consider a submission from the school as a matter of priority given the commitment to safe school practices?

Mr Quinn (22/8/96):

(1) I am concerned to learn that the honourable member for Gladstone has accused me of an about face on the provision of shade structures at Boyne Island State School.

This issue is nothing more than a misrepresentation of what was essentially an election promise made by the former Premier, Wayne Goss and the failed ALP candidate for Gladstone, Neil Bennett.

Neither the Department of Education, nor myself, have ever given a commitment to provide additional shade structures at the Boyne Island State School. Accordingly no money has ever been allocated, or budgeted for such a project.

The Labor Party had almost eight months to implement the promises it made during the 1995 election. The fact that it chose to desert the people of Gladstone, when its candidate was defeated, shows the blatantly political nature of the unfunded and ill-considered promises it espoused.

I regret that the failure of the Labor Party, even to attempt to deliver on its promises, has misled the staff of Boyne Island State School.

(2) With more than 1,300 state schools in this State I have an obligation to ensure the most efficient allocation of publicly funded resources. As the Boyne Island State School has almost 30% more shade than its existing entitlement, I am currently unable to consider, as a matter of priority, any submission from the school on this matter.

573. Alternative Dispute Resolution Program

Mr BEATTIE asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (25/7/96)—

With reference to his slashing of funds to the Alternative Dispute Resolution Program which provides a mediation service for victim and offender conferencing introduced by the Labor Government—

- (1) How does he explain his cutting of this service to victims of crime in the light of his pre-election commitment to increase services to victims of crime?
- (2) Why has he failed to deliver on his pre-election promise of \$1m to assist the Victims of Crime Association in their vital work?

Mr Beanland (26/8/96):

(1) The question by the Honourable Member is particularly intriguing as victim/offender conferencing under the former Labor government was an overwhelming failure. The community would

undoubtedly be startled at the level of resources and lack of action that occurred in this area under two Labor Attorneys-General. In the 1993-94 financial year, \$22,500 was allocated under former Attorney-General Dean Wells MLA, and for that funding only 19 conferences were convened. This amounts to an average cost of \$1,184 per conference which the community had to bear in that disastrous administration. In the following year, 1994-95, again under Attorney-General Dean Wells MLA, \$43,000 was allocated to victim/offender conferencing. For this almost doubled funding provision only 18 conferences were held that year, one less than the previous year. The average cost per conference in that year was \$2,389, more than double the previous year with less output. In the 1995-96 financial year, under former Attorney-General Matt Foley MLA, \$133,000 was allocated. For this vastly increased amount to victim-offender conferencing, only 22 conferences were undertaken. This disgraceful output amounts to a cost of \$6,045 per conference. Therefore, the Honourable Member will undoubtedly not be proud of his former government's record in relation to victim-offender conferencing. Its approach was unplanned, uncoordinated and conceptually ineffective. This government's approach will utilise a model which involves implementation in an effective way and including proper design and selection to achieve the government's objectives.

The Honourable Member should also be aware of the government's intention to introduce new mediation services into courts throughout the State.

(2) Should the Honourable Member refer to the Coalition's pre-election promises he would realise that his question is incorrect in that the pledge was for an additional grant of \$1 million to Victims of Crime services not to the Victims of Crime Association itself. Additional funding for these services is necessary due to the inadequate funding that Labor provided when it was in Government. Any additional funding will be determined in terms of the forthcoming budgetary process.

574. Community Legal Centres

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (25/7/96)—

With reference to the Commonwealth's proposal to make funding cuts across all departments—

What will be the Government's position in the event that funding is cut to the Community Legal Centres in Queensland?

Mr Beanland (26/8/96): The funding of Community Legal Centres in Queensland has traditionally been and will continue to be a matter for the Legal Aid Commission to determine. The funding of the Community Legal Centres will be clarified in the context of the 1996-97 budget for the Legal Aid Commission.

575. Safety on School Buses

Mr ELDER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (25/7/96)—

- (1) Is his department currently reviewing the situation involving school students standing on buses, in particular, on roads with speed limits above 60s kph; if not, when was the last review conducted and what were the results?
- (2) If there is a current review, when does he expect the results and will he provide them to the Parliament?
- (3) Are there currently any measures being undertaken to improve safety on school buses for children?

Mr Johnson (22/8/96):

(1) The issue of standees on buses will be considered as part of a systematic review of school bus routes. Department of Transport is currently finalising guidelines for the review in accordance with the recommendations of the School Transport Safety Consultative Committee. Under the review, hazardous routes, wherever they are and whatever the prevailing speed limit, will be prioritised on the basis of safety factors.

Wherever an issue is identified, a more detailed audit will be undertaken. Following each audit, a number of recommendations may be produced, concerning for example: standees, bus characteristics, road engineering and route suitability. In the 1996-97 financial year, the focus of the Review would be school bus routes on which standees are carried in 100 km/hr zones.

(2) Guidelines for the Bus Routes Review are currently still being drafted. The establishment of the guidelines requires extensive consultation with Queensland Transport and Main Roads, the Local Government Association of Queensland and other stakeholders in the School Transport Safety Consultative Committee. Furthermore, budget allocations for all areas within Transport are still being determined at this point in time. Consequently, the exact timeframe has not yet been finalised.

It is anticipated that the Bus Routes Review will take place over a two year period and that all resulting recommendations be implemented by the end of a further two years. Regular reports will be provided on programs and there will be ongoing consultation through the School Transport Safety Consultative Committee.

(3) At my direction, Queensland Transport is developing a comprehensive school transport safety program called "Safe School Travel". One component will be the Bus Routes Review. Another component of the program is the establishment of Guidelines, incorporating a safety review process, which consider issues of bus safety and will make recommendations and develop standards of use for school buses.

School bus safety has improved considerably with emphasis on eliminating overloading and basic safety standards applying across the fleet. The Coalition Government is committed to enhancing the good safety record of school buses through the Safe School Travel program.

576. Mount Isa/Townsville Economic Development Zone

Mr McGRADY asked the Premier (25/7/96)—

With reference to the Federal Government decision to reduce funding to the Mount Isa Townsville Economic Development Zone by \$60,000 and in view of the vital importance that this region is to the economic future of our State—

Will the State Government meet this shortfall and demonstrate its support to this organisation and the work it is doing for the development of the North West of our State?

Mr Borbidge (12/8/96): Regional Economic Development Organisations (REDOs) were established in 1994 as a Commonwealth initiative as a consequence of the Kelty and McKinsey Reports into Regional Development across Australia. The Commonwealth agreed to provide each REDO with up to \$100,000 in their first year, up to \$80,000 in the second year and up to \$60,000 in the third year to help offset establishment and administrative costs. It is my understanding that the Commonwealth will honour these payments for those REDOs which have entered into contracts with the Federal Government. It has always been the intention of the Commonwealth to only provide initial established funding to REDOs and not ongoing funding beyond the third year.

REDOs are a Commonwealth initiative and the State will not be stepping into subsequently providing them with block funding. REDOs have been eligible for project funding under the Department of Tourism, Small Business and Industry's Regional Economic Development Scheme and they will continue to be able to apply for such funding.

With regard to the Honourable Member's reference to the Mount Isa Townsville Economic Zone (MITEZ) having its funding reduced by the Commonwealth by \$60,000, I have advice that MITEZ applied for \$60,000 to fund a cadet for two years under the Federal Government's regional cadetship scheme which was a part of the management and skills enhancement element of the regional development program. It is not correct to say MITEZ funding is reduced by \$60,000 by the Commonwealth actions when the funding was never approved in the first place.

The State Government has been supportive of MITEZ and the organisation has received \$10,000 under the Regional Economic Development Program to conduct a strategic plan.

577. Social and Community Services Award

Mr NUNN asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (25/7/96)—

With reference to the introduction of the Social and Community Services Award as from 26 July 1996 to cover workers of which 80 per cent are women—

- (1) Does the Government support the introduction of this award?
- (2) Have they determined what financial impact this award will have on community-based organisations?

(3) Have they determined what impact this award will have on service delivery to clients by community-based organisations if recurrent funding isn't increased to offset the financial implications of the introduction of the award?

(4) Will the Government increase recurrent funding to enable these organisations to carry out their work to the same level within the community prior to the introduction of the award; if not, what strategy will the Government adopt to ensure that clients will not be disadvantaged?

Mrs Sheldon (22/8/96): The exact same question was put to my colleague, the Honourable the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care as Question on Notice No. 458 on Wednesday, 10 July 1996. I reiterate that:

(1) On 26 June 1996 the Australian Industrial Relations Commission made a new award to regulate employment in non-government social and community services in Queensland. The award was made by consent between the Australian Services Union (ASU) representing employees, and employer groups. The employer groups were principally represented by the Queensland Confederation of Commerce and Industry (QCCI) and the Queensland Community Services Employers Association (QCSEA). The Queensland Government did not oppose the making of an award but would have preferred a delayed implementation, on the basis that there had been insufficient time to make an assessment of the funding impact.

(2) The Government is not directly a party to this award, but is indirectly affected to the extent that funding subsidies are provided to community based organisations to assist with meeting salary costs. While the award took effect from 26 July 1996, the Commission has allowed the parties 4 months to fully consider the award and determine appropriate classification levels for the employee positions. The Department of Families, Youth and Community Care is currently developing advice on the financial impact to the community services sector of the award.

(3) As the full cost implications of the award are yet to be determined, it is difficult to assess the impact on social and community services organisations and their clients.

(4) The Government will determine its position when the full cost impact is known. As a number of funding programs administered by the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care are jointly funded with the Commonwealth, it is necessary for the Federal Government to be included in any deliberations on this matter. The concerns of community organisations are acknowledged.

578. Social and Community Services Award

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (25/7/96)—

With reference to the introduction of the Social and Community Services Award as from 26 July 1996 to cover workers of which 80s per cent are women—

- (1) Does the Government support the introduction of this award?

- (2) Have they determined what financial impact this award will have on community-based organisations?
- (3) Have they determined what impact this award will have on service delivery to clients by community-based organisations if recurrent funding isn't increased to offset the financial implications of the introduction of the award?
- (4) Will the Government increase recurrent funding to enable these organisations to carry out their work to the same level within the community prior to the introduction of the award; if not, what strategy will the Government adopt to ensure that clients will not be disadvantaged?

Mr Connor (26/8/96):

(1) The Social and Community Services Award was introduced on 26 July 1996. This award was made by consent between the Australian Services Union (ASU) representing employees and various employer groups. The employer groups were principally represented by the Queensland Confederation of Commerce and Industry (QCCI) and the Queensland Community Services Employers Association (QCSEA). The Queensland Government is not a party to the award.

(2) Arrangements for the introduction of the award include a four month phase-in period for the parties to the award to determine appropriate classification levels for employees. Wage increases are to be staggered over an 11 month period, the first 3% of any increase to be paid by the end of July 1996, the second 3% by the end of December 1996 and the remainder by 1 July 1997.

(3) The full cost of the implementation of the award is yet to be determined. As such, it is difficult to assess the impact on organisations and clients.

(4) Funding will be determined by the newly established Community Grants Board.

579. Sunshine Motorway

Mr FOURAS asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (25/7/96)—

Will he finally inform the House exactly how the \$200m debt for the Sunshine Coast Motorway will be funded?

Mr Johnson (22/8/96): The matter of funding of Sunshine Motorway Company Limited debt is currently under consideration in a budget context. It is anticipated that a decision will be announced when the State Budget is brought down.

580. Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme

Mr MILLINER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (25/7/96)—

Will he give an unequivocal commitment to continue support for the highly successful and popular Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme in conjunction with local authorities?

Mr Johnson (22/8/96): Yes. Local governments have been assured that funding

commitments for TIDS projects included in the 1995/96-1999/2000 Roads Implementation Program will be honoured by this Government.

Further, as part of development of the current Roads Implementation Program, local governments have been invited to submit candidate projects for funding under future TIDS Programs.

Funding approved for future TIDS projects will be announced following the State Budget.

581. Hospital Beds, South-east Queensland

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Health (25/7/96)—

(1) What is the number of beds currently operational in the south-east Queensland region from the South Coast through to the Nambour region on a hospital by hospital basis, including a brief break-down of key bed types provided at all of the hospitals referred to?

(2) Will he also provide an outline on a hospital by hospital basis as requested in part (1) of this question of the bed numbers planned for the south-east Queensland region as a whole for the future, in other words, his forward planning on bed allocations for this region in the medium to short-term?

Mr Horan (20/8/96):

(1) As requested by the Member for Chermshire, the attached table contains details on available beds for hospitals in South East Queensland as requested, current as at 30 June 1996.

What the requested figures don't show is the chronic under funding of health services during the period in office of the Honourable Member's own party.

(2) Unlike our Labor predecessors, the National-Liberal government is committed to putting the patient first, getting the hospitals and services right, getting the management right and valuing our hospital staff.

As a result of these goals, at the hospital level *our* emphasis is on service delivery.

As part of new Queensland Health's Capital Works Program, work is currently under way to identify service profiles and bed needs in a number of hospitals throughout the State to the year 2006. We have already signalled a bed increase of over 100 on Brisbane's southside by the year 2006.

The Member for Chermshire may rest assured that within budgetary constraints, the final result will be based upon the real needs of all Queenslanders.

BED NUMBERS BY HOSPITAL

Hospital	Available Beds 30/6/96	Bed Types	
		Acute	Mental Health
Gold Coast Hospital	548	504	44
Beaudesert Hospital	38	38	0
Logan Hospital	214	189	25
Princess Alexandra Hospital	881	803	78
Queen Elizabeth II Hospital	87	87	0
Redlands Hospital	40	40	0
Wynnum Hospital	21	21	0

Royal Brisbane Hospital	962	880	82
Royal Children's Hospital	168	161	7
Royal Women's Hospital	192	192	0
The Prince Charles Hospital	517	404	113
Mater Mothers' Hospital	143	143	0
Mater Children's Hospital	139	139	0
Mater Adult Hospital	255	255	0
Ipswich Hospital	310	310	0
Esk Hospital	29	29	0
Boonah Hospital	30	30	0
Laidley Hospital	15	15	0
Caboolture Hospital	130	130	0
Redcliffe Hospital	281	281	0
Kilcoy Hospital	32	32	0
Caloundra Hospital	38	38	0
Maleny Hospital	15	15	0
Nambour Hospital	316	292	24
TOTAL	5401	5028	373

582. Department of Main Roads

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (25/7/96)—

- (1) Have the extra administrative costs, such as duplication of Corporate Services and Senior Executive Service salaries, of turning one Department (Transport) into two (Transport and Main Roads) been kept to a minimum?
- (2) What establishment costs were incurred for the new Department of Main Roads?

Mr Johnson (22/8/96):

(1) Every effort has been made to keep administrative costs arising from deamalgamation to a minimum. For example, arrangements have been established to share various corporate service activities. The formation of the two departments has required some changes to the senior executive structure to match the functions to be undertaken by each department. In addition, the functions previously undertaken by the South East Queensland Transit Authority are now being performed by Queensland Transport and Main Roads. The impact of the changes is being met from within existing budgets.

(2) See response (1).

583. Road Projects

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (25/7/96)—

Will he outline what new projects on the National Highway System have been formally approved for Queensland by the new Minister for Transport since the new Federal Government took power?

Mr Johnson (22/8/96): The following projects have been formally approved by the Honourable John Sharp MP, Minister for Transport, since the Federal Coalition Government took office.

Warrego Highway

Dalby-Macalister

Widening and rehabilitation works—
\$2.06M

Approved 10 May 1996

Amby-Marbango

Widening and rehabilitation works— \$1.60M

Approved 10 May 1996

Bruce Highway

Jackass-Matilda

Widening and reconstruction of two sections of 2.46km and 1.52km—\$4.40M

Approved 7 May 1996

Brisbane—Urban Extension

(Brisbane-Ipswich)

Logan Motorway-Goodna Creek

Route lighting and median barriers—
\$0.5M

Approved 17 June 1996

Gore Highway

Westbrook

Widening and rehabilitation works—
\$5.8M

Approved 15 May 1996

Cunningham Highway

Freestone-Eight Mile

Widening and rehabilitation works—
\$2.20M

Approved 15 May 1996

Funding for future National Highway projects, approved by the Federal Minister for Transport for 1996/97-1998/99, will be announced following the Federal Budget.

584. Pacific Highway

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (25/7/96)—

Will he provide an assurance that the \$340m extra required over the next four years for his eight-laning of the Pacific Highway south of Beenleigh will not have any adverse impact of the provision on other road programs?

Mr Johnson (22/8/96): On the date this major State Government initiative was announced, and many times since, the Premier and I have personally reassured local governments and the community that the Pacific Highway project would not be done at the expense of other road priorities, particularly in rural and regional Queensland.

The five-year Roads Implementation Program, which will be published after the State Budget, will provide clear proof that this Government's commitment has been honoured.

585. Train Derailments

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (25/7/96)—

How many train derailments were there in Queensland in 1995 and how many have there been so far in 1996?

Mr Johnson (22/8/96): In 1995, there were 66 main line train derailments and so far in 1996 there have been 38 derailments.

586.Q-Link

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (25/7/96)—

Will he outline his plans for the future of Q-Link?

Mr Johnson (22/8/96): Q-Link is a fully integrated rail and road freight transport business. It remains a predominantly rail based carrier with 80s of its business on rail and the rest on road.

In line with this Government's policy and as a first step towards further improvement in its financial performance, over the next six months Q-Link will review its distribution plan. It will then expose all of its road operations to competition from the private sector. This will be done through a competitive tender process.

587.Dr Robinson; Cairns Base Hospital

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Health (25/7/96)—

With reference to the recent resignation by the ear, nose and throat specialist, Dr Robinson, at the Cairns Base Hospital—

- (1) What steps has he taken as Minister to address the issues which have pushed Dr Robinson to tender his resignation?
- (2) How long does his department estimate patients requiring ENT services in the public system in Cairns will have to wait now for all types of ENT treatments as a result of Dr Robinson's resignation?
- (3) In the interests of avoiding further delays in waiting periods for ENT services, will he give North Queenslanders a guarantee that the vacancy caused by Dr Robinson's resignation will be filled?
- (4) Does he agree with his media adviser on this issue who told the *Cairns Post* (20 July) on his behalf that any calls for more funding for the program would have to come from the hospital?
- (5) Will he be seeking to make available funds needed to continue public ENT services in Cairns?

Mr Horan (22/8/96):

- (1) I am informed that Dr Robinson was a Visiting Medical Officer (VMO) at Cairns Base Hospital and resigned for personal reasons. Matters raised by Dr Robinson on his departure are presently being addressed by the Executive of Cairns Base Hospital.
- (2) Until another VMO is appointed, all urgent ENT cases are being referred to other centres. Waiting times for other cases will depend upon the success of recruiting a new specialist.
- (3) The vacancy was advertised nationally on 27 July 1996. Selection and recruitment will proceed as soon as possible.

588.Queensland Principal Club

Mr J. N. GOSS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (25/7/96)—

- (1) Will he provide full details on an individual by individual basis of all payments for meals and accommodation, air fares, car mileage, car hire, taxis, limousines, telephones, faxes, or any other expenses incurred for whatever reason by members of the Committee of the Queensland Principal Club whether relating to Queensland Principal Club or regional association duties for 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 including any payments debited to the Committee Expenses account, the account of any official of the Queensland Principal Club on any members behalf, or to any other account in the books of the Queensland Principal Club or any regional association?
- (2) Will he provide full details on an individual by individual basis of all accounts paid to or incurred by the Queensland Principal Club at the Brisbane Hilton Hotel for the above financial years and provide full details of all names under which these were incurred whether they be under the names of members of the committee or officials of the Queensland Principal Club or any regional association or under any other name?

Mr Cooper (4/9/96):

- (1) Information requested is presented in the tabled tabular form relating to expenses of the members of the Committee of the Queensland Principal Club for 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96.
- (2) Information requested is presented in the tabled tabular form relating to Brisbane Hilton Hotel accounts paid or incurred by the Queensland Principal Club for 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96.

589.Redevlopment of Craddock Street, Holland Park

Mr MACKENROTH asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (25/7/96)—

With reference to his reply to a Question on Notice (No. 128) from the Member for Mt Gravatt that stage 1 of the re-development of Craddock St, Holland Park would commence in mid-June 1996—

- (1) As no work has commenced on this site, when will it commence?
- (2) Have tenders been called for the project?
- (3) If tenders have been called, has a contract been signed with the successful tenderer?

Mr Connor (26/8/96):

- (1) The work commenced on site on 19/8/96.
- (2) Tenders have been called for the project.
- (3) A Letter of Acceptance was forwarded to the successful builder on Friday, 16 August 1996. The signing of the formal contract will be undertaken within the 28 day period following the issue of the Letter of Acceptance.

591. Surgery on Time Program

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Health (25/7/96)—

With reference to his statement in this House on 11 July 1996 with respect to the "Surgery on Time Program"—

- (1) Does he intend to implement this program in the Redcliffe area?
- (2) How will he implement the program when he won't provide recurrent funding to staff the two new operating theatres commissioned by the previous Labor Government?

Mr Horan (20/8/96):

(1) Some components of the "Surgery on Time Program" specifically target the ten hospitals that make up the Project. These project hospitals account for approximately 70 per cent of surgical bed days in Queensland Public Hospitals. Redcliffe Hospital is not currently included in this group. It is planned to extend the Project to all Queensland Public Hospitals where elective surgery is a significant component of their activity. This will include Redcliffe Hospital.

Redcliffe Hospital is at present able to access special funding to increase throughput for elective surgery through the Waiting List Backlog Program and the Hospital Access Bonus Pool. These funds are in the form of a new initiative that provides funds over and above base budgets.

Redcliffe Hospital is one of the hospitals targeted to implement the new operating room management information system which is funded through the "Surgery on Time Program".

(2) The previous Labor government failed to provide for the two new operating theatres despite Redcliffe having a Labor local Member. This is now being examined in developing indicative budgets for District Health Services.

595. Busway, Logan

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (25/7/96)—

Will he provide any estimate of when construction work might be ready to commence on the busway to Logan along the South East Freeway corridor, if funds are allocated in the budget?

Mr Johnson (22/8/96): A busway is currently under active consideration for incorporation into the upgrading of the northern end of the Pacific Highway, north of the Gateway interchange. A final decision on the details of the Highway upgrade north of the Logan Motorway is expected in the near future, and that decision will include the timing of the works to be undertaken.

596. Moura Mine Disaster

Mr PEARCE asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (25/7/96)—

With reference to the Coalition Government's public commitment to the implementation of the report on

an accident at Moura No 2 underground mine, and to the recommendation under the heading "Inertisation"—

Does Treasury intend to side-step the funding of equipment for inertisation of a coal mine or part of a mine by interpreting the recommendation "that the funds be made available" as meaning to provide a loan to the Mines Rescue Brigade Service in preference to the actual purchase of the equipment from Consolidated Revenue?

Mrs Sheldon (22/8/96):

The Report on an accident at Moura No 2 Underground Mine on Sunday, 7 August 1994 (the Warden's Inquiry Report) makes two recommendations under the heading "Inertisation".

I assume the Honourable Member's question refers to the second recommendation, namely:

"It is further recommended that funds to be made available through the Queensland Government in order to obtain such a system, such that equipment for the inertisation of a coal mine or parts of a mine, with appropriately trained people and operating systems, be readily available for use in Queensland Coal Mines. This equipment should be maintained and operated by the Queensland Mines Rescue Service in a central location such that it can service all the mines in Queensland on a fee for service basis."

The Minister for Mines and Energy, the Honourable Tom Gilmore MLA, and I have discussed the funding to be made available in the 1996-97 Budget, for implementation of the recommendations of the Warden's Inquiry Report. Funding for the implementation of this recommendation will not take the form of a loan to the Queensland Mines Rescue Brigade.

597. Metway Bank

Mr D'ARCY asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (25/7/96)—

With reference to the article she wrote for the *Courier Mail* in 1995 headlined 'Big risks in state bank' and arguing that Government involvement in retail lending incurs unnecessary risks—

Is there any risk that if Metway shareholders decide to accept her offer of \$4.80 a share when earlier in 1996 the shares stood at \$3.10, the Queensland Government will not be able to afford to pay up to \$700m that may be required?

Mrs Sheldon (22/8/96): The Government will not be required to fund the buy-back of any shares from Metway shareholders wishing to accept the offer of \$4.80 per share. The buy-back will be funded by the issue of Exchanging Preferred Units in a listed unit trust. This means that, in effect, private investors will be funding the buy-back.

598. Hospital Staffing

Mrs EDMOND asked the Minister for Health (25/7/96)—

What are (a) the establishment figures for nursing staff as of 1 March 1996 and 30 June 1996 and (b) the number of these positions that are unfilled at each of the above dates for the following hospitals; (i) Cairns Base Hospital, (ii) Townsville General Hospital, (iii) Kirwan Women's Hospital, (iv) Mackay Base Hospital, (v) Rockhampton Base Hospital, (vi) Gladstone Base Hospital, (vii) Bundaberg Base Hospital, (viii) Maryborough Base Hospital, (ix) Nambour Base Hospital, (x) Royal Brisbane Hospital, (xi) Royal Children's Hospital, (xii) Royal Women's Hospital, (xiii) The Princess Alexandra Hospital Brisbane, (xiv) The Gold Coast Hospital, (xv) The Prince Charles Hospital Brisbane, (xvi) Logan Hospital and (xvii) Caboolture Hospital?

Mr Horan (20/8/96):

(1) No comparable data are available for the specified dates. However, snap shot figures as at February 1996 are outlined in the attached table.

(2) I am advised that no centralised recording of the numbers of unfilled vacancies at the specified dates at individual facilities is maintained.

NURSING FTEs AS AT FEBRUARY 1996

Classification—Total Nursing Full Time Equivalents

Assistant in Nursing—764
 Enrolled Nurse > 21 years—2383
 Enrolled Nurse < 21 years—7
 Registered Nurse Level 1—7734
 Registered Nurse Level 2—2587
 Registered Nurse Level 3—1191
 Registered Nurse Level 4—114
 Registered Nurse Level 5—148
 Mother Craft Trainee—1.42
 Pupil Nurse—26
 Student Nurse—16
 Total Full Time Equivalents—14971.42

599.Ministerial Staff

Ms SPENCE asked the Premier (25/7/96)—

With reference to his response to Question on Notice (No. 354 (2))—

Will he provide a list of all ministerial staff for each ministerial office of his Government including (a) the designation of each position in each ministerial office, (b) the name of the appointee for each position, and whether that appointee was selected after a merit selection process and (c) the salary and entitlements for each position?

Mr Borbidge (23/8/96): No. It is disappointing to see that the Honourable Member has failed to give any consideration to the invasion of privacy of ministerial staff that is contemplated by this question.

I am able to inform the Honourable Member that as at 20 August 1996, the total number of ministerial staff was one less than the total number for the previous Labor government at the time of the resignation of the former Premier and the salary bands and conditions of employment for present ministerial staff are similar to those offered by the previous Labor Government.

600.Airlie Beach

Mrs BIRD asked the Premier (25/7/96)—

With reference to a proposal by the community of Airlie Beach to build a beach and stinger-free lagoon and subsequent fundraising for the proposal (Loot for Lagoon) and the concerns and division on environmental reasons—

- (1) What is the Government's intention in relation to this proposal?
- (2) What funding has the Government committed for the proposal?
- (3) What environmental guidelines will be enforced?

Mr Borbidge (12/8/96):

(1) The Government will await a formal proposal and attendant Environmental Impact Statement before determining a course of action.

(2) The Department of Environment is not a funding source for projects of this nature. Officers of the Department of Environment are not aware of any Government commitments in relation to funding support for the proposal.

(3) Relevant State legislation will be followed. A Section 86 approval under the Harbours Act 1955 with appropriate conditions will only be issued if all legislative requirements have been fulfilled. Similarly, it is expected the Commonwealth will enforce the relevant World Heritage guidelines.

601.Rockhampton Base Hospital

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Health (25/7/96)—

With reference to the psychiatric unit built at the Rockhampton Base Hospital by the previous Labor Government—

- (1) When will this facility become fully operational?
- (2) What is its proposed operational budget?
- (3) What staff numbers will be employed to run the unit?
- (4) What is the name and designation of the head of the unit?
- (5) What range of professional support and service will be available to patients at that unit?

Mr Horan (20/8/96):

(1) There will be a lead time of approximately 4-6 weeks from the announcement of the State budget before the Psychiatric Unit at the Rockhampton Base Hospital is fully operational. This lead time will allow for recruitment, training and set-up.

(2) Total full year operating cost proposed by Queensland Health is \$3.1 million—an increase of \$1.8 million over the previous full year's funding.

(3) A total of 29.49 Full Time Equivalents will be required to run the inpatient service with the balance of the combined total of 54.7 FTEs used to operate the outpatient service.

602.Cooperatives, QIDC Loans

Mr HAMILL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (25/7/96)—

Which Queensland cooperatives and particularly, primary producer cooperatives currently have borrowings through the QIDC for the purpose of capital investment to maintain or expand their businesses, and what is the total value of these loans?

Mrs Sheldon (22/8/96): As at 30 June 1996, the total number of cooperatives with borrowings through QIDC was fifteen and, the total amount of those borrowings was \$76,820,631.26.

603.TAFE Training and Funding

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (25/7/96)—

With reference to statements that TAFE training and funding would be opened to commercial competition—

Will he ensure that training via TAFE and funded by Government will be retained for core areas to ensure accessibility for everyone irrespective of their socio-economic situation?

Mr Santoro (26/8/96): Yes. TAFE Queensland will continue to be the major public provider of vocational education and training throughout the state. The Queensland Government is committed to ensuring that all Queenslanders, regardless of their socio-economic status, have access to publicly funded vocational education and training through TAFE Queensland and other providers.

604.South East Freeway/Pacific Highway

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (25/7/96)—

With reference to his claim that 13,000 notices have been distributed to residents who live within 350 metres of the South east Freeway/Pacific Highway—

- (1) How many notices have been distributed in the suburbs of Eagleby, Loganholme, Tanah Merah, Slacks Creek and the town of Beenleigh?
- (2) In what streets in those suburbs and that town, have their residents been forwarded these notices?
- (3) On what date were these notices delivered?

Mr Johnson (22/8/96):

(1) The newsletter was distributed approximately 300 metres either side of the corridor between Stanley Street and the Logan Motorway.

Eagleby and Beenleigh are south of the Logan Motorway and as such were outside the immediate area of the corridor in question.

It has been estimated that around 3000, 1600 and 2400 newsletters were distributed in Loganholme, Tanah Merah and Slacks Creek respectively.

(2) The newsletters were distributed to all streets in Loganholme, Slacks Creek and Tanah Merah within the area of approximately 300 metres either side of the corridor.

(3) The newsletters were delivered on 2-3 July 1996.

605.Capital Works Projects, Nudgee Electorate

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (25/7/96)—

With reference to main roads within the Electorate of Nudgee—

What minor and major capital works projects and / or improvements will be undertaken during 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000?

Mr Johnson (22/8/96): The 1996/97-2000/01 Roads Implementation Program is currently being developed. Following the State Budget, it will be published, and the information Mr Roberts is seeking will be readily available to him at that time.

In the meantime, I am able to advise that completion of works on Sandgate Sub-Arterial Road at Depot Road/Brann Street, Sandgate Road/Roghan Road and a signalised pedestrian crossing at Deagon will occur early in 1996/97.

Alignment improvements and upgrade to six-laning on Sandgate Sub-Arterial Roads, from just north of Zillmere Waterholes to Toombul Road, is also expected to be undertaken.

606.Commission of Audit

Mr HAYWARD asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (25/7/96)—

With reference to the report of the Commission of Audit in Queensland and the lack of commitment to its recommendations by various Ministers and others Members of Parliament—

Will the Treasurer refer the report to the Auditor-General so that he can audit the documents and report to Parliament so that Parliament can have some certainty about the underlying assumptions and conclusions of the report?

Mrs Sheldon (22/8/96): The Commission of Audit Report is a far reaching examination of the challenges facing Queensland over the next 10 years, especially in light of the budgetary concerns inherited from the previous Government. The Government has already established a Commission of Audit Implementation Office, reporting to both the Premier and myself. Not all recommendations will be addressed in the short term, although I expect action will be taken in the next few months to commence implementation of a number of the recommendations. The Commission of Audit Report is a report to the Queensland Government, with financial information in the Report already having been reviewed by Ernst & Young, Chartered Accountants, including a review of the financial information on an accrual basis prepared for the first time in Queensland by Queensland Treasury and Arthur Andersen & Co, Chartered Accountants. The Government does not need to refer the Report to the Auditor-General. The Commissioners and Ernst & Young have done sufficient work for Parliament to rely on the accuracy of the estimates provided. In addition, a Senior Officer from the Queensland Audit Office was seconded to the Commission to work on the accounting projects.

607. Hospital Staffing

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Health (25/7/96)—

What are (a) the establishment figures for staff medical officers as of 1 March 1996 and 30 June 1996 and (b) the number of these positions that are unfilled at each of the above dates for the following hospitals; (i) Cairns Base Hospital, (ii) Townsville General Hospital, (iii) Kirwan Women's Hospital, (iv) Mackay Base Hospital, (v) Rockhampton Base Hospital, (vi) Gladstone Base Hospital, (vii) Bundaberg Base Hospital, (viii) Maryborough Base Hospital, (ix) Nambour Base Hospital, (x) Royal Brisbane Hospital, (xi) Royal Children's Hospital, (xii) Royal Women's Hospital, (xiii) The Princess Alexandra Hospital Brisbane, (xiv) The Gold Coast Hospital, (xv) The Prince Charles Hospital Brisbane, (xvi) Logan Hospital and (xvii) Caboolture Hospital?

Mr Horan (20/8/96): Most hospitals do not regard their staff structure as having a fixed establishment, rather medical staff are employed based on need and available funding which may vary from time to time. In addition hospitals use Visiting Medical Officers (VMOs) to provide much of their specialist services on a sessional basis. For the purposes of this request, staff medical officers have been interpreted as meaning Staff Specialists. The specific details for the requested hospitals are provided in the attached table.

Staff Establishment Numbers and Vacancies for Specialist Staff in the following Queensland Public Hospitals

Hospital	Specialist Staff	Vacancies	Vacancies
	Establishment— 1996	1 March 1996	30 June 1996
Cairns Base	27	4	3
Townsville General	53	9	6
Kirwan Women's	5	2	4
Mackay Base	13	6	4
Rockhampton Base	5	0	4
Gladstone Base	2	0	2
Bundaberg Base	9	2	1
Maryborough Base	7	2	0
Nambour Base	35	6	1
Royal Brisbane	81	10	5
Royal Children's	27	1	1
Royal Women's	10	0	0
The Princess Alexandra	81.5	8	7
The Gold Coast	33	7	5
The Prince Charles	37	3	3
Logan	17	4	0
Caboolture	11.5	1	1
TOTAL	454	65	47

608. Century Zinc Project

Mr FOLEY asked the Premier (25/7/96)—

With reference to native title issues in regard to the Century Zinc project—

- (1) Is he aware of his Government's duty to negotiate in good faith under the provisions of the Native Title Act with Aboriginal native title claimants and the mining company?
- (2) Is he aware that the mining company and the Aboriginal native title claimants may be

prevented from applying to the National Native Title Tribunal for a determination under the Act if the Queensland Government fails to negotiate with the parties in good faith, in the light of the Federal Court's recent decision in the case of *Walley v. State of Western Australia*?

- (3) Is he aware that such a situation could pose a threat to the Century Zinc project?
- (4) Will he outline in detail (a) any action taken by his Government since the giving of notice under the Native Title Act to negotiate in good faith with the parties, and (b) what further action is planned by his Government to negotiate in good faith with the parties?
- (5) Is he aware that his recent public utterances on the Century Zinc project indicate an unwillingness to negotiate in good faith with the parties, contrary to his Government's legal duty under the Native Title Act?

Mr Borbidge (22/8/96):

(1) The Government is fully aware of its obligations under the Native Title Act, and in particular, the provisions of s.26 of that Act dealing with the "Right to Negotiate". It was, in fact, this Government which approved the issuing of the s.29 Notices.

(2) The Government has received advice from the Native Title Group in the Crown Law Division of the Department of Justice about the procedure to be followed and has already held informal discussions with the President of the National Native Title Tribunal and some parties.

(3) The situation referred to will not arise because the Queensland Government's process will be open and transparent to all parties.

(4) All parties to the matter were known after the last date stipulated for the filing of claims in the Tribunal, namely 5 August 1996. The Government has already put in train a series of meetings to begin the "Right to Negotiate" procedure including the receipt of written and oral submissions from parties.

The following claimants up to 5 August 1996 had been identified by the National Native Title Tribunal as parties: Waanyi 1 (Camping and Water Reserve), Mornington Islanders etc (southern part of Gulf), Willets and Chong (mine site and surrounding Pastoral Leases), Waanyi 2 (mine site), Waanyi 3 (western part of product pipeline corridor), Traditional Waanyi Elders Aboriginal Corporation (over and around mine site), Gkuthaarn and Kukatj People (eastern part of product pipeline corridor) and Stella Diamond (central part of product pipeline corridor).

Parties are defined in the Act and in this case include: the State, the company, the Carpentaria Land Council (ie. representative body under the Native Title Act) and the claimants.

(5) The Queensland Government has always attempted to facilitate a negotiated agreement between the parties to enable the Century project to proceed, whilst ensuring that indigenous and environmental concerns are met. The Government was outside the National Native Title Tribunal process because of the various judicial decisions in Waanyi and has only had the "Right to Negotiate"

procedure available to it since the Tribunal was directed by the High Court to accept the original Waanyi application that is, since March 1996. The Government will continue to negotiate in good faith with the many parties who are expected to emerge in this matter.

609. Hervey Bay Hospital

Mr NUNN asked the Minister for Health (6/8/96)—

With reference to staffing arrangements at the new Hervey Bay Hospital—

- (1) Will redeployment at level be assured to all staff currently employed at the existing Hervey Bay Hospital; if not, what arrangements are to be made for the existing staff to be displaced?
- (2) Will enrolled nurses currently working in acute care of the existing Hervey Bay Hospital be able to transfer to similar acute positions at the new hospital?
- (3) What arrangements have been made for Bay Haven Nursing Home beds?
- (4) Have these bed allocations been sold to the private sector?
- (5) What plans are under way to dispose of the existing Hervey Bay Hospital after transfer to the new hospital in early 1997?

Mr Horan (3/9/96): The Hervey Bay community can now look forward to a first-class hospital facility, without the risk of its budget being used to bail out metropolitan hospitals, as almost occurred in the dying days of the Beattie administration. As you know, the Coalition's commitment to fully staffing and fully funding the new hospital has never wavered: a commitment confirmed in the Recruitment and Transition Plan for the New Hervey Bay Hospital, announced by me on 14 August 1996. Specifically:

(1) I anticipate that the Hospital will initially open, in February 1997, with 60 beds, increasing to 74 and then 130 by 1 July 1997. A full range of services are intended to be available from February, including Accident and Emergency, Intensive Care, Anaesthetics, Orthopaedics, Paediatrics, and Obstetrics and Gynaecology, on a visiting or staff specialist basis.

It has always been the position of the Coalition that redeployment at level can be (and is) assured to all staff employed at the Hervey Bay Hospital. Accordingly, no redundancies will occur in the transition to the new hospital. The only possible exceptions to this are some senior appointments which may be subject to competition, in accordance with the Public Sector Management Standard for Staffing Options to Manage Organisational Change in the Queensland Public Sector.

Recruitment for the additional staff will occur over the remaining months of 1996. The Recruitment Plan includes provision for seven (7) staff specialists, nine (9) sessions for visiting medical officers, and eight (8) resident medical officers.

(2) It has always been the position of the Coalition that all these nurses will be able to transfer to similar acute positions at the new hospital.

(3) Options for Bay Haven Nursing Home beds are presently under consideration.

(4) No.

(5) Options for disposal of the existing Hervey Bay Hospital, after transfer to the new hospital in early 1997, are under consideration.

610. Northpoint TAFE

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (6/8/96)—

With reference to the discontinuation by the Queensland University of Technology of Associate Diploma courses in the engineering field, and the fact that these have been taken up by the TAFE system and also to the fact that Northpoint TAFE will cease to offer the 3 hydraulics subjects it currently offers as well as ceasing to offer the Engineering apprenticeship training it currently offers—

- (1) Is he aware that a consequence of this will be that it will become necessary for students from the northside to travel all the way to the southside in order to pursue their chosen course of studies?
- (2) Is he aware that this will seriously inconvenience students who live on the outer northside?
- (3) Will he take action to redress this unfairness to northside students studying this discipline, particularly bearing in mind that many of them are attempting to raise families at the same time as undertaking full time work, while attending college four nights a week?

Mr Santoro (3/9/96):

(1) The consolidation of engineering apprenticeship courses in the metropolitan area will not result in students having to travel to the southside to take these courses. The Brisbane Institute of TAFE through its Gateway Campus will expand its range of offerings and a large number of the apprentices from North Point Institute have been relocated to this campus which is a short distance from North Point Institute.

Furthermore, I am pleased to inform the Honourable Member that hydraulic subjects will continue to be offered at the Institute next year. The Government has provided funding for these courses to be maintained at the North Point Institute of TAFE.

(2) I understand that this minor change in the profile of the North Point Institute has inconvenienced a small number of students particularly with respect to travelling arrangements to the local Institute of TAFE. Apprentices who were booked into places in the Institute for Semester 2 1996 have been relocated to other institutes after consultation with employers. The consolidation of these courses is offset by the significant growth in course offerings in high demand areas such as business, computing, child care and welfare studies. The minor adjustment in the Institute's profile will assist the Institute to better meet the training needs of the local community.

(3) I apologise for any inconvenience which students may experience as a result of the consolidation of

engineering courses between North Point and Brisbane Institutes of TAFE. However, the outcome of this consolidation will lead to a more efficient and responsive service to students and industry as well as maximise the quality of delivery provided.

611. South East Freeway/Pacific Highway

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (6/8/96)—

With reference to his plan to upgrade the Pacific Highway/South East Freeway and the massive resumptions of land that will be required to accommodate his so called super highway—

- (1) How much land will be required to be resumed from the grounds of the Holland Park State High School and how close will the South East Freeway be to the nearest classrooms at this school once the freeway is widened?
- (2) How much land will be required to be resumed from the Toohey Forest Park to accommodate his super highway and what impact will this have on the bikeway linking Griffith University with Queensland University?
- (3) How much land will be required from the caravan parks located between Holmead Road and the South east Freeway at eight Mile Plains and how close will his freeway now be to the nearest existing caravan sites?
- (4) How much land will be required to be resumed from the grounds of the Eight Mile Plains State School and how close will the South East Freeway be to the nearest classrooms at this school once the freeway is widened?

Mr Johnson (5/9/96):

(1) Firstly, I'd like to correct the Member for Sunnybank in his reference to the wording "Super Highway". The work being undertaken on this exciting project, which will require considerably less acquisition of land than the previous Government's Eastern Corridor project, is to be known as the "Pacific Motorway". This will be a world class motorway and something of which South East Queensland may be justifiably proud.

There will be no land required from the high school grounds for any of the options being considered. The busway proposal would require widening (extra carriageway) by approximately 14m on the eastern (high school) side of the freeway. Noise barriers will be erected as part of the project if the warrant is met. There is insufficient survey information available at present to provide the distance from the edge of the proposed works to the nearest classrooms, however, the distance to the boundary fence of the school will be in the order of 20m.

(2) There is no land requirement from Toohey Forest Park west of the South East Freeway. The busway will pass through a small severance area of the park to the east of the Freeway bounded by Shire Road, the Griffith University, Mount Gravatt Campus and the Freeway. The busway has been routed through this area and the University Campus to provide bus access to this otherwise largely isolated facility, with both University and Brisbane City Council support.

Because all the widening will be all on the eastern side of the Freeway there will be no effect on the existing bikeway which is located on the western side.

(3) There will be no land requirement from any of the caravan parks in the area. The busway will be located within the existing Freeway Reserve and where necessary the Freeway will be reconstructed totally towards the west to avoid any such requirement.

The distance from the edge of the proposed works to the nearest caravan site will be 11m approximately (current distance from the edge of the Freeway is 23m approximately). The new lanes will be bus-only lanes and therefore will have significantly fewer vehicles than general traffic lanes. The general traffic lanes will in general be further away from the caravan parks than at present. Noise barriers will be provided where warranted.

(4) No land will be required from the Eight Mile Plains State School for the proposed works. The northbound carriageway of the Freeway is expected to be widened by one lane width, 3.5m only, closer to the school. The nearest classroom will be in excess of 70m from the edge of the nearest traffic lane. A short retaining wall may be required to ensure that the cutting adjacent to the school does not have to be widened. A noise barrier will be erected on the Freeway boundary as part of the new works, if the warrant is met.

612. Office of Intellectual Disability Services

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (6/8/96)—

With reference to the Office of the Intellectual Disability Services situated at 84 Kedron Park Road, Woolloowin—

As there are many residents in my electorate of Redcliffe who rely on support from this agency, what measures has he put in place to service those people who are now being disadvantaged by his actions in reducing staff at that centre from six employees to two employees?

Mr Lingard (15/8/96): The Office of Intellectual Disability Services situated at 84 Kedron Park Road Woolloowin accommodates approximately 55 to 60 employees, and not six (6) as Mr Hollis has stated. A number of staff from this office provide individual support to people who live on the Redcliffe Peninsula, both in Alternative Living Service houses and at home.

I am unsure as to where Mr Hollis obtained these figures, however I can assure him that Intellectual Disability Services will continue to provide support to people with an intellectual disability who live on the Redcliffe Peninsula.

613. Q-Fleet

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (6/8/96)—

With reference to concerns expressed that the State Government proposes to restrict access and participation by the general public to Public Trustee auctions conducted on behalf of Q-Fleet—

- (1) Is it his intention to restrict the public's access and participation in these auctions?
- (2) Is he prepared to guarantee ongoing access and participation by the public in these motor vehicle auctions?

Mr Connor (5/9/96):

- (1) No.
- (2) There are no plans to restrict public participation.

614. Rockhampton Base Hospital

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Health (6/8/96)—

- (1) Is it correct that the new Rockhampton Psychiatric Unit cannot open until after the State Budget is brought down, due to a freeze on funding?
- (2) Have a number of hotel services staff at Rockhampton Base Hospital been stood down until after the State Budget due to a lack of funds; if so, will those staff who have been stood down be re-employed after the budget is released or will they join school cleaners on the unemployment lines?

Mr Horan (4/9/96):

- (1) No. The Mental Health facility in Rockhampton was opened on Thursday, 15 August 1996. Its budget has already been identified and allocated and includes a \$1.8 million full year increase. The Community/Outreach service has been operating out of the new facility for several weeks. The Inpatient Section moved to the new facility on Monday, 12 August 1996.
- (2) I am advised that no such staff have been stood down.

615. Mr M. Sulka

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (6/8/96)—

With reference to the recent arrest of a Runaway Bay resident, Mr Mark Sulka, who had been on the run from American authorities for 15 years following a conviction for cocaine and racketeering offences in the United States—

- (1) How long had Mr Sulka been a resident of Queensland, and in particular, Runaway Bay?
- (2) When did Mr Sulka first come to the attention of Federal and State police?
- (3) What role did the Queensland Police Service play in locating, identifying and apprehending Mr Sulka?
- (4) What form of employment was Mr Sulka involved in during his time in Queensland?
- (5) Has Mr Sulka been involved in any criminal activity during his time in Queensland?
- (6) How did Mr Sulka remain unidentified for as long as he did?
- (7) Where is Mr Sulka currently being held or has he now been extradited to the United States?

Mr Cooper (27/8/96):

(1) Andrew Mark Sulka arrived in Sydney, Australia, on 20 January 1981 under the name of Mark Andre. He applied for and was granted a permanent entry permit on arrival. It is believed Mr Sulka first moved to Queensland from New South Wales in 1991.

(2) An informant provided information on 19 December 1995 to the Australian Federal Police, Sydney, that a John Davis who also used the name Mark Andre was on the Gold Coast and that he was wanted for drug trafficking in the United States of America.

Inquiries commenced to validate this information.

On 19 July 1996 information was received from the USA to confirm that a person by that name was wanted there.

This matter was not brought to the attention of the Queensland Police Service.

(3) The Queensland Police Service has had no involvement in this matter.

(4) The only known employment of Mr Sulka in Queensland was as a vehicle wholesaler at Centrepoint Autos in Hinde Street, Southport.

(5) There is no known criminal activity by Mr Sulka.

(6) Mr Sulka used a variety of aliases, false identifications and facial surgery to avoid detection.

(7) Mr Sulka is being held at the Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre in Brisbane on Immigration detention, awaiting confirmation of his identity to allow the United States Consulate in Sydney to issue urgent travel documents, upon which he will be removed immediately.

616. Mackay City Fire Service

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (6/8/96)—

With reference to the recent collision between a semi-trailer fuel tanker and a car in a suburban street in Mackay—

- (1) Is he aware that the Mackay City Fire Services are not in possession of a foam tender appliance to use in the case of flammable liquid fires?
- (2) Does he intend to upgrade Mackay City Fire Service appliances to include foam tender apparatus; if so, when will this upgrade occur; if not, why not?

Mr Veivers (23/8/96):

(1) I am aware that Queensland Fire Service (QFS) in Mackay does not have a specialised foam tender, as it is not common for medium urban communities to provide specialised fire engines for each type of fire that may occur.

All urban fire appliances currently carry sufficient foam supplies for the initial treatment of flammable liquids—that will last until back-up supplies arrive at the scene.

Mackay also has a foam trailer which is taken to any incident that the Officer-in-Charge determines. This

is a more operationally sound and economically viable option than retaining a high cost, single function appliance.

(2) I do not intend to upgrade QFS Mackay's appliances to include a foam tender at the present time, as I have been assured by Senior QFS Managers that the Mackay foam trailer is adequate for the district's needs—as is the foam trailer in Rockhampton and Townsville.

QFS Mackay liaises frequently with the Mackay Airport Fire Service who has additional stocks of foam available should it be required.

Furthermore, local industry and sugar mills in the vicinity carry stocks of foam which can be accessed by the QFS upon request.

617. Mount Isa Riversleigh Interpretation Centre

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry (6/8/96)—

With reference to his answer to a Question from the Member for Charters Towers, Mr Mitchell, on 25 July where he announced a grant of \$50000 to the Mount Isa Riversleigh Interpretation Centre—

Is this \$50000 in addition to the previous \$50000 already announced?

Mr Davidson (15/8/96): A grant of \$50,000 was approved on 22 July 1996 to the Riversleigh Fossils Interpretative Centre to purchase display items. This is the \$50,000 grant highlighted in the reply to Mr Mitchell, Member for Charters Towers, on 25 July 1996. There is no other commitment for \$50,000 to the Riversleigh Fossils Interpretative Centre from the Department of Tourism, Small Business and Industry.

618. Government Computer Network

Mr BEATTIE asked the Premier (6/8/96)—

(1) Is the Government giving consideration to outsourcing the State Government computer network; if so, have discussions taken place with (a) IBM, (b) EDS and (c) any other company and at what stage have these discussions or negotiations reached?

(2) Who is representing the Government in those discussions?

Mr Borbidge (5/9/96):

(1) Many Departments already outsource all or part of their computer network management and operation to the Private Sector or to CITEC, a Business Unit of the Department of Public Works and Housing.

(2) As CITEC is a commercial Business Unit of the Department of Public Works and Housing, any discussions are held with the Minister for Public Works and Housing, the Honourable Ray Connor MLA, or the Director-General of that Department, Mr Kevin Davies.

619. Ms S. Dingle; Suncorp Building Society

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (6/8/96)—

With reference to withdrawals totalling \$4850 made from Suncorp Building Society account in the name of Sherran Dingle during the period 30 March to 9 May 1996 without Ms Dingle's knowledge or consent—

(1) What investigations have been made into the loss of these funds and what were the results?

(2) Why were no statements of account sent to Ms Dingle in relation to her account for the period referred to above?

(3) Is it possible for Suncorp's computer records to be manipulated to show ATM withdrawals which were not in fact made?

(4) If it is possible to create fictitious ATM withdrawals to cover fraudulent activities including theft, does Suncorp have a responsibility to restore Ms Dingle's account to its true position?

Mrs Sheldon (5/9/96):

(1) Suncorp has undertaken extensive investigations into the loss of these funds, which have included:-

(a) checking of the ATMs concerned on each day the unauthorised withdrawals were made to ensure both machines balanced;

(b) checking of the Tandem and core banking computer systems to ensure there were no errors or irregularities in the program on the days when the unauthorised withdrawals were made;

(c) checking that there were no system outages on the days the unauthorised withdrawals were made;

Further checking of Suncorp's computer records show that the unauthorised withdrawals in question were carried out using the customer's card and PIN. Each withdrawal from the ATM was completed successfully on the first attempt with the correct PIN.

(2) Suncorp maintains that the statement of account for the period referred to was in fact sent. Suncorp has checked its computer records in relation to statement runs for the cycle days relevant to the customer and there is no record of any system mishap or outage. Suncorp can only conclude that the statement for the relevant period was printed and mailed. Suncorp has received no complaints from other customers who had an identical cycle date to this customer, that statements were not received.

(3) & (4) It is not possible for Suncorp's computer records to be manipulated to show ATM withdrawals which were not in fact made. There are extensive checks and balances in the Suncorp computer system which protects data and prevents unauthorised access. Any attempt to do so produces exception reports to various discrete divisions of Suncorp (for example, Internal Audit) which would be actioned immediately. No such exception reports have occurred during the period in question.

In addition, Suncorp has written to Ms Dingle setting out in detail the result of its investigations and stating that if there is any other information which may have a bearing on the matter, Suncorp will be happy to further investigate it.

I am advised that the customer has indicated in interviews with Suncorp officers that her PIN was in fact disclosed to another individual.

620. Cannon Hill Sale Yards Site

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (6/8/96)—

- (1) What plans does the Government have for the site at Cannon Hill bounded by Wynnum, Barrack, Lytton and Creeks Roads, formerly the Cannon Hill Sale Yards site?
- (2) Does the Government intend to honour the commitment given by the previous Government to develop this site for residential housing under Joint Venture?
- (3) Is he aware that schools, shopping centres, small businesses and sporting clubs in Cannon Hill and Murarrie have planned their future on this development going ahead and that it is extremely well supported by the general community?
- (4) Is he aware that residents of Cannon Hill and Murarrie do not want industry on this site?
- (5) What is the Government's future plans for the Joint Venture Management Group?

Mr Connor (5/9/96):

- (1) Options for the future of the site bounded by Wynnum, Barrack, Lytton and Creek Roads are currently being investigated.
- (2) The Government is not necessarily committed to any promise made by the previous administration in regard to this site.
- (3) The Government has consulted with the local community.
- (4) The Government is aware that community organisations at Murarrie and Cannon Hill oppose industrial development on this site.
- (5) The joint ventures management group functions have been incorporated into the Property Development Division in Project Services, a business unit within my Department.

621. Land Tax

Mr FOURAS asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (6/8/96)—

Will she honour her promise to provide at least \$20m in land tax relief this year?

Mrs Sheldon (5/9/96): An element of the Coalition's election campaign was a commitment in relation to land tax.

Details of budgetary adjustments to any revenue measures, including land tax, will be outlined when the Budget is delivered on Tuesday.

622. Queensland Health, Capital Works Projects

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Health (6/8/96)—

With reference to his reprioritised capital works program for Queensland's health system—

Will he (a) give a brief description of all capital works planned as part of the Government's \$3 billion redevelopment program announced recently, (b) list all building, refurbishment, and equipment projects together with a summary of the services to be provided at all hospitals and community health centres around the State, (c) provide a list of all capital works projects for each and every hospital/and or region (district) in Queensland contained in the Master Plan submissions provided to the Capital Works Branch and (d) give specific details regarding commencement and completion dates for the Government's \$114m election promise to build four new hospitals in four Cabinet Ministers' electorates and provide details of all available health planning analysis held by his department on the feasibility of the proposed Noosa, Beaudesert, Robina and Caloundra Hospitals?

Mr Horan (4/9/96):

(a), (b), (c) Budget deliberations are incomplete, and the 1996 State Budget has not yet been brought down by the Honourable the Treasurer. Accordingly, to provide a highly detailed description of the Coalition Hospital Capital Works Program, at this stage, would be improper.

However, I can advise the House that, at my direction, Queensland Health has undertaken an in-depth assessment of all proposed projects. This follows an independent review, by reputable consultants, of the program of the Goss Government. The review showed that the Program was overcommitted by your now leaders, Messrs Beattie and Elder, to the extent of \$1.2 billion. In contrast, the Program now put forward addresses both hospitals and other health care facilities, and is achievable, realistic and affordable.

Specific announcements in relation to the Queensland Health Capital Works Program will be made in the context of the State Budget. These will support both my commitment and the coalition's commitment to upgrading and modernising Queensland's health infrastructure.

(d) As part of the planning process, Functional Planning outlining the degree of services based on a range of options, has recently commenced for health needs at Noosa, Beaudesert, Robina and Caloundra. I shall inform the House of the outcome of this analysis, and of the progress of these important projects, as they proceed.

These new hospitals are vital social infrastructure for our high growth communities, as are Caboolture, Redlands, and Logan, which will be fast-tracked under the Coalition Program.

Planning is also under way for a new hospital at Bamaga in the Labor held seat of Cook. This hospital had been totally neglected by Labor in its failed rebuilding program.

623. Recreation Facilities, Moreton Region

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Environment (6/8/96)—

What action is being taken by his department to open up camping facilities, picnic facilities and

access roads to locations in the scenic rim of the Great Dividing Range and the McPherson Range, in view of the pressure being put on existing National Parks and recreation areas by the large influx of new residents to the Moreton region?

Mr Littleproud (26/8/96): At present, work is under way to improve recreational facilities at Green Mountains on Lamington National Park. In fact, as a result of the complete neglect of park facilities by Labor over the period of their office, there is now a need to start an improvement program on a State-wide basis. And it is worth noting that the "large influx" of new residents to the Moreton region continued consistently throughout the period of Labor, and is only now showing some signs of slowing down.

In regards to Green Mountains, a new Visitor Orientation Centre at this location will provide information to visitors to the park and other national parks.

Upgrading works are planned for other national parks in the Scenic Rim including:

Springbrook (including Natural Bridge) National Park—major upgrading of walking tracks;

Lamington National Park (Binna Burra section)—upgrading of walking tracks and lookouts;

Mount Barney National Park—upgrading of walking tracks; and

Main Range—upgrading of walking tracks and the trail head carpark at Cunningham's Gap.

The Department of Environment is liaising with other Departments and Local Government Authorities that manage public lands to coordinate the provision of recreational access and facilities in the Scenic Rim area.

For example, a proposal is being considered for the development of a camping area on land acquired adjacent to Mount Barney National Park. The Department is also supportive of camping facilities being developed at "The Settlement" at Springbrook.

624. Regional Arts Development Fund

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (6/8/96)—

With reference to the disadvantages faced by rural and regional arts and cultural participants—

What funding cuts are proposed to the RADF and is the Government planning to alter the structure of RADF or the current co-funding arrangements with Local Government and the community?

Mrs Sheldon (5/9/96): There are no funding cuts proposed for the Regional Arts Development Fund in 1996/97. Queensland's local government authorities will receive funding at comparable levels to 1995/96 allocations. Funds will be allocated immediately following the budget.

There are no plans to alter the current structure of the Regional Arts Development Fund. The current partnership between Local and State Government in

the management of RADF is important. This partnership is recognised by the Coalition Government as crucial to the success of the program and the ongoing support of regional, rural and remote communities throughout Queensland.

625. Annerley Police Station; Moorvale Shopping Centre

Mr FOLEY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (6/8/96)—

With reference to his previous answer regarding the Annerley Police Station and the proposed police shop-front at the Moorvale Shopping Centre—

- (1) When will the review of police services in the Annerley district, to which he referred, be completed?
- (2) Will he now give a categorical assurance that staffing numbers at the Annerley Police Station will not be downgraded?
- (3) In view of the continued support for a police shop-front at the Moorvale Shopping Centre from local residents and the local business community, as evidenced through the Moorooka Local Area Plan of the Brisbane City Council, will he establish such a police shop-front?

Mr Cooper (26/8/96):

(1) An examination of the policing needs of the Annerley and Dutton Park Police Divisions has disclosed that greater efficiency and productivity could not be achieved by merging Annerley and Dutton Park Police Divisions. Consequently, the vacant position of Senior Sergeant, Officer in Charge of Annerley Police Division, has been advertised in the Police Gazette.

(2) There is no intention to downgrade the staff at Annerley Police Station.

(3) I reiterate my reply to Question on Notice No 120 by stating that the establishment of Police Beat Shopfronts is a matter for the Queensland Police Service and I, as the responsible Minister, will support whatever decision the Service makes concerning the Moorvale Shopping Centre at Moorooka.

The current crime figures do not support the establishment of a Police Beat Shopfront at this time. The District Officer, Oxley District, is aware of the community's concerns as well as their support for such a Shopfront and he will continue to monitor the situation.

626. Government Departments, Capital Appropriations

Mr MACKENROTH asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (6/8/96)—

With reference to funds appropriated for capital expenditure for each department for 1995-96, including the former Labor Government's \$745m Accelerated Capital Works Program—

- (1) What funds so appropriated for each of these departments remained unexpended at 30 June, 1996?
- (2) What carryovers for 1996-97 were permitted for each of these departments of these unexpended capital appropriations?
- (3) Will she provide details of the unexpended capital balances and carryovers for each department?

Mrs Sheldon (5/9/96): Budget Paper No. 3—Capital Outlays, which I will table on 10 September as part of the Coalition Government's 1996-97 Budget Papers, will detail for the Honourable Member the 1995-96 actual expenditure and 1996-97 Budget allocation for major capital outlays. This will be provided on both a statistical division and policy area basis.

With regard to the individual elements of the Labor Government's Accelerated Capital Works Program, Treasury does not have data on the carryovers relevant to the program as a whole, or individual items within the program.

628. Pay-roll Tax

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (6/8/96)—

- (1) On 3 July 1995 did the Coalition promise a youth employment pay-roll tax rebate?
- (2) Will this initiative cost up to \$20m to introduce?
- (3) When will this promise be implemented?

Mrs Sheldon (5/9/96): The Coalition's State election campaign contained well reported initiatives designed to create jobs. These included adjustments to payroll tax.

I reassure you that the Coalition Government remains committed to maximising employment opportunities by creating an environment which facilitates the creation of genuine, long term jobs in the private sector.

Details of revenue measures, including any payroll tax threshold increases, will be outlined in the Budget, which I will deliver on Tuesday.

629. Boggo Road Prison

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (6/8/96)—

With reference to the disused site of the former maximum security male prison known as Boggo Road Prison—

- (1) What is the extent of the damage caused by the recent fire in the heritage listed buildings on the site?
- (2) What effect will the damage have on the future of these buildings?
- (3) What plans are being made for the future of the women's prison, including proposals for alternative locations for the facility?
- (4) When will the run-down, non-heritage buildings be demolished and removed from the site?

- (5) What is his proposal for the future of the entire site, what public consultation will occur with local residents and what timeframe is proposed for any redevelopment of the site?

- (6) What budget allocations have been made to repair, restore and preserve the heritage buildings following recent fire damage?

Mr Connor (5/9/96):

(1) A fire occurred in No. 2 Division of the Brisbane Correctional Centre (Boggo Road Gaol) on the morning of Friday 2 August 1996. The source of the fire was some grass clippings which had been piled against the building. The fire damage is limited to the upper floor of one building on the site. The elements damaged by the fire include the top rows of bricks, timber eaves & fascia, gutter, corrugated iron roof, rafters & roofing battens, ceiling joists and ripple iron ceiling. There is also some damage to services including electric wiring. Q-Build has installed tarpaulins over the roof to protect the building from further damage.

(2) The damage is minimal in terms of the gaol complex: the fire occurred in a building which had undergone some alteration during its history; the site remains a significant, intact group of buildings with landmark qualities, and the only surviving gaol in Queensland built on the "modern" penological principles of the late 19th Century. It will be possible to restore the building using some existing components and new elements to match original details.

(3) This question is a matter for my Ministerial colleague, the Honourable Russell Cooper MLA, Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing.

(4) The contract was awarded to Rosenlund Civil Contractors Pty. Ltd. on 26 July 1996. The contract is of 16 weeks duration and is due for practical completion on 14 November 1996. The Contractor is established on the site.

(5) No decision has been taken in relation to the future of the site other than demolition of Division 1. Extensive consultation has already taken place in regard to the use of the Boggo Road site and I would expect local community groups to be further consulted at the appropriate time.

(6) The site is owned by the Queensland Corrective Services Commission, and managed by the Department of Environment.

The Department of Environment has asked Q-Build to prepare an estimate for re-roofing. This question is a matter for my Ministerial colleague, the Honourable Brian Littleproud MLA, Minister for Environment.

630. Public Housing, Mount Coot-tha Electorate

Mrs EDMOND asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (6/8/96)—

- (1) What steps are being taken to alleviate the extensive waiting period for State housing in the Mount Coot-tha Electorate for pensioners and low income families?

- (2) What new developments, if any, are planned for (a) Petrie Terrace, (b) Paddington, (c) Milton, (d) Red Hill, (e) Auchenflower (f) Toowong and (g) Bardon?

Mr Connor (5/9/96):

(1) I inherited the extensive waiting periods referred to in this question. I regard the waiting list as a very high priority for attention and have initiated a number of changes to improve the situation. Upon becoming Minister, I implemented a \$50 million Priority Spot Purchase Program with the aim of reducing the unacceptable wait lists around the State. I also introduced a case management approach for households which have been waiting more than four years to ensure they will be housed as quickly as possible.

(2) For 1996/97 I have given preliminary approval to proceed with two projects which will provide a total of 34 apartments and attached houses in the Mount Coot-tha electorate. It is not possible to provide projections beyond 1996/97 until the Commonwealth clarifies future funding arrangements.

631. Hospital Beds, Bundaberg Region

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Health (6/8/96)—

- (1) What are the total bed numbers that he has approved for (a) Noosa, (b) Caloundra, (c) Nambour, (d) Gympie, (e) Maryborough, and (f) Hervey Bay Hospitals?
- (2) What are the total bed numbers approved in the Bundaberg Health Service Hospitals of (a) Bundaberg, (b) Childers, and (c) Gin Gin?
- (3) Are the chairs provided in the renal dialysis units at the Bundaberg Hospital included in the Bundaberg Hospital bed numbers?
- (4) Has he approved an increase in bed numbers at Bundaberg Regional Psychiatric Unit in view of the shortage of mental health beds in the region?
- (5) How many intensive care beds are included in the total bed numbers at the Bundaberg Base Hospital?

Mr Horan (4/9/96):

(1) Work is currently under way, as part of the Coalition's Capital Works Program, to identify service profiles and bed needs in a number of hospitals throughout the State in the year 2006. Not all hospitals are on the Capital Works Program and the planning process has not been finalised. The following table provides the current status on bed numbers in the respective hospitals.

Hospital—Bed Numbers

- (a) Noosa—To be finalised.
- (b) Caloundra—To be finalised.
- (c) Nambour—388
- (d) Gympie—No planned change from current 102.
- (e) Maryborough—To be finalised.
- (f) Hervey Bay—130

(2) The bed numbers approved for the Bundaberg Health Service Hospitals are as follows:

Hospital—Bed Numbers

- (a) Bundaberg—153—173#
- (b) Childers—No planned change from current 22
- (c) Gin Gin—No planned change from current 20

To be finalised following confirmation of rehabilitation bed requirements.

(3) The chairs provided in the renal dialysis units at the Bundaberg Hospital are not included in the Bundaberg Hospital bed numbers.

(4) The Mental Health Services Plan for the former Wide Bay Region included a proposal to increase the number of mental health beds in Bundaberg from the current 22 beds to 26 beds. Whilst that proposal has been approved in principle, the implications for Queensland Health's Capital Works Program have yet to be determined.

(5) A total of 12 beds has been approved for Intensive Care/High Dependency/Coronary Care purposes at Bundaberg Hospital. Of these 12 beds, three are classed specifically as Intensive Care beds.

632. Pay-roll Tax

Mrs ROSE asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (6/8/96)—

- (1) Does the Coalition's State Economic Development Strategy, released on 28 June 1995, contain a promise to increase the pay-roll tax exemption threshold each year?
- (2) Will this initiative have a cumulative budget impact over 5 years of \$43m?
- (3) When will this promise be implemented?

Mrs Sheldon (5/9/96): An element of the Coalition's election campaign was a commitment to increases in the payroll tax threshold.

Details of any revenue measures, including payroll tax threshold adjustments, will be outlined in the Budget, which will be announced on Tuesday. The member will receive details of any budgetary changes to payroll tax at that time.

633. Land Tax

Mr MILLINER asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (6/8/96)—

- (1) Did the coalition in November 1994 promise to reduce land tax with a view to its abolition?
- (2) Will this initiative cost up to \$20m to introduce, with the complete abolition of land tax meaning an annual revenue loss of \$200m?
- (3) When will this promise be implemented?

Mrs Sheldon (5/9/96): One of the elements of the Coalition's election campaign was a commitment in relation to land tax.

Measures in relation to land tax are addressed in the '96-'97 budget, which I will announce on Tuesday. The Honourable Member will receive full details of

the Government's intentions in relation to the budget at that time.

634. Timber Industry, Wide Bay Region

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (6/8/96)—

Does he support the privatisation of forests, both hardwood and pine in the Wide Bay Region and what does he believe would be the benefits to our local industry if this were to happen and who would be the purchasers?

Mr Perrett (22/8/96): I am aware that the privatisation of forestry activity raises a variety of complex issues.

However, it is not appropriate that I comment further on this matter as the Government has set up an Audit Commission Implementation Office to deal with all recommendations arising from the Queensland Commission of Audit Report.

This same office reports directly to the Premier and the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts.

636. Commission of Audit

Mr HAMILL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (6/8/96)—

With reference to media reports of a statement issued by Dr Vince Fitzgerald on 10 July 1996 where he stated that "retained earnings of public enterprises were fully incorporated in the assets and net worth as at 30 June 1995" and to the Statements of Assets and Liabilities on page 102 of Volume 1, where all estimates related to public enterprises appear to be available, thus confirming Dr Fitzgerald's statement and I also draw her attention, however, to the existence of two Operating Statements, one for General Government on page 103, from which the claimed deficit of \$337m is drawn, and a Consolidated statement on page 105, where the Deficit/Surplus entry is shown as 'not available', solely due to the item 'Net operating income of business enterprises' also being 'not available' and reference to note 22d on page 117 which reveals that total Public Enterprise income is not available solely because estimates for 'Operating surplus retained' are said to be 'not available', yet Dr Fitzgerald has publicly stated that estimates for retained earnings (operating surplus) were available at least for 1994-95—

- (1) Why are figures which are included on one page of the report, 'not available' for inclusion in another table only 3 pages further on?
- (2) Why did she tell Parliament on 10 July 1996 that the profits of public finance enterprises were available to the Commission of Audit through Annual Reports and were detailed on pages 105 and 117 when the tables on those pages were incomplete?
- (3) If the first principle of fiscal responsibility is, as suggested by the Commission of Audit Report, the "maintenance of public sector net worth", why has she chosen to quote Operating

Results which are measures of changes in General Government Net Worth (p.103), when figures for changes in Public Sector Net Worth (p. 105) were available for 1994-95 and estimable for 1995-96?

Mrs Sheldon (5/9/96):

(1) This question confuses two basic concepts—stocks and flows.

The Commission of Audit's Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 30 June 1995 includes, implicitly, the accumulated stock of earnings retained by public enterprise.

The figures shown as 'not available' on page 105 of the Commission of Audit report are flows. Note 22d on page 117 explains that these relate to the retained earnings of public enterprises for 1995-96 and 1994-95. These are completely different figures to the stock of accumulated retained earnings as at 30 June 1995. The answer to the next question explains why the flows of retained earnings were not included in the report.

(2) The profits of public enterprises for 1995-96, which is the base year for the Commission's ten year projections, were not available simply because the year was still in progress at the time of the Commission of Audit. While the Commission was able to develop estimates of revenues and expenses for general government, it is doubtful whether it would have been possible to develop a reliable estimate of each public enterprise's profits.

In any event, it should be clear that there would be little point in undertaking this exercise. To argue that it should have been done is to argue that a Government should be able to milk the retained earnings of public enterprises to prop up its general government Budget.

Of course, the financial statements for the comparative year, 1994-95, were available to the Commission of Audit and it could have undertaken the exercise of calculating the retained earnings of public enterprises for this year if there was some worthwhile reason to do so.

To make the point very clear, I am advised that the largest item on the list of public enterprise retained earnings for 1994-95 that the member for Ipswich tabled on 10 July is a sum of \$183 million which is the retained earnings of the Queensland Housing Commission. This amount is the result of a capital grant paid by the Commonwealth to maintain the level of Housing Commission stock.

(3) In relation to the third question, the overall goal of maintaining net worth is the bottom line, but it is also important how it is achieved, as the answer to the previous question indicates.

A balanced accrual Budget means keeping the expenses of general government in line with the revenues of general government, including normal tax equivalents and commercial levels of dividends from public enterprises.

A Government should not prop up its Budget by milking public enterprises of their retained earnings or by reallocating housing grants from the Commonwealth—as inferred by the arguments being put by the member for Ipswich.

637. Public Housing, Nudgee Electorate

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (6/8/96)—

With reference to public housing in the Nudgee Electorate—

- (1) What is the total number of public housing tenants?
- (2) How many tenants currently pay the full market rent for their dwelling?
- (3) How many tenants currently receive (a) a full Government pension and (b) a part Government pension?
- (4) What is the market rent for each dwelling type in each suburb?
- (5) How many new dwellings (of each type) will be purchased or constructed in 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99?

Mr Connor (5/9/96):

- (1) As at 30 June 1996, there were 982 tenants residing in public rental accommodation in the Nudgee electorate.
- (2) Twenty-five households were paying the full market rent for their accommodation.
- (3) Information provided by the tenants indicates that of the 982, there were 656 receiving a pension or benefit from the Department of Social Security or the Department of Veterans' Affairs as their sole source of income. A further 135 tenants were receiving a part pension or benefit. There were 191 tenants not receiving a pension or benefit from the Government.
- (4) Market rents in the electorate range from \$70.00 per week for seniors' units to \$180.00 per week for five bedroom.
- (5) The Statewide 1996/97 Capital Works Program for public housing is yet to be finalised as part of the Budget process. It is not possible to provide projections for public housing beyond this point until the Commonwealth clarifies future funding arrangements.

638. Effluent Treatment, Caloundra Electorate

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Local Government and Planning (6/8/96)—

- (1) Did the Coalition on 1 July 1995 promise to provide funding to the Caloundra City Council to develop a cleaner alternative to the dumping of treated effluent into The Passage or Mooloolah River from Landsborough?
- (2) Will this initiative cost up to \$5.5m?
- (3) When will this promise be implemented?

Mrs McCauley (29/8/96):

- (1) I am unaware of any specific promise made to Caloundra City Council on 1 July 1995 or any other time concerning this matter.

As mentioned in the Coalition's Sunshine Coast Policy Document, the Government will assist all local governments to upgrade their sewerage and water supply systems to environmentally acceptable standards by the provision of \$500M in subsidies over 10 years.

Sunshine Coast local governments will be able to access these funds.

- (2) I am unable to comment on the likely dollar amount of subsidy the Council might receive until after the 1996/97 Budget has been finalised and details of the proposal have been provided by the Council.

- (3) When the new funding initiative is announced and the Caloundra City Council supplies the necessary information, appropriate subsidy will be approved.

640. Rundle Shale Oil Project

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Environment (7/8/96)—

With reference to recent announcements by the Rundle Shale Oil Partners that this project may be activated in the near future—

- (1) What precise area is intended to be mined and what is its location?
- (2) Are any coastal or offshore areas included?
- (3) What impact studies have been carried out on the proposal and are these publicly available?
- (4) What further impact studies are planned if the project is to proceed?
- (5) Do any national, marine or conservation park proposals exist in the area proposed to be mined?

Mr Littleproud (20/8/96): The Department of Environment has been advised by the Department of Mines and Energy that there are no plans for development of the Rundle deposit at this time.

641. Waste Management Branch; Unexploded Ordnances

Mrs WOODGATE asked the Minister for Environment (7/8/96)—

With reference to a national audit of the Department of Defence's environmental management procedures which reports that it would take 20 years to assess the risk of about 10000 Queensland sites contaminated by unexploded ordnance from World War II—

- (1) Has he read this report?
- (2) What approaches has he made to the Federal Minister for Defence in regard to this matter?
- (3) What role does he see for the State Government in resolving this matter?
- (4) What funding is he seeking in the next State Budget for the UXO Section of the Waste Management Branch of the Department of Environment?
- (5) What staffing levels currently exist in this UXO Section and to what levels does he intend to raise this staffing in 1996-97?
- (6) Have there been any staff retrenchments of temporary staff in the Contaminated Land Register Section of the Waste Management Branch; if so, how many and at what levels?

- (7) Will he give the people of Queensland a guarantee that he has the resources within the register section to handle this problem?
- (8) Will he give a guarantee that no further development of these sites will occur until they are cleared of UXO contamination?

Mr Littleproud (27/8/96):

(1) I have not read the full national audit report on the Department of Defence's performance in regard to managing land affected by UXO. However, I can assure you that Queensland's Department of Environment contributed significantly to the preparation of the report and that I have been briefed on the report's outcomes on three occasions since June 1996.

(2) I have not yet spoken with the Minister for Defence regarding UXO contamination but I have requested the Department of Environment to maintain negotiations with Defence on the issue at a high level.

(3) The Queensland Government's role is to have legislation and administrative procedures in place to provide for the safe use of affected land.

Under the nationally recognised polluter pays principle, the State Government sees the Commonwealth being responsible for:

identifying land that, due to its previous military use, could be affected by UXO;

indemnifying landowners and land use managers against any injury or damage due to UXO; and

funding further investigation of affected land and where necessary, remediation or the implementation of other risk management measures such as the sign posting of affected public lands.

(4) Sufficient ongoing funding has been sought for three UXO officers to perform advisory and site assessment duties. Funds will also be available for three officers who administer the Contaminated Sites Register. These officers work closely with the UXO Advisers on UXO information processing.

(5) One permanent Chief UXO Adviser and one temporary UXO Adviser are currently employed. Another permanent position is currently vacant and following a redesignation will be filled later this year. The temporary UXO Adviser position is being recommended for permanent status in 1996-97. Staff working on the Register will continue.

(6) No staff were retrenched prior to the completion dates of employment contracts. A total of 11 temporary staff were employed in 1995-96 to work on a one-off project to review and validate data on the Contaminated Sites Register. Three of the staff left of their own accord before the end of their contracts while another four had their contracts expire on 28 June 1996. Appointments for the remaining four staff have been extended to when the project will be completed on 13 September 1996.

(7) Resourcing of any part of Government operations is dependent on budget availability and overall Government priorities which also have to take into

account the financial mess inherited from Labor. Currently, the three permanent staff administering the Register are supplemented with two temporary staff. It is my intention for these two temporary positions to become permanent in 1996-97.

(8) There has never been any intention to prevent future, safe development of sites which are potentially contaminated by UXO. Procedures currently in place under the Contaminated Land Act provide for any potentially contaminated site to be subject to risk assessment and, based on the results, for the Department of Environment to declare the site suitable for its current or proposed use. Other provisions in the Act provide for land which does represent an immediate risk to the public to be remediated or otherwise made safe.

642. Dent Island

Mrs BIRD asked the Minister for Environment (7/8/96)—

With reference to current planning to revamp Hamilton Island Resort—

- (1) Are plans to construct a golf course on the nearby Dent Island part of these plans?
- (2) Is a world class clubhouse on Dent Island also part of these plans?
- (3) Are accommodation units also included in the plans?
- (4) Has the Department of Environment been approached regarding these plans?
- (5) Has an Environmental Impact Study been prepared for the proposal; if not, will one be required?
- (6) How will run-off of sprays and fertilisers from the golf course into the surrounding Great Barrier Reef Marine Park be prevented?
- (7) Has the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority been approached on this matter; if so, what is their response?
- (8) How will visitors to the island gain access?
- (9) Will a jetty/pontoon structure be required in the marine park?
- (10) What consultation has occurred with the local environmental movement on the proposal?

Mr Littleproud (30/8/96):

(1) Yes. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has issued a permit to occupy for investigation purposes to Hamilton Island West Pty Ltd to carry out investigations and studies in connection with their proposal to develop a golf course and associated facilities on Dent Island. One condition of this permit is:

"The Permittee shall during the term of the permit carry out a full Impact Assessment Study (IAS) to the satisfaction of the Department of Environment (DoE) and in accordance with the guidelines to be provided by that Department."

(2) No.

(3) Yes. The permit application to DNR did include a proposal to develop environmentally sensitive accommodation on Dent Island.

(4) & (5) As stated before, the proponent is required to prepare an IAS and, to date, DoE has received no formal approaches, advice and/or plans seeking guidelines for the necessary IAS. It should be noted that in April 1993, Hamilton Island Enterprises submitted a draft IAS for a proposed golf course, resort and ferry development on Dent Island. The relationship of the current proposal to that contained in the Hamilton Island Enterprises study is not known.

(6) The need for and prevention of run-off of sprays and fertilisers from the golf course into the surrounding Great Barrier Reef Marine Park would be required to be addressed in the IAS.

(7) The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority advises that it has had no formal approaches on this matter from Hamilton Island West Pty Ltd.

(8) & (9) No formal proposals have been received from the proponent. However, the permit application to DNR did include a proposal to construct a ferry terminal on Titan Island with a bridge to Dent Island. These islands are within the Marine Park.

(10) The Department of Environment is unaware of what consultation has occurred with the local environmental movement on the proposal. Any IAS received would be available to members of the community, and comments received by DoE.

643. Gateway Bridge Toll; Lytton Road Bridge

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (7/8/96)—

- (1) When will automatic toll technology be introduced on the Gateway Bridge to enable motorists to continue on their journey without stopping and overcome the long delays they presently experience?
- (2) When will more toll booths be built and the approaches to the Gateway Bridge widened?
- (3) When will the by-pass road under the existing Lytton Road Bridge be built?
- (4) Is the Lytton Road Bridge unsafe?

Mr Johnson (5/9/96):

(1) Queensland Motorway Limited has been trailing, for two years, a number of intelligent transport systems for automatic toll collection for account holders. I anticipate automatic toll equipment will be operational within 12 months.

(2) A third lane northbound and extension of the Lytton Road off-ramp was constructed and opened in June 1996 and funded by Queensland Motorway Limited. This work has alleviated the morning queuing peaks.

A further two toll booths tentatively are programmed for next financial year; depending on traffic demand.

(3) The bypass road under the Gateway Bridge, not the Lytton Road Bridge as referred, is required in conjunction with the BHP rezoning application with Brisbane City Council for the Angliss site at Murarrie. The timing on the road and its possible construction is dependent on town planning approvals and the project schedule.

(4) The Lytton Road Bridge over the Gateway Motorway at Murarrie just south of the toll plaza is quite safe, meets relevant bridge code requirements and is examined for conformance in the Department of Main Roads' Annual Maintenance Program.

646. Museum Building, Gregory Terrace

Mr FOURAS asked the Minister for Environment (7/8/96)—

With reference to the old museum building on Gregory Terrace, one of Brisbane's landmark historic buildings with a rich past as both an exhibition and music hall not to mention the many years it served as Queensland's premier museum building—

(1) Is the building listed on the Queensland Heritage Register?

(2) Does he support the Goss Government's plans to refurbish the concert hall?

(3) What level of funding does he consider necessary for this work over coming years?

Mr Littleproud (20/8/96):

(1) Yes.

(2) A proposal for the refurbishment of the concert hall was considered by the Department of Environment in August 1995. This proposal was regarded as causing no detriment to the cultural heritage significance of the Old Museum Building.

(3) The Minister for Public Works and Housing is the Minister responsible for any development which may take place at the Old Museum Building and is therefore best placed to answer this question.

648. Upgrading of Ingham Road, Townsville

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (7/8/96)—

With reference to the long history of death and injury on Ingham Road north of Mather Street, Townsville, and the most recent fatality on 6 August—

(1) Will he immediately release the scheme agreed to by the Goss and Keating Governments to construct the missing link of Woolcock Street between Dalrymple Road, through Duckworth Street to the Bohle River to divert traffic away from Ingham Road?

(2) When will State funds be released to upgrade Ingham Road to at least a three carriageway north of Mather Street in the vicinity of the Coca Cola factory and other industrial sites?

(3) In view of the fact that this was formally agreed with the previous State Government, why has this scheme not been released?

Mr Johnson (5/9/96):

(1) At this point, Queensland's 1996-97 National Highway allocation which was announced as part of the Federal Budget, totals \$167 million. This allocation provides for funding of ongoing works, maintenance and the new bridge at Wallaville.

The Federal Minister for Transport has not yet announced funding allocations for major new

National Highway projects. However, I expect he will do so in the next few weeks and, given its high priority on the overall National Highway network, I am confident that the Federal Government will be able to make the funds available in 1996/97. I will certainly be putting the case forcefully to him. Subject to the Federal Minister's approval, tenders for the drainage and bridge works will be invited immediately.

When completed, Woolcock Street will take about 50 per cent of the traffic off Ingham Road between Mather Street and the Bohle, which will greatly improve traffic safety in this vicinity. Flood immunity also will be improved by these works.

The four-lane construction of that section of Woolcock Street between Dalrymple Road and Duckworth Street will be funded by the State Government, with a contribution from Townsville City Council. The construction of this project is scheduled to commence in August 1997 at an estimated cost of \$7.8 million.

(2) The widening of Ingham Road, between Mather Street and the Bohle, is scheduled to commence in 1998, in line with the commitments of the previous State Government.

Once Woolcock Street is completed, the traffic volumes on Ingham Road will be reduced significantly and will allow the widening of Ingham Road to be carried out more safely, and with less traffic disruption.

(3) This scheme will be released in the usual manner; ie. immediately prior to tenders being let, which will be consistent with the time-frame agreed by the former State Government.

649. Queensland Mines Rescue Brigade

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (7/8/96)—

What is the Department of Mines and Energy's intention with respect to the funding of the Queensland Mines Rescue Brigade and what level of services will be maintained, including properly resourced rescue stations?

Mr Gilmore (3/9/96): Funding of the Mines Rescue Brigade will form part of the Government's 1996/97 Budget. Details of the Brigade's 1996/97 funding will be available when the Budget is released.

There is no intention for the level of services provided by the Mines Rescue Brigade to be reduced.

653. Harvesting of Seahorses and Sharks

Mr BEATTIE asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (7/8/96)—

With reference to scientific papers given recently to the 2nd International Fisheries Congress held here in Brisbane—

(1) What controls does Fisheries place over the harvesting of seahorses of any species for export trade, the aquarium trade and the dried fish curio trade?

- (2) What numbers and what species are currently being taken from Queensland waters and for which trade?
- (3) What is the value of this trade?
- (4) What knowledge does he have of the impact this trade is having on these species of seahorses?
- (5) Is he satisfied that this take is sustainable; if not, what action is he taking to correct this?
- (6) What controls does Fisheries place over the harvesting of school sharks in Queensland waters?
- (7) What numbers of these sharks are currently being taken from Queensland waters?
- (8) How does this catch compare with that in 1980 from Queensland waters?
- (9) What level of take of sharks is occurring for the shark fin soup export trade from Queensland waters?
- (10) Is he satisfied that this take is sustainable; if not, what action is he taking to correct this?

Mr Perrett (22/8/96):

1. Many species of seahorses and their close relatives the pipefish occur in Queensland coastal waters. Most of these fish are associated with particular habitats such as reefs and seagrass areas.

By far the most commonly taken species is the red and gold pipefish (*Solegnathus dunckeri*) which is taken by commercial trawlers as a bycatch to prawns in the offshore coastal trawl grounds.

The red and gold pipefish is used in Asian medicines. Other types of seahorses and pipefish are taken by commercial aquarium fish collectors, using hand collecting methods. Both the commercial trawl fishery and the commercial collection of aquarium fish are controlled by limitations on the numbers of licences issued, the gears that may be used, and the fishing times and areas.

2. The most important species by far is the red and gold pipefish with a total annual catch of approximately 750 kilograms dry weight.

This equates to approximately 75,000 individual pipefish. These are taken in the area from Lucinda in the north to Hervey Bay in the south. The numbers of individual seahorse and pipefish taken for the aquarium fish trade in Queensland is very small and the exact numbers are not recorded.

3. The value of the red and gold pipefish in Queensland is \$10.00 to \$15.00 per kilogram. The total catch is therefore worth about \$750,000 annually.

The value of seahorses and pipefish in the aquarium trade is much less, probably worth only a few thousand dollars annually.

4. The trade in red and gold pipefish has been ongoing since the mid 1970s. Current catches appear to be stable and it is therefore felt that the present level of catch is not adversely affecting the long term sustainability of these fish.

5. The current fisheries for seahorses and pipefish in Queensland are sustainable. Existing fishing management measures are adequate and appropriate to maintain the populations of these fish in Queensland waters.

6. School sharks are not harvested from Queensland waters. They are a species harvested in the southern states of Australia.

Several species of small tropical sharks are harvested from Queensland waters. The fishery is characterised by limitations on the number of fishing licences, gear restrictions and area controls. Detailed logbook information has been provided by commercial fishers since 1988 of tropical shark catches.

7 & 8. In 1995, shark landings were about 600 tonne, an increase in production since 1989 when the total catch was 170 tonnes.

9. The shark taken in Queensland waters by commercial fishers is mainly used for the "fillet" fish trade, although fins of these sharks are also kept and marketed for shark fin soup.

10. The shark fishery in Queensland is sustainable and is being monitored to assess trends, and also to assess the need for additional management constraints.

654. Carnarvon National Park; Sir Frank Moore

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (7/8/96)—

With reference to his plans to allow a private company the right to develop and/or operate tourist facilities from within Carnarvon National Park—

- (1) Is the company headed by Sir Frank Moore?
- (2) Is Sir Frank Moore a previous head of the QTTC under the Bjelke-Petersen regime?
- (3) What is his association with, and interest, in the company?
- (4) Is this the same Sir Frank Moore who (a) engineered Christopher Skase's construction of the Mirage Resorts at Port Douglas and on the Southport Spit, (b) did everything in his power to get the beach at Shute Harbour developed as a tourist resort, (c) tried to sell off land at the mouth of the Daintree River to tourist developers, (d) tried to sell off Florence Bay on Magnetic Island as a tourist resort, (e) during all this time, was a trustee of the National Party and (f) appeared as a witness for Leisuremark in its legal action seeking to develop the Noosa north shore?
- (5) Is this the same Sir Frank Moore whose company received preferential treatment from the Bjelke-Petersen Government to construct the Transit Centre at Roma Street?
- (6) What is Sir Frank Moore's present relationship with the National Party?

Mr Littleproud (20/8/96): I have no plans before me to allow a private company the right to develop and/or operate tourist facilities from within the Carnarvon National Park, although it should be

noted that a private company has been operating a development on a special lease at Carnarvon for some years. I have been advised of plans to extend the facilities on this lease. It also should be noted that any proposals for private development in association with National Parks will be subject to guidelines, a draft copy of which I have tabled previously in the House. Given the above, the remainder of the question is not relevant.

655. Department of Environment, Confiscation of Weapons

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Environment (7/8/96)—

With reference to recent media reports of weapons used by the Department of Environment being offered to gun dealers by way of exchange—

- (1) From where did the department originally obtain these weapons, particularly the Colt AR15 semi-automatic?
- (2) Were any of the weapons offered to the gun dealers ever confiscated from members of the public by either departmental officers or police officers; if so, which ones and what was the nature of the offence committed by the then owner that led to its confiscation?
- (3) Are any of the weapons currently in use by the department confiscated weapons from the public as a result of either departmental or police action; if so, which ones and what was the nature of the offence committed that led to each weapon's confiscation?
- (4) How many, and what types of weapons are currently in use by the department?
- (5) What are these weapons used for and where and how are they housed?
- (6) How many weapons are currently held by the department as confiscated weapons?
- (7) Where are these weapons held and under what storage conditions?
- (8) What weapons or ammunition was the department hoping to exchange these weapons for with gun dealers?
- (9) What fate were the weapons the department was exchanging likely to meet in the hands of the gun dealers?
- (10) Was there any possibility they could have been reconditioned and resold to the public?

Mr Littleproud (27/8/96):

(1) The Department has lawfully obtained firearms either by purchase from licensed firearms dealers or by the commissioning into service of firearms seized and forfeited under legislation (such as the now revoked Fauna Conservation Act 1974). The Colt AR15 semi-automatic specifically referred to was purchased through the Government Stores by departmental research staff in approximately 1970, for use in studies of the effect of harvesting on kangaroo populations.

(2) Thirty six of the firearms recently advertised for disposal were confiscated from members of the

public. These confiscations were effected by either departmental staff or Police officers for offences under the Fauna Conservation Act 1974 and the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1975. These seizures related to the taking of protected fauna without a licence, permit or authority, or using a firearm on a sanctuary or national park without a licence, permit or authority. Details of all firearms forfeited to the Department are maintained in the records of public prosecutions and by the Queensland Police Service.

(3) Nineteen firearms currently in use by the Department were seized and forfeited under legislation. These confiscations were effected by either departmental staff or Police officers for offences under the Fauna Conservation Act 1974 and the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1975. These seizures related to the taking of protected fauna without a licence, permit or authority, or using a firearm on a sanctuary or national park without a licence, permit or authority. Only firearms which have been certified safe by a qualified armourer/gunsmith are retained for departmental use.

(4) The Department currently has in its possession 449 firearms including those recently offered for sale. They consist of a wide variety of types and calibres reflecting the broad range of purposes for which they are required.

(5) The Department of Environment uses firearms for:

- the destruction of feral animals and animals posing a problem to life and property
- the taking of scientific specimens as part of approved research projects
- the sedation and capture of fauna for study/relocation/treatment
- the humane destruction of injured fauna, and
- the protection of officers working in areas frequented by dangerous fauna.

There is also a special collection of historic firearms used for display purposes at Fort Lytton National Park.

The firearms are used throughout the state and are stored in accordance with the requirements of the Weapons Act 1990. All officers responsible for firearms are trained and accredited to one of three levels of skill in firearm use and management.

(6) Departmental records indicate that 55 confiscated weapons are currently held (36 advertised for disposal; 19 retained).

(7) Firearms not on issue to field staff are stored in secure facilities. For security reasons it is preferable that the actual site is not disclosed.

(8) To achieve a standard range of firearms as detailed in the Department's Firearm Policy, Ruger stainless steel bolt action rifles of the following specifications were sought:

- Ruger model K77/22RSP—.22 long rifle
- Ruger model K77MKIIRP—.223
- Ruger model K77MKIIRP—.308

(9) As the exchange program involved only licensed gun dealers, serviceable and non-restricted firearms could therefore have been resold by firearms dealers

in line with the requirements of the Weapons Act 1990.

(10) Yes, as above.

656. Marketing of Wildlife by Farmers

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Environment (7/8/96)—

With reference to media comments recently by Terry Black, Queensland University of Technology senior lecturer in the Faculty of Business, regarding the private ownership and marketing of wildlife—

- (1) Does he support the right of farmers to own wildlife occurring on their properties and to market that wildlife as and where demand exists under permit?
- (2) Has he had discussions since coming to Government on this matter; if so, with whom and what outcomes were reached?
- (3) Is his Special Projects Unit headed by Mr Bob Speirs also looking at this aspect of fundraising?
- (4) Has there been any contact with the Northern Territory Government at either departmental or ministerial level on this matter?
- (5) Has Northern Territory wildlife consultant Mr Graham Webb been consulted on this matter?

Mr Littleproud (27/8/96):

(1) Landholders appropriately licensed under the Nature Conservation Act already have the right to harvest and market certain species of wildlife occurring on their properties. For example, the kangaroo harvesting industry is founded on the belief that landholders and others can benefit by the taking of a sustainable proportion of the total population of kangaroos, while at the same time benefiting the environment by reducing grazing pressure on the land. The recently approved legislation regulating the harvest and sale of protected plant species is another example whereby landholders and others can benefit from the presence of wildlife on their land. The private ownership of wildlife is not necessary for the success of these programs, and would merely result in the State having less control in ensuring any approved wildlife harvest remains ecologically sustainable.

(2) The Nature Conservation Act currently provides for any person or organisation to assist in the development of a Conservation Plan allowing the sustainable utilisation of wildlife. Such a Plan would be developed around the fundamental principle of allowing wildlife to be harvested only where that harvesting is ecologically sustainable and there is a net conservation benefit.

(3) The special projects unit of the Department of Environment is not reviewing the issue of sustainable utilisation of wildlife.

(4) & (5) There has been no official contact with the Northern Territory Government or Dr Webb regarding this matter. The Department of Environment is aware of Dr Webb's views on these

issues and regularly receives printed reports from the Northern Territory agency responsible for wildlife management.

657. Unexploded Ordnances

Mr MILLINER asked the Minister for Environment (7/8/96)—

With reference to attempts by the previous State Government to get the Department of Defence to accept its responsibilities to identify and clear areas in South-East Queensland contaminated with unexploded ordnance and as his Government, while in Opposition, was very critical of these efforts—

- (1) Has he had any discussions with any Federal Minister on this matter; if so, which Minister, when and what was the outcome?
- (2) What discussions have occurred at departmental level on this matter since the change of Government?
- (3) What results have been achieved?
- (4) How many departmental staff does he have addressing this matter?
- (5) What funding is he seeking in the coming State Budget for this work?

Mr Littleproud (27/8/96):

1. No.

2. Matters that have been discussed since the change of Government include:

the level of information required in Defence reports on specific areas;

limitations to the Commonwealth's claim in Federal Parliament in 1995 that certain landowners had already been paid compensation for their land being used by the military;

the need for landowners to be indemnified by the Commonwealth against UXO related injury or damage;

the need for Defence to upgrade the information it distributed through the Local Government Association of Queensland in 1991 to over 70 local governments in Queensland that there was land within their boundaries that might be affected by UXO;

the need for Defence to be adequately resourced for more timely identification and assessment of potentially affected land in Queensland;

a Department of Environment submission in writing in June 1996 to the Australian National Audit Office, which investigated the performance of the Department of Defence in regard to UXO matters;

the ongoing review of the Contaminated Land Act and that some proposed amendments might influence the future work of both Defence and the Department of Environment;

a request for Defence to conduct some further investigatory work on several large rural residential sites in the Clear Mountain/Cashmere

UXO area following Department of Environment discussions with some of the landowners; and, most recently;

a request for Defence to fund remedial work on fifteen large rural residential sites in the Tamborine/Camp Cable UXO area.

As a result of Defence's revised reports on the Clear Mountain/Cashmere/Warner and Tamborine/Camp Cable areas issued in February 1996, just prior to the change of Government, the Department of Environment subsequently reclassified sites in these areas. There were 337 and 506 individual land parcels in these areas deleted from the Contaminated Sites Register in March and April 1996 respectively.

In late June 1996, the Federal Auditor-General tabled in Parliament the report on Defence's performance in regard to the management of land affected by UXO. That report which was cognisant of Queensland submissions found that Defence had been mainly reactive in its handling of UXO issues and that resources currently devoted to achieving the aims of the Commonwealth's UXO policy are inadequate, and it included in its recommendations that Defence should now allocate sufficient resources and set a timetable for the completion of its site assessment work.

One permanent Chief UXO Adviser and one temporary UXO Adviser are currently employed. Another permanent position is currently vacant and following a redesignation will be filled later this year. The temporary UXO Adviser position is being recommended for permanent status in 1996-97. There are also three permanent officers who administer the Contaminated Sites Register. These officers work closely with the UXO Advisers on UXO information processing.

Sufficient funding has been sought to employ the three UXO officers to perform advisory and site assessment duties as well as the continuation of funding for the Register staff. Budgetary considerations need to take into account the mess left by Labor Governments at both State and Commonwealth levels.

658. Crabs

Mr NUNN asked the Minister for Environment (7/8/96)—

With reference to a joint research project being conducted by the Scientific Assessment Unit of the Environment Division of his department and the University of Queensland in which crustaceans are being used to identify pollution levels along the Queensland coastline—

- (1) Is it true that significant levels of both DDT and Dieldrin have been found in crabs from near agricultural areas in parts of South East Queensland?
- (2) Which were the precise locations?
- (3) What levels of both DDT and Dieldrin were found in the crabs?
- (4) How do these results compare to nationally acceptable standards?

- (5) Are crustaceans from these areas fit for human consumption; if not, what warnings have been issued to fishing interests and local residents in these areas?
- (6) Is it possible that run-off of these pesticides is still occurring in these areas?
- (7) What approaches has he made to his Cabinet colleagues to address this ongoing problem?

Mr Littleproud (20/8/96):

- (1) Detectable concentrations of DDT and Dieldrin which were not significant in terms of risk to human health were found in the tissues of some mud crabs collected in early 1996 from near agricultural areas in parts of South East Queensland.
- (2) In the Brisbane River at Indooroopilly, Toowong, Story Bridge and Hamilton and in the Maroochy River at its junctions with Coolum and Eudlo Creeks.
- (3) DDT was only found in the flesh of one out of ten mud crabs taken from the Maroochy River and none from the Brisbane River. Dieldrin was found in all crabs taken from the Brisbane River and the Maroochy River. The median concentration of Dieldrin in the edible portion of those crabs was 0.001 parts per million.
- (4) This concentration of Dieldrin is approximately one hundredth of the allowable limit in seafood acceptable under Australian Health Guidelines.
- (5) Yes. The crabs from both rivers are fit for human consumption.
- (6) It is likely that traces of DDT and Dieldrin still occur in run-off from these areas. Although these pesticides have been banned from use for some time, they are very persistent in the environment and soil residues from past use take many years to break down.
- (7) None. These pesticides are no longer available for use in Queensland and any residual contamination is expected to diminish over time.

659. South East Freeway

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (7/8/96)—

With reference to his plan to widen the South East Freeway to eight lanes and his Ministerial Statement to the House on 24 July 1996 where he stated, "many suggestions from the public have already been incorporated in the planning for the South East Freeway"—

- (1) What suggestions have been made to him and by whom?
- (2) Which of these suggestions have been incorporated in the planning for the South East Freeway and what are the details?

Mr Johnson (5/9/96):

- (1) The people of Queensland and indeed both national and international groups have suggested that they did not want the Eastern Corridor proposal.

50,000 people involved in the Integrated Regional Transport Plan consultations

suggested that more priority should be given to public transport.

Brisbane City Council suggested Busways.

Logan City Council suggested that the solution include Busways and high occupancy vehicle lanes and reinstatement of existing service roads.

VETO and New Ways Not Freeways suggested upgrading the existing highway, with priority given to vehicles carrying multiple occupants.

Business have suggested that resumptions be minimised and that service roads be reinstated.

Local residents and local members have suggested that noise barriers be incorporated into the design and that people receive fair compensation for property acquisition.

- (2) We are not building an Eastern Corridor.

More priority will be given to public transport.

Busways and high occupancy vehicle lanes will be elements of the plan.

Existing service roads will be reinstated.

Noise barriers will be incorporated into the design.

Owners will receive fair compensation for property acquired.

Resumptions will be kept to a minimum.

660. Lighthouses

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Environment (7/8/96)—

With reference to plans by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority to hand over eight lighthouses surplus to their requirements to the Queensland Government—

- (1) Which eight are they?
- (2) Does he intend to accept them?
- (3) Will they all be retained in public ownership; if not, what will be their fate?
- (4) Which will be added to existing national parks?
- (5) To which use will these be put?
- (6) Are all covered by conservation guidelines drafted by the Australian Heritage Commission?
- (7) Will he sign these conservation deeds; if so, when?
- (8) What funding is he seeking to honour these deeds?

Mr Littleproud (20/8/96):

- (1) The eight lighthouse properties (of 37 under negotiation) the Honourable Member is probably referring to are the ones involving significant parcels of land with conservation values. These are Cape Moreton, Double Island Point, Sandy Cape, Bustard Head, Cape Capricorn, Cape Cleveland, Cape Bowling Green and Booby Island. All of these except Booby Island adjoin existing national parks.

- (2) Negotiations for the transfer are still continuing.

(3) If the transfer negotiations are successful, all properties with the exception of those where the Australian Maritime Safety Authority is seeking exclusive leasing arrangements over the total area will be retained in public ownership.

(4) The eight properties referred to earlier and their associated facilities, excluding the lighthouses themselves, will be set aside as national parks, conservation parks or a combination of both. Several of the other properties will also be dedicated as national parks.

(5) Only six properties involve the transfer of habitable accommodation. Bustard Head has been extensively vandalised, and there is no accommodation at Cape Bowling Green. The draft conservation deed requires the State to provide a human presence at these six locations. In most cases the properties could become a base for park staff. This is already the case at Double Island Point. Final details will depend on the outcome of transfer negotiations.

(6) The eight properties referred to earlier are subject to a heritage conservation deed drafted with the involvement of the Australian Heritage Commission.

(7) If the transfer negotiations are successful, I am prepared to enter into the conservation deed for the eight properties concerned.

(8) The transfer negotiations are subject to the Government's consideration of appropriate funding arrangements.

663. Banyo State High School

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Education (7/8/96)—

With reference to Banyo State High School and the desire of the Parents and Citizens Association and students for the manual arts facilities to be upgraded—

What is the time frame and program for the sale of school land which will provide funds for this necessary improvement to the school's facilities?

Mr Quinn (22/8/96): It is anticipated that the finalisation of the sale of school land will occur by the end of August 1996.

665. Police Staffing, Gladstone Electorate

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (7/8/96)—

With reference to the Gladstone Police District which endures an inequitable situation where the need for a Juvenile Aid Bureau is evident, yet no allocation has been made by the regional command—

Will he review this critical situation and allocate appropriate new personnel for this bureau as a matter of urgency?

Mr Cooper (4/9/96): The Assistant Commissioner, Central Police Region and District Officer, Gladstone Police District, are supportive of a

Juvenile Aid Bureau Office being established at Gladstone to service the needs of the Gladstone Police District.

Having regard to overall regional policing priorities, the Assistant Commissioner considers it is not appropriate that the proposed Juvenile Aid Bureau be established at the expense of reducing other police functions in the Region.

The Assistant Commissioner advises that a proposal was placed before the Queensland Police Service's Board of Management on 11 June 1996 for an increase in the staffing level of the Gladstone Police District which included the provision of additional staff for the creation of a Juvenile Aid Bureau Office at Gladstone.

A decision on this proposal was deferred, pending the outcome of a state-wide review of service delivery.

666. Police Staffing, Upper Mount Gravatt and Holland Park Police Stations

Ms SPENCE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (7/8/96)—

- (1) What numbers of operational police officers are rostered on duty at the Upper Mount Gravatt and Holland Park Police stations for each of the shifts?
- (2) What were these numbers for each month since July 1995?
- (3) What is the number and nature of available vehicles for each shift?
- (4) What positions does he intend to civilianise at each of these stations?
- (5) What is the rank of each of the officers at each of these stations?

Mr Cooper (4/9/96): It should be noted that Upper Mount Gravatt Police Station is a District Headquarters and that, with the exception of general duties personnel, officers from other organisations listed below operate throughout the Upper Mount Gravatt District.

- (1) The following numbers supplied are averages for any 24 hour period since July 1995.

Upper Mount Gravatt Police Station:

General Duties

6:00 am to 2:00 pm—3
 7:00 am to 3:00 pm—3
 2:00 pm to 10:00 pm—5
 3:00 pm to 11:00 pm—2
 10:00 pm to 6:00 am—5

Juvenile Aid Bureau

7:00 am to 3:00 pm—1
 8:00 am to 4:00 pm—3
 2:00 pm to 10:00 pm—2

Night work—One officer is supplied once every six week period to perform duty with a CIB member on the regional night wireless vehicle.

South Brisbane District

Traffic Branch

7:00 am to 5:00 pm—4
 10:00 am to 8:00 pm—3
 2:00 pm to 12:00 am—7
 3:00 pm to 1:00 am—3

Inquiry Office

8:00 am to 4:00 pm—2
 2:00 pm to 10:00 pm—2

Criminal Investigation Branch

6:00 am to 2:00 pm—2
 8:00 am to 4:00 pm—4
 2:00 pm to 10:00 pm—4
 4:00 pm to 12:00 am—2
 10:00 pm to 6:00 am—2

Note: The shifts and staff numbers at the South Brisbane District Criminal Investigation Branch are averages over the total period. In recent months a 1800—0200 shift has been worked on Friday evenings by 2 personnel to ensure an overlapping of shifts during busy periods.

Upper Mount Gravatt Scenes of Crime

7:00 am to 1:00 pm—1
 8:00 am to 4:00 pm—2
 2:00 pm to 10:00 pm—1 (the officer performing this shift remains on call until the following morning)

Note: These officers perform duty within the South Brisbane District but their office is situated at the Upper Mount Gravatt Police Station.

Holland Park Police Station:

General Duties

6:00 am to 2:00 pm—3
 7:00 am to 3:00 pm—1
 8:00 am to 4:00 pm—3
 2:00 pm to 10:00 pm—2
 4:00 pm to 12:00 pm—2
 10:00 pm to 6:00 am—2

(2) Numbers of operational police have generally remained constant at all establishments listed since July 1995. From time to time numbers have been depleted by instances of sick leave, e.g. the recent influenza epidemic.

(3) The details of shifts, number of vehicles and outline of duties are supplied in respect of the Upper Mount Gravatt police station:

6:00 am to 2:00 pm—one police car for uniform patrol
 7:00 am to 3:00 pm—one police car for uniform patrol
 2:00 pm to 10:00 pm—two police cars for use by uniform patrol and supervisor
 3:00 pm to 11:00 pm—one police car for uniform patrol
 10:00 pm to 6:00 am—two police cars for uniform patrols

The Upper Mount Gravatt Juvenile Aid Bureau has two unmarked cars for all shifts.

South Brisbane District Traffic Branch.

7:00 am to 5:00 pm—one police car and one motorcycle for patrol and radar
 10:00 am to 8:00 pm—one police car and one motorcycle for patrol and radar
 2:00 pm to 12:00 am—two police cars and two motorcycles for patrol and radar
 3:00 pm to 1:00 am—one heavy special purpose vehicle

South Brisbane District Inquiry Office has one vehicle available for uniform inquiries for all shifts.

South Brisbane District Criminal Investigation Branch

6:00 am to 2:00 pm—one unmarked car for CIB duties
 8:00 am to 4:00 pm—two unmarked cars for CIB duties
 2:00 pm to 10:00 pm—two unmarked cars for CIB duties
 4:00 pm to 12:00 am—one unmarked car for CIB duties
 10:00 pm to 6:00 am—one unmarked car for CIB duties

The Upper Mount Gravatt Scenes of Crime has two unmarked vehicles for all shifts

The Holland Park Police Station has one police car available for uniform patrol for all shifts.

(4) The process of civilianisation is being implemented throughout the Queensland Police Service, with priority being given to civilianising the positions of communications operators, roster clerks and property room workers. Where such positions exist at Upper Mount Gravatt and Holland Park Police Stations, they will be considered for civilianising as part of that process.

(5) Upper Mount. Gravatt General Duties

Senior Sergeant, in charge—1
 Senior Sergeant, operational—1
 Sergeant, operational—8
 Senior Constables, operational—7
 Constables, operational—17
 Upper Mount. Gravatt Juvenile Aid Bureau
 Detective Senior Sergeant, in charge 1

(includes Upper Mount Gravatt, Dutton Park & Morningside JAB offices)

Detective Sergeant—1
 Detective/PC Senior Constables—4
 Detective/PC Constables—3

South Brisbane District Traffic Branch

Senior Sergeant, in charge—1
 Senior Sergeant, operational—1
 Sergeant—5
 Senior Constables—12
 Constables—7

South Brisbane District Inquiry Office

Senior Sergeant, in charge—1
 Sergeant, supervisor—1
 Senior Constables—3
 Constables—4

South Brisbane District CIB

Senior Sergeant, in charge—1
 Detective Sergeants, operational—7
 Detective Senior Constables—13
 PC Constables—13

Upper Mount. Gravatt Scenes of Crime Office

Sergeant, in charge—1
 Senior Constables, operational—3
 Constable—1

Holland Park General Duties

Senior Sergeant, in charge—1
 Sergeant, operational—2
 Senior Constable, operational—3
 Constable, operational—13

668. Comparative Cost of Rail and Road Construction

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (7/8/96)—

- (1) What is the comparative unit cost for the construction of rail as against road; for example, how much would it cost to lay one kilometre of rail, being an extension of an existing network, and how much would it cost to lay one kilometre of six lane highway?
- (2) What is the upkeep cost of rail as against road; for example, how much would it cost over 20 years to maintain a kilometre of rail, and how much would it cost to maintain a kilometre of six lane highway?

Mr Johnson (5/9/96):

- (1) The construction costs for road and rail are only indicative as there are variables that influence the final costs.

Construction Costs

Railway construction costs vary from approximately \$1.5 million/km for a single track, low standard railway in a flat remote rural environment to \$40 million/km for the additional two tracks through inner Brisbane between Roma Street and Bowen Hills (Note: these costs exclude rollingstock). The 45 kilometre railway extension between Beenleigh and Robina is costing approximately \$6 million/km for essentially a high standard, partially double track, electrified commuter rail link (excluding rollingstock).

The construction costs for rail are dependent on the following variables:

- location of the rail line (urban/rural)
- land acquisition costs
- stations (spacing and standard)
- standard (to meet the expected traffic type and density)
- topography (the number and length of tunnels, bridges, cuttings)
- environmental issues (eg. noise barriers)
- the number of tracks and complexity of junctions
- interface required with the existing network (signalling systems, train control systems)
- whether the rail is electrified or non-electrified.

Other issues which also have an impact on the costs for rail are the rollingstock requirements, the servicing facilities for the rollingstock and the infrastructure maintenance facilities (equipment and depots). All these factors will influence the final costing of the railway and make it difficult for an accurate cost to be applied across all rail lines.

The indicative construction costs for roads are:

2 lane sealed road where pavement width <9.1m = \$0.75 million/km

3 lane sealed road where pavement width <11.6m = \$1 million/km

dual sealed carriage way with limited access = \$5 million/km

6 lane sealed motorway standard = \$12 million/km

Road construction costs have similar dependant variables which influence the final costs and must be considered in light of the :

- location of the road (urban/rural)

- land acquisition costs

- standard of road (to meet the expected traffic type and density)

- topography (the number and length of tunnels, bridges, cuttings)

- environmental issues (eg. noise barriers)

- the number of lanes

- weather patterns for the area

- (2) The maintenance costs for road and rail are only indicative as there are variables that influence the final costs.

Maintenance Costs

Maintenance costs for both rail and road will vary significantly depending on the following influences:

- traffic type and density will increase or lower the required maintenance

- standard of the original infrastructure

- the age of the original road or rail

- service quality standards expected to be maintained

- weather patterns, extended periods of bad weather may cause increased erosion placing pressure on surfaces. Different locations in Queensland may have higher maintenance costs dependent on the climatic conditions for that year.

The average annual rail infrastructure maintenance costs in the Brisbane suburban area relating to track, electrical and signalling for 1994/95 was \$150,000/km or approximately \$75,000/km of single track. For new constructions (at a higher initial infrastructure standards), the average cost would be reduced, estimated to be \$40-60,000/km per track.

The average cost per year for maintaining roads in Queensland are:

Urban arterial (sealed) roads—cost/km is \$51,111 and Total Cost/lane km is \$13,025

Rural arterial (sealed) roads—cost/km is \$11,049 and Total Cost/lane km is \$4,809

Rural arterial (unsealed) roads—cost/km is \$3,258 and Total Cost/lane km is \$1,629.

Costs for maintaining and constructing the roads and rail lines are directly influenced by the various factors outlined above. These factors make it difficult for specific costs per km to be made for each road or rail line as each requires specific factors to be considered in determining the end cost. The costs per km listed for the construction and maintenance of roads and rail lines, provide an indicative cost based on historical data from specific projects which allow these estimates to be calculated.

670. Cattle, Declaration Process

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (7/8/96)—

With reference to the successful introduction of the National Vendor Declaration Scheme on 1 July, which has greatly improved the flow of slaughter cattle between the States—

What action is he taking to introduce State-based legislation to strengthen the declaration process?

Mr Perrett (22/8/96): The proposal to have Queensland Legislation to strengthen the declaration process is being addressed by the Queensland Beef Industry Development Advisory Council.

Industry has a strong desire for legislative action but a number of questions have not been answered. These include:

who will pay for the administration of such legislation; and

how effective will legislation be in addressing the issue?

There is a possibility that Federal Legislation could be introduced to address this issue, and Federal Legislation may be more appropriate for what is a national issue. The vendor declaration is used throughout Australia.

Officers of the Department of Primary Industries are working with Commonwealth Officers on the proposed Federal Legislation.

673. Underpayment of Workers, Bundaberg Region

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (7/8/96)—

(1) How many complaints of underpayment of workers have been made to the Bundaberg office in 1995-96?

(2) What is the amount of the payments made to workers as a result of these complaints?

Mr Santoro (26/8/96):

(1) During the period 1 July 1995 to 30 June 1996 a total of 215 wage complaints were received at the Bundaberg Office of the District Industrial Inspector.

(2) During the same period, an amount of \$100 864.39 was recovered on behalf of employees in respect of their complaints. A further amount of \$4 462.35 was recovered in the Industrial Magistrates Court.

675. Victims of Crime

Mr FOLEY asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (7/8/96)—

What action has he taken to ensure the implementation of the fundamental principles of justice for victims set out in the Criminal Offences (Victims) Act 1995 by prosecutors, police and correctional authorities in their dealings with victims of crime?

Mr Beanland (5/9/96): In answer to the question by the Honourable Member, it can be said, in relation to prosecutors, that the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions has, in the limited time since the Act became law in December, 1995—

- (a) Conducted training for prosecutors and legal officers on the principles contained in the Act;
- (b) Further training has been carried out by Victim Support staff to prosecutors upon aspects of the Act;
- (c) Drafted information brochures covering various aspects of the prosecution process including Victim Impact Statements and Criminal Injuries Compensation. These brochures will be printed after the review of the Criminal Offence Victims Act 1995 is completed, and
- (d) Prepared guidelines to assist staff to comply with the Act.

During 1996/97, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions will provide—

- (a) Resource material for distribution to victims;
- (b) Training for all Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions staff in victim related issues eg. The use of Victim Impact Statements and
- (c) Increased staffing resources to respond to the needs of victims of violent crimes.

676. Electricity Supply, Effect on Land-holders

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (7/8/96)—

What guarantee can he give that his new proposals for a "Westlink" electricity connection, involving more than an extra 100km of wiring and towers, will be acceptable to land-holders affected by the new route, in comparison with the "Eastlink" proposal and those affected by it, in view of the fact that the "Eastlink" location was decided after rejection of routes which would have caused a problem to small land-holdings and land-holders?

Mr Gilmore (3/9/96): Unlike Eastlink, the interconnection to the National Grid will, wherever possible, avoid areas of intense cultivation and small land-holdings and will maximise the use of public land. Any affected landowners will be fully consulted in the siting of the line so that they have their say in where the line is located.

679. Westminster Convention

Mr WELLS asked the Premier (8/8/96)—

Is his Government committed to the Westminster convention that a Minister who misleads the House must resign?

Mr Borbidge (13/8/96): My Government will apply the Westminster convention with at least the same level of vigour as the convention was applied by the Goss Labor Government.

681. Water Supply, Thuringowa Electorate

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Natural Resources (8/8/96)—

With reference to a State Government subsidy of \$210,000 paid to the Thuringowa City Council for a reticulated water supply to the suburb of Jensen, of which only \$105,000 has been applied to that scheme—

- (1) What is proposed to be done with the remaining \$105,000?
- (2) If there is no other scheme in Thuringowa to which the funds can appropriately be applied, can they now be used to reduce the cost to ratepayers of the Jensen scheme?

Mr Hobbs (26/8/96): I wish to point out that this "question on notice" should be forwarded to my colleague The Honourable Di McCauley Minister for Local Government and Planning as the original source of funding for the Jensen reticulation extension came via the then Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning, the Honourable Terry Mackenroth.

682. Sithe Engineering; Power Station, Brisbane Region

Mr BEATTIE asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (8/8/96)—

With reference to the proposal by Sithe Engineering to site a gas powered power station in the industrial area near the mouth of the Brisbane River—

- (1) Does he support this proposal?
- (2) Has he met with the proponents?
- (3) If adequate gas supplies are unavailable at the time of commissioning the plant, what fuel will be used in the interim and for what period of time is this likely to occur?
- (4) What emission problems is this likely to cause?
- (5) Once operating on gas, what levels and types, and levels of emissions are anticipated?
- (6) What control measures are planned to limit these emissions?
- (7) What studies have been done to assess the ability of the South East Queensland airshed to accept these additional emissions?
- (8) Is there any linkage between Sithe's plans and Pratt Industries' activities in this area?

Mr Gilmore (3/9/96): Sithe Energies proposal is only one possible option for generating electricity from gas. Alternative options (both in terms of sites, gas supply source and owner/operators) exist and should be considered. In any event, all such proposals should be tested in a competitive environment to ensure the best outcome for Queensland.

I have met with proponents from Sithe Energies.

Sithe Energies has agreed with the Brisbane City Council only to use natural gas as a primary fuel source for its Gibson Island proposal, and to use either a low-sulphur distillate oil or, if available, LPG as a backup fuel source. The use of backup fuel would be minimal.

While the use of distillate oil produces higher levels of sulphur and nitrogen oxides, its restricted use as a backup fuel will have a minimal impact on overall emissions levels from the plant.

In negotiations with the Brisbane City Council, Sithe Energies agreed to only operate a cogeneration facility at Gibson Island using enhanced nitrogen oxide (NO₂) reduction techniques. The primary pollutant from the plant would be NO₂ with no significant sulphur oxide or particle emissions. The emission rate of NO₂ from the plant would be no more than 20 g/s, and maximum ground-level concentrations close to the plant predicted at 9.5 ppb. These levels fall well within NH&MRC and other environmental guidelines.

The Sithe proposal will use the world's best emission control measures. Such measures will include a Selective Catalytic Reduction unit and Dry Low NO₂ combustors with water or steam injection.

A study undertaken by an independent consultant Peter Best (of Katestone Scientific) has provided a detailed analysis of the impact of the various plant options on the Brisbane Air Shed. This report concluded that the plant would not cause any significant increases in regional NO₂ or SO₂ levels, and would be acceptable in terms of both the direct impact on local air quality and the influence on ozone levels.

Pratt Industries recently opened a paper recycling mill at Gibson Island. It has been proposed that the energy and steam produced from the proposed Sithe cogeneration plant could be used as a means of reducing energy and steam costs. Pratt Industries have also indicated that if this was the case they would consider developing another paper recycling mill on Gibson Island.

683. Fitzroy Development Road, Middlemount

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (8/8/96)—

With reference to the Fitzroy Development Road, north of Middlemount, which has sections of single lane bitumen seal which pose a danger to motorists and school students travelling by bus to Valkyrie State School—

What are the Department of Main Roads' plans with respect to the strengthening and widening of the Fitzroy Development Road, between Middlemount and the Peak Downs Highway?

Mr Johnson (5/9/96): The Roads Implementation Program 1995/1996-1996/1997 and indicative 1997/1998-1999/2000, provides for widening of selected sections of the single-lane Fitzroy Developmental Road in Broadsound Shire between Middlemount and the Peak Downs Highway. The works will provide safe passing opportunities, at an estimated cost of \$1.5 million

and currently are programmed in the latter part of the program. This work follows on from the recently completed \$4.7 million scheme to widen the road south of the Middlemount turn off.

685. Illegal Seafood Trading, Mackay Region

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (8/8/96)—

With reference to the article which appeared in the *Mackay Daily Mercury* of 8 August regarding illegal seafood trading and labelling Mackay as the "black market capital of Queensland" for this activity—

- (1) What steps are being taken to prevent trading in illegal seafood?
- (2) How many fisheries inspectors are based in Mackay?
- (3) How many additional fisheries inspectors will he employ to prevent this illegal practice and, if no additional inspections are to be employed, what is the reason?
- (4) How many successful prosecutions has the department had in 1986-87, 1987-88, 1988-89, 1989-90, 1990-91, 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96?

Mr Perrett (22/8/96): Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol (QBFP) staff routinely enforce provisions of the Fisheries Act 1994 including illegal trading in seafood. The current District Officer has indicated that in the four (4) months he has been in the Mackay District, he has not received any information or reports of illegal fish trading from the person who made the allegations to the *Mackay Daily Mercury*. Any information provided will be investigated.

Mackay normally has three (3) QBFP staff. While there is currently a vacancy in the centre, it is anticipated that the District will have its full staff complement in the near future.

The Government has made a commitment to significantly increase Patrol funding this year. I have already announced the establishment of new bases at Wondai and Longreach and additional resources and staff can be expected in the budget. This will enable the Patrol to be more effective statewide in policing fisheries breaches, including illegal fish sales.

The following number of successful fisheries prosecutions have occurred in Mackay since 1986:

1986—17; 1987—36; 1988—23; 1989—22; 1990—20; 1991—18; 1992—24; 1993—25; 1994—27; 1994-95—12; 1995-96—12.

687. Railway Facilities, Townsville Region

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (8/8/96)—

With reference to his announcement of the closure of the railways north yard workshop—

- (1) What is the estimated cost to decontaminate the site?
- (2) How will the land be disposed of; that is, in toto or by individual lot?

- (3) When does he intend to provide the much-mooted new railway station on the south side of Ross Creek?

Mr Johnson (5/9/96):

(1) "The closure" of the railways north yard workshop in Townsville is in fact part of an exciting \$8 million upgrade of QR workshop facilities in Townsville. This expansion will provide upgraded facilities in the south yard and ongoing meaningful work for the staff in those facilities. This is a stark contrast to the harsh strategies adopted by the previous Labor Government when they closed lines, shops and displaced workers and threw communities into turmoil.

There are a number of options when selling probable contaminated land, and the funds which need to be allocated will depend on the option selected. Options may include:

sale of land as "contaminated"—the price would be lowered, however the purchaser would then be responsible for any clean-up

remediate the site to a level necessary for a particular land use—restrictions on future land uses would be placed on the site

fully remediate site prior to sale—there would then be no restrictions (from a contaminated land viewpoint) on proposed new land uses

Therefore, the estimated cost to decontaminate the site would be dependent on the future use of the land.

(2) The north yard site contains an area of approximately 15.3 hectares of which approximately 13 hectares is scheduled to become surplus to Queensland Rail operational requirements in December 1997.

In anticipation of this site becoming surplus, Queensland Rail is in the preliminary stages of developing a disposal strategy based on a land use study that was jointly commissioned with the Townsville City Council to identify broad future uses for the site.

The disposal strategy will be based on a feasibility study that takes into account the proposed land uses, the prevailing market conditions, additional Council requirements, remediation that may be required, and heritage considerations.

This process will ensure that a disposal strategy can be developed that has the support of the Council and maximises the returns available to Queensland Rail.

Current indications are that the total holding could not be readily absorbed into the local property market and as a result the site may be required to be released on a staged basis over several years. The balance of the site would then be leased on a short term basis, where possible, in the interim period.

However, any change in the local property market during the course of the disposal strategy would necessitate a review of the disposal action and adjustments to the strategy as appropriate.

(3) There is no timetable at this stage to relocate Townsville station to the possible site south of Ross

Creek. Planning is proceeding to finalise road/rail grade separation options at Boundary Street, which can incorporate a station north of Boundary Street adjacent to the Civic Theatre. However, constructing a new station is not a high priority, particularly given the recent upgrade of the existing heritage station.

688. Police Staffing, Whitsunday Electorate

Mrs BIRD asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (8/8/96)—

- (1) What numbers of operational police are rostered on duty at Proserpine, Cannonvale and Bowen Police stations?
- (2) What were these numbers for each month since July 1995?
- (3) What is the number and nature of available vehicles for each shift?
- (4) What positions does he intend to civilianise at each of these stations?
- (5) What is the rank of each of the officers at each of these stations?

Mr Cooper (4/9/96):

(1) The authorised strength for Proserpine Station General Duties component is seven general duties officers and is supplemented by one Mackay District Traffic Branch officer and one District Education and Training Officer.

The authorised strength for Whitsunday (previously Cannonvale) Station General Duties component is 17 general duties officers and is supplemented by three Criminal Investigation Branch officers, three Water Police officers, one District Intelligence Officer.

Bowen Station has 13 general duties officers, two Criminal Investigation Branch Officers and one Scenes of Crime Officer. Two further general duties officers are to commence duty in September 1996.

(2) The following numbers supplied are averages for any 24 hour period since July 1995:

Proserpine Station:

July 1995—9
 August 1995—8
 September 1995—9
 October 1995—8
 November 1995—7
 December 1995—7
 January 1996—7
 February 1996—6
 March 1996—7
 April 1996—7
 May 1996—7
 June 1996—6
 July 1996—6.

During the period July to October 1995, one general duties officer was performing part-time duties and has been included in these figures.

During the period November 1995 to February 1996, one general duties officer was rostered for non-operational duties and was not included in these figures.

Whitsunday Station:

July 1995—20
 August 1995—20
 September 1995—20
 October 1995—20
 November 1995—20
 December 1995—21
 January 1996—20
 February 1996—21
 March 1996—21
 April 1996—22
 May 1996—22
 June 1996—22
 July 1996—24 (includes surplus officer)

Bowen Station:

July 1995—17
 August 1995—19
 September 1995—19
 October 1995—18
 November 1995—18
 December 1995—18
 January 1996—16
 February 1996—16
 March 1996—16
 April 1996—16
 May 1996—18
 June 1996—18
 July 1996—17.

(3) Proserpine Station has three marked sedans.

Whitsunday Station has two marked sedans, one unmarked sedan and one unmarked four wheel drive vehicle.

Bowen Station has two marked sedans, one motor cycle, one unmarked four wheel drive vehicle and one unmarked sedan.

(4) No positions have yet been identified for civilianisation in Proserpine, Whitsunday and Bowen Police Stations.

(5) Proserpine Station:

Officer in Charge—1 Sergeant
 General duties—1 Sergeant, 2 Senior Constable, 3 Constables
 Traffic Branch—1 Senior Constable

Whitsunday Station:

Officer in Charge—1 Senior Sergeant
 General duties—2 Sergeants, 4 Senior Constables, 10 Constables
 CIB—1 Detective Sergeant, 1 Detective Senior Constable, 1 Plain Clothes Constable
 Water Police—1 Sergeant, 1 Senior Constable, 1 Constable

Bowen Station:

General Duties —1 Senior Sergeant, 2 Sergeants, 4 Senior Constables, 9 Constables
 CIB—1 Detective Sergeant, 1 Detective Senior Constable
 Scenes of Crime—1 Senior Constable

689. Eastlink

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (8/8/96)—

With reference to his recent signing of an inter-Government agreement in Adelaide which will pave the way for a national electricity market and his recommencement of a feasibility study into an interconnection along with New South Wales and the Commonwealth grid—

- (1) Other than for the type of connection and the route the power takes, what is the difference between this proposal and Eastlink?
- (2) How is this scheme not an "extension lead" into New South Wales as the Government described Eastlink?
- (3) What are the terms of reference of the feasibility study?
- (4) What are the time frames of the feasibility study and its Queensland funding component?
- (5) When will he be in a position to announce the actual means of power connection and the route to be followed?
- (6) In the face of this second backflip on his part on major power issues facing this State, will he now admit Eastlink was the correct plan to follow at this time and his support of the groups opposing it was for shallow political purposes?

Mr Gilmore (3/9/96):

1. Unlike Eastlink, the Government's proposal to interconnect to the National Grid is:

to be completed after Queensland has strengthened its generating facilities so that Queensland can enter the market on equal terms rather than from a position of weakness;

to be completed after Queensland has strengthened its internal transmission network so that existing Queensland generation plant can export power;

being relocated to a more strategic route via the vast undeveloped coal deposits and gas pipeline to facilitate development of those energy resources to meet the growing electricity needs not only of Southern Queensland but also the whole of south-east Australia;

being sited away from areas of intense cultivation and small land-holdings;

being sited on public land wherever practical.

Eastlink was a "stop gap" measure to bring 500 MW of peaking power into Queensland in 1999 to fill the gap caused by previous procrastination on new generation plant. The interconnection to the National Grid will enable Queensland to export 1000 MW of base load power to the Southern States due to a more strategic route and the other supporting electricity infrastructure which has been committed.

2. The feasibility study will be conducted in two phases. The first phase, which is complete, was a joint study between Queensland, New South Wales and the Commonwealth on the economic feasibility of the interconnection. The second phase is the

technical and economic feasibility of the revised route.

3. Phase 1 of the feasibility study is complete. Phase 2 has commenced and is scheduled for completion by January 1997. Powerlink Queensland is funding the Queensland component.

4. January 1997.

5. No. As outlined in 1 above, Eastlink was a "stop gap" measure whereas the interconnection to the National Grid is part of the strategic development of Queensland's Electricity Infrastructure which will bring major long term benefits to the State.

694. Tourist Development of National Park

Mr BRADY asked the Minister for Environment (8/8/96)—

With reference to a recent media report in the *Courier Mail* in which he was reported to be considering an unnamed national park in Queensland's south west for private tourist development in addition to Carnarvon National Park—

- (1) Which park is being referred to?
- (2) Which company or individuals is he talking to in regard to allowing commercial access to this park?
- (3) Is he considering tourist lodge development as well as camp ground management?
- (4) What segment of the tourist market is he targeting with this move?

Mr Littleproud (27/8/96): 1. Presumably, the question refers to a proposal in relation to Girraween National Park, but this proposal actually is for private land near the Park. No further details relevant to the remainder of the question are available.

695. Korea Zinc; Stuart Industrial Estate

Ms SPENCE asked the Minister for Environment (8/8/96)—

With reference to Korea Zinc's purchase of a 1700 ha block in the Stuart Industrial Estate, which is more than 900 ha more land than originally proposed—

- (1) Are there any important environmental areas on this expanded area; if so, are there any plans to incorporate the "buffer" land in a conservation tenure to allow its management and ensure protection of these important areas?
- (2) What tenure is proposed and what area is being considered?
- (3) Are there any important Aboriginal archaeological sites contained within this expanded area; if so, what protective measures are being put in place to ensure these areas are not disturbed?

Mr Littleproud (26/8/96):

(1) & (2) Sun Metals Corp Pty Ltd, a subsidiary company of Korea Zinc Co Pty Ltd recently purchased Freehold Lots EP1524 (794.934 ha); EP5

(79.546 ha); and E124232 (37.63576 ha), together with Pastoral Holding Lease No. 433 (776.9965 ha).

Korea Zinc has advised that the land in excess of lot EP1524 (the site for the proposed zinc smelter) was bought on the basis of its use as buffer zone and as a condition of purchase from the vendor who owned all the above land. Korea Zinc advise it is not looking to use such land for any purpose associated with the smelter, as the additional lands consist of steep hill country, rendering it unsuitable for industrial utilisation. Korea Zinc has advised Government of its intention to surrender the Pastoral Lease to the Crown to be included as part of an expanded buffer zone around the smelter.

(3) Neither the Government or Korea Zinc are aware of any important Aboriginal archaeological sites contained within the expanded area. It should be recognised that a significant part of EP1524 is proposed by Sun Metals Corp Pty Ltd to be excised and transferred to the Crown for the purposes of protection of known Aboriginal relics on the proposed smelter site. As noted in the answer to Questions (1) and (2), Korea Zinc has advised it has no intention of disturbing any land within the expanded area.

696. Port Hinchinbrook Development

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (8/8/96)—

With reference to his approval and support for the Port Hinchinbrook development—

- (1) Is he concerned to ensure that the development does not impose unacceptable impacts on the neighbouring World Heritage values of the strait and Hinchinbrook Island?
- (2) What steps has he taken to require the preparation of the environmental Management Plan (Clause 18) and Environmental Resource Management Programs (Clause 19) required by the Deed of Agreement between the developer and the State of Queensland?
- (3) When will these plans and programs be made public?
- (4) Has he read the recent subsequent report by Dr Reichelt and the further report by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority regarding the environmental impacts of the development; if not, why not?
- (5) What action is he taking to ensure the issues raised by these two reports are addressed?
- (6) Will he ensure that the Hinchinbrook Regional Coastal Management Plan is in place before the development proceeds, as proposed by the previous Labor Government?
- (7) Given the extensive consultation and advanced stage of preparation of such a plan reached by the previous Labor Government, why is he and his Federal counterpart scheming to drag out the planning process for another two years?

Mr Littleproud (27/8/96):

(1) On 12 August 1996, draft management plans were released for the Hinchinbrook Island and Brook, Family and Goold Islands National Parks. These draft

plans clearly show the Government's intent to manage these areas in accordance with their world heritage status. The Government has also announced the development of a Hinchinbrook /Cardwell Regional Coastal Management Plan which will be jointly funded and overseen by the Commonwealth. This plan will guide use of adjoining areas with particular reference to potential adverse impacts on world heritage values.

In addition, this Government has worked closely with the Commonwealth Government to strengthen the provisions proposed by the previous Government to prevent unacceptable impacts on areas neighbouring the Port Hinchinbrook development. New provisions have been included through a variation to the Deed of Agreement with Cardwell Properties Pty Ltd (Mr Williams) to require State and Commonwealth approval for a "best practice" dredging program and for revegetation of mangroves along the foreshore in areas approved to be cleared by the previous Government.

(2) Clause 18 of the Deed of Agreement between the State, Cardwell Shire Council and Cardwell Properties Pty Ltd requires the preparation of an Environmental Management Plan and specifies what will be in the plan and when those pieces of information will be provided. Most of the required information relates to activities that are not required to be approved at this stage i.e. insect management, refuse, sewage, and a marina code of practice. Other parts of the requirements under this Clause are being fulfilled progressively.

Clause 19 of the Deed of Agreement between the State, Cardwell Shire Council and Cardwell Properties Pty Ltd relates to any future use of adjacent National Parks and Marine Parks and Natural and Cultural Heritage Sites. No proposals for the use of such sites have been received and hence there are no relevant resource management programs prepared.

(3) All plans, when prepared, will be available to the public.

(4) The reports by Dr Reichelt and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority were prepared for the Commonwealth Government as part of its deliberations on the project. Copies of these reports were provided to the Queensland Government for information by the Commonwealth Government.

(5) The issues raised in the reports by Dr. Reichelt and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority are being dealt with through the Commonwealth consent process, other statutory approvals processes or under the Deed of Agreement between the State, Cardwell Shire Council and Cardwell Properties Pty Ltd.

(6) The preparation of the Hinchinbrook/Cardwell Regional Coastal Management Plan has just been announced and it is expected to be completed before the resort is constructed and open for guests.

(7) The preparation of a Regional Coastal Management Plan has a statutory consultation process. This process was not commenced under the previous Government and hence the plan could not have been completed before development

proceeded as construction had already commenced under approvals issued by the previous Government. It is the intent to have the plan completed before the resort is constructed and open for guests. The Government has worked closely and cooperatively with the Commonwealth Government on this issue.

697. Queensland Hardwood Resources; Woodchip Export Ceiling

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Environment (8/8/96)—

With reference to the Federal Government's intention to abandon the woodchip export ceiling and the application by a Queensland company, Queensland Hardwood Resources, for an export licence—

- (1) From his position as Environment Minister does he support this application by Queensland Hardwood Resources; if not, has he opposed it in discussions with his colleagues, the Ministers for Primary Industries and Natural Resources?
- (2) Will he guarantee the conservation of those high value, old growth forests not yet represented in the State Reserve system?

Mr Littleproud (27/8/96):

(1) The grant of export licences for woodchips and other Australian products is entirely the responsibility of the Commonwealth Government and is not linked to any decision made by the Queensland Environment portfolio.

With respect to the use of wood resources generally, the Queensland Government is keen to facilitate the profitable use of residues from timber mills. My colleague the Minister for Natural Resources has asked that options be considered for the use of this material and has sought advice on the matter from the Forest Working Group—a reference body which includes representatives of the timber industry, conservation groups and unions.

The Government prefers that, rather than going to waste as is currently the case, these residues are used in ways which create local employment and contribute to the State's economy. The Government is also committed to ensure that any use of such residues is ecologically sustainable.

(2) The Queensland Government is meeting its commitments under the National Forest Policy Statement, signed in 1992. It is continuing to carry out comprehensive regional assessments of forests with view to ensuring that the conservation values of those forests are protected in a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system and that a secure and sustainable investment climate is created for the timber industry.

The existence of old-growth values is one of the many criteria which are taken into account.

698. Environment Protection Council

Mr FOURAS asked the Minister for Environment (8/8/96)—

With reference to the recently announced composition of his Environment Protection Council—

- (1) Will the Chair be drawn from industry, the conservation movement, Local Government or his department?
- (2) Will his nominated environmental representatives come from mainstream environmental groups?
- (3) Will the three local authority representatives be nominated by the Local Government Association?
- (4) Will the Local Government Association have a representative on the council?
- (5) Will Brisbane City Council be assured of one of the three local authority positions?
- (6) Will the rural small businessperson be representing any particular organisation?

Mr Littleproud (26/8/96):

(1) It so happens that the Chair, who has been nominated by the Acting Director-General of the Department of Environment, represents neither industry, the conservation movement, local government nor the Department.

(2) Whether they are members or not of "mainstream environmental groups" is not relevant. However, both my nominees are active members of nationally recognised environmental groups, and I am of the view that these groups will endorse my nominations.

(3) Yes.

(4) Yes.

(5) No. However, the Local Government Association of Queensland Inc., as anticipated, has nominated a representative of the Brisbane City Council.

(6) No. However, the nominated person may well be a member of any of a range of rural and small business organisations.

701. Coal Trains, Cleveland Rail Line

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (8/8/96)—

- (1) Will he direct that coal trains travelling through suburban areas of Brisbane, be covered?
- (2) Is he aware that thousands of people live along the Cleveland line to the Port of Brisbane?
- (3) Will he give them a date from which coal trains will be covered?
- (4) Is he aware that clouds of coal dust cover all nearby residential homes as a direct result of the uncovered coal causing residents great discomfort, dirtying their homes and necessitating regular cleaning of their houses?
- (5) Will he pay for the cost to residents to have their houses cleaned?
- (6) Will he instruct his department to ensure that coal is hosed down prior to commencing its journey through suburban areas?
- (7) Will he stop trains travelling all night taking coal to the Port of Brisbane?
- (8) Will he buy all houses along the Cleveland line to the Port of Brisbane, thereby creating a noise buffer area?

- (9) Does he think a noise buffer area is a good idea for Brisbane residents along this line?
- (10) Does he know if, offered a fair price, residents along this line will sell their homes?

Mr Johnson (5/9/96):

(1) My recollection may be incorrect, however, I do believe that the questions asked by the Member for Bulimba were never satisfactorily addressed by the previous Labor Government. Queensland Rail has conveyed coal to the Port of Brisbane since the early 1980s with no form of dust suppression used since that time. Queensland Rail transports coal on a commercial basis for mining customers. Queensland Rail will not be directed to institute a system of covering wagons that would clearly change the economics of its business overnight. It would also be unrealistic to expect the mining industry to pay for the covering of coal wagons when this transport method has been in vogue for almost two decades.

(2) The rail connection to the Port of Brisbane is similar to other major transport routes in this state where industry, transport and residential areas co-exist.

(3) Queensland Rail does not have a program for the covering of coal wagons to the Port of Brisbane and the Government will not be directing such a solution to be adopted.

(4) Studies into the generation of dust by coal trains within the Brisbane metropolitan region have been conducted by Queensland Rail. The evidence of dust generation by coal trains is inconclusive and the extent of the issue is unclear. Few concerns have been expressed by residents to Queensland Rail over the possibility of coal trains generating dust.

(5) It is not intended for any payments to be made to residents for house cleaning.

(6) Queensland Rail, which is a government owned corporation, not a department of transport, has evaluated several different concepts for the covering of wagon loads, including the use of water for bulk loading such as coal. The use of water causes significant cost impacts and operational concerns to Queensland Rail. QR is unlikely to recover the costs associated with any such system, and therefore, will not be directed to implement it.

(7) No. Every effort is made to minimise disturbance to residents, however, limitations on track capacity, priority given to passenger services during daylight hours and the needs of providing a cost effective transport solution to sustain employment in the Ipswich area and to support primary industry in the Darling Downs area and generate foreign exchange for Australia, dictate the need to run transport services around the clock. The alternatives are to shut down industry or to divert freight transport to road, both of these options are not satisfactory solutions.

(8) The railway and noise associated with steam or diesel train operations existed prior to any property owner purchasing adjoining land. However, the government and Queensland Rail recognise changing community standards, particularly with regards to noise, and considerable effort is being

directed to identifying possible solutions. Bulk acquisition of properties along the Cleveland line, or along all the railways throughout Queensland, is not an acceptable solution to this government.

Erection of medium height noise barriers is proposed along sections of the rail corridor from Yeerongpilly, where rail noise exceeds the noise standards adopted. This action should go a long way in reducing a pre-existing problem with rail noise. Treating the noise problem at its source is also being targeted, and from experience with the new generation diesel locomotives now operating in north Queensland, this method is highly encouraging.

(9) A noise buffer area would be ideal, however history has overtaken us and it is too late now to impose a buffer strip through the member's electorate.

(10) Buying houses along this rail corridor to solve a pre-existing rail noise issue is not contemplated by this government.

702.PCBs, Storage

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Environment (8/8/96)—

With reference to criticism by the Coalition when in Opposition of the storage of PCBs in a warehouse at Rocklea—

- (1) What has he done since coming to Government to alter this situation?
- (2) Does he still intend to move the material back to New South Wales, its State of origin; if so, how will he move this material and when?
- (3) If he does not intend to relocate the material, how does he intend to deal with it?

Mr Littleproud (26/8/96): (1), (2) & (3) Another mess inherited from Labor.

I have requested the Department of Environment to ensure that the waste PCB material is either disposed of safely or removed to its state of origin. The Department's contact with the owners of the waste PCB material has confirmed that the owners have a contract with an interstate company to treat and dispose of the waste. I am advised that one container has been removed from Queensland to prove the capability of the treatment process. A second contract with a Queensland company provides for treatment of the waste if problems were to arise interstate. Regular contact with the owners and the storage company will be maintained to monitor progress against the contracts.

703.Coalmining, Surat Basin

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (8/8/96)—

With reference to the Premier's recent announcement that the Government will be supporting and allowing coal mining in the Surat Basin—

- (1) Will he explain how it is intended to transport the coal to the port and ship out these new coal resources?

- (2) Does the Government intend to (a) rail the coal through Toowoomba, Ipswich and Brisbane and then through the Port of Brisbane or (b) ship the coal from the Port of Gladstone which will require the building of a rail link from Wandoan to Theodore and require an upgrading of the rail line from Theodore to Gladstone?
- (3) What alternatives to the above options will the Government consider for transporting and shipping the coal from the Surat Basin?

Mr Gilmore (3/9/96):

- (1) The Government intends to call for expressions of interest from private consortiums to offer solutions and/or options for infrastructure in the Surat Basin. An inter-departmental committee has been established to formulate this call for expressions of interest and evaluate the results.
- (2) The Government does not intend to limit the scope of the expressions of interest as we believe that some very innovative ideas may be generated from this exercise, which could provide a number of efficient and effective solutions for transportation of coal to port.
- (3) The Government will consider any worthwhile alternatives to those outlined in your question.

706. Victims of Crime; Alternative Dispute Resolution Program

Mr FOLEY asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (8/8/96)—

With reference to his pre-election promise when he was in Opposition, as set out in his media release of 10 July 1995, of "an annual additional State Government grant of \$1m to Victims of Crime support services"—

- (1) Why has he failed to honour this promise to date?
- (2) Does he still adhere to this promise?
- (3) To which organisation or organisations will the additional \$1m grant be made?
- (4) Why has he cut support services to victims of crime by slashing over 50 per cent from the \$1.8m budget of the alternative Dispute Resolution Program which provides mediation services for victim/offender conferencing?
- (5) Does he propose to fund the promised \$1m additional grant to victims of crime support services out of the money saved by slashing the alternative Dispute Resolution Program?
- (6) How long will victims of crime organisations have to wait before they receive additional funding from the Government?

Mr Beanland (26/8/96):

- (1) The additional funding for Victims of Crime services will be determined in terms of the forthcoming budgetary process.
- (2) Refer to (1).
- (3) This would be assessed after funds have been made available.

(4) The question by the Honourable Member is particularly intriguing as victim/offender conferencing under the former Labor government was an overwhelming failure. The community would undoubtedly be startled at the level of resources and lack of action that occurred in this area under two Labor Attorneys-General. In the 1993-94 financial year, \$22,500 was allocated under former Attorney-General Dean Wells MLA, and for that funding only 19 conferences were convened. This amounts to an average cost of \$1,184 per conference which the community had to bear in that disastrous administration. In the following year, 1994-95, again under Attorney-General Dean Wells MLA, \$43,000 was allocated to victim/offender conferencing. For this almost doubled funding provision only 18 conferences were held that year, one less than the previous year. The average cost per conference in that year was \$2,389, more than double the previous year with less output. In the 1995-96 financial year, under former Attorney-General Matt Foley MLA, \$133,000 was allocated. For this vastly increased amount to victim/offender conferencing, only 22 conferences were undertaken. This disgraceful output amounts to a cost of \$6,045 per conference. Therefore, the Honourable Member will undoubtedly not be proud of his former government's record in relation to victim/offender conferencing. Its approach was unplanned, uncoordinated and conceptually ineffective. This government's approach will utilise a model which involves implementation in an effective way and including proper design and selection to achieve the government's objectives.

The Honourable Member should also be aware of the government's intention to introduce new mediation services into courts throughout the State.

(5) No.

(6) I refer the Honourable Member to my answer to question (1) above.

708. Queensland Corrective Services Commission; Mr T. Lewis

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (8/8/96)—

With reference to the decision of 29 July by the Queensland Corrective Services Commission to refuse media interviews with prisoners other than in "unusual and extenuating circumstances", a decision which effectively reinforces the practice the Commission put in place under the previous Labor Government and which was already in place when he intervened directly to allow disgraced former Police Commissioner and convicted criminal Terry Lewis to be interviewed by a media outlet—

- (1) How does the practice differ from the practice under the Labor Government?
- (2) Does he agree with the practice determined by the Queensland Corrective Services Commission and does he accept that his direct involvement in allowing the Lewis interview was a gross error of political judgement and a breach of the Commission's then practice?

- (3) Would the boards new practice have prevented Terry Lewis from being interviewed?

Mr Cooper (21/8/96):

(1) Guidelines on prisoner contact with the media were developed in 1989. Requests were considered by the head of the Commission's media unit. There was no change to the guidelines on media access to prisoners under the previous Labour Government. The QCSC Board considered a proposal in January 1996 to not allow interviews with prisoners "unless they were in the interests of justice". The Board considered that the concept of "interests of justice" could be subjective in its application. The Board required the QCSC to give the issue further consideration and report back to Board. This matter had not been resolved by the QCSC by the time of the Lewis interview.

(2) At the time of the Lewis interview, the QCSC's practice relating to media interviews of prisoners was still under review. In the Lewis case, the Chairperson of the Board made the decision to allow the interview to proceed.

(3) This is a hypothetical question. Each case is a matter for consideration at the time having regard to the particular circumstances.

713. Timber Industry

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Natural Resources (8/8/96)—

With reference to the eleven areas of high conservation value currently protected from logging under the Labor Government's interim management arrangements and given that the interim management arrangements enjoyed the support of both the timber industry and conservation movement—

- (1) Does he plan to allow logging of this State's oldest and most endangered native forests?
- (2) Has the decision to allow logging already been agreed to at a departmental officer level?
- (3) Will he assure Queenslanders that trees more than 200 years old will not be sacrificed for woodchips and exported overseas only to return to Australia as paper?

Mr Hobbs (26/8/96): Along with all the other states of Australia, Queensland is a signatory to the National Forest Policy Statement. This agreement commits each state to identifying and protecting significant areas of old growth with high conservation value forest.

Queensland is meeting its commitments through a comprehensive regional assessment program which is designed to identify and protect old growth with high conservation value forest in a system of reserves.

An interim assessment process was conducted jointly by DNR, DPI and DOE. It has identified a substantial number of areas within State Forests and Timber Reserves that, based on present knowledge, may contain major large areas of old growth and/or wilderness with known high conservation values.

These areas are excluded from native forest harvesting under current interim arrangements.

The interim arrangements to exclude harvesting from areas identified as containing major large areas of old growth and/or wilderness with high conservation value are being implemented, at a departmental level.

There are no woodchips derived from native forests exported from Queensland.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**627.School Cleaning Services**

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education (6/8/96)—

With reference to his broken election promise in sacking 5000 school cleaners including those in many rural and remote areas like Cape York Peninsula, the Torres Strait and the Gulf—

How does he intend that cleaning in remote schools with no contract cleaners will be managed?

Mr Quinn (10/9/96): The issue of cleaning in remote schools is being negotiated presently by the Department of Education and members of the Australian Liquor, Hospitality and Miscellaneous Workers Union.

The attached document will provide details on the nature of this negotiation.

635.School Cleaning Services

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Education (6/8/96)—

With reference to the fact that 92 per cent of the budget for school cleaning is spent on wages for cleaning staff and given his announcement that 40 per cent of the cleaning budget will be slashed—

- (1) What guarantee will he give that cleaning hours in schools will not be reduced and that health and hygiene standards will be maintained?
- (2) How many people will cease to be employed by Q-Clean in the Townsville/Thuringowa area in the category of (a) full time and (b) part time?
- (3) In the electorate of Townsville will he guarantee there will be no reduction of hours in any school?
- (4) In view of the reduction of hygiene standards experienced in southern States as a result of contract cleaning, how can he guarantee there won't be a similar drop in Queensland?

Mr Quinn (10/9/96): The issues raised in this question are now a matter of negotiation between the Department of Education and members of the Australian Liquor, Hospitality and Miscellaneous Workers Union.

The attached document will provide details on the nature of this negotiation.

639. Queensland Principal Club; Mr P. Gallagher

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (6/8/96)—

With reference to a recent question on notice from the Member for Aspley, John Goss to the Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Racing which requested the Minister to table comprehensive details of expenses incurred by the QPC Committee, in particular those incurred at the Brisbane Hilton Hotel—

- (1) Will he provide details of Race Club expenditure in the same form as Mr Goss requires of the QPC and include details of the cost of Committee hospitality, entertainment, travel and sponsorship related expenses incurred in 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 by the following major clubs: QTC, GCTC, SCTC, ITC, TTC?
- (2) Will he confirm that Mr Goss' question was sponsored by QTC Chairman, Mr Peter Gallagher who, since being sacked as Chairman of the QPC on 1 April 1992, is well known to be a revenge seeker and vociferous critic of the control body, the establishment of which took away from his club the power they had previously enjoyed?

Mr Cooper (10/9/96):

(1) Information requested is in the form of letters from the clubs referred to, and also from the Brisbane Turf Club, copies of which are tabled. The information provided by the clubs in response to Mr Hayward's question is not as comprehensive as that furnished by the Queensland Principal Club, a statutory body established under the Racing and Betting Act 1980. While a statutory body is governed by the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1977, it is apparent from the detail provided that race clubs do not maintain records which can readily be accessed to provide a breakdown in expenditures as sought in the question. Furthermore, informal advice from Crown Law to the Office of Racing is that as these clubs are not units of public administration no legal obligation exists for them to comply with any request for information on club expenditures. Efforts to seek clarification from individual clubs of the information provided may therefore be unproductive in terms of both the likely accuracy and reliability of such information and the absence of any legal basis on which to direct that it be supplied.

(2) I am not in a position to confirm that the question on notice asked by the Member for Aspley, Mr John Goss, was sponsored by the Queensland Turf Club Chairman, Mr Peter Gallagher.

I have no knowledge of the process which prompted the question from Mr Goss neither do I have any knowledge of any third party involvement.

644.State Debt

Mr De LACY asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (7/8/96)—

What is the net Queensland debt as of 30 June 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994 and 1995 (est.) on the following basis, (a) in the normal way, including superannuation assets and (b) excluding superannuation assets?

Mrs Sheldon (6/9/96): As the honourable member was Treasurer up until February '96, he would have access to all relevant data in his records.

Other data concerning State debt will be revealed in the '96-'97 budget which I will deliver on Tuesday.

645. Commission of Audit

Mr HAMILL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (7/8/96)—

With reference to her statement in Parliament on 7 August that the Fitzgerald Commission of Audit report confirmed that the State Budget was in deficit and had an underlying deficit on a cash accounting basis—

Will she indicate precisely where in the report these statements were made?

Mrs Sheldon (6/9/96): The Commission of Audit's findings on the estimated accrual Budget result for 1995-96 are set out in Chapter 4 of its report.

The Commission's report did not include an estimate of the Consolidated Fund cash result for 1995-96, because of the shortcomings of this measure—as set out on page 87 of the Report.

In order to calculate this accrual result, the Commission had to take into account several one-off items to come to its results. Applying these same adjustments to the Consolidated Fund results in a cash operating deficit for the Fund.

647. Cloncurry Hospital

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Health (7/8/96)—

With reference to the Cloncurry Hospital and health facilities in that town—

Will he detail the staff situation at that hospital and what actions he is taking to improve facilities in this growing community?

Mr Horan (6/9/96): There is presently a full-time relieving surgeon from Mount Isa Hospital resident at Cloncurry Hospital. The Mount Isa District Health Service is actively seeking to recruit two permanent full-time doctors for Cloncurry Hospital, one of which will fill the position of Medical Superintendent. It is anticipated that the positions will be filled within three months.

A master plan has been completed for the redevelopment of Cloncurry Hospital. The recovery area, nurses stations, accident and emergency area and some staff facilities will be upgraded. Additionally, a new ambulance station will be constructed on the hospital site.

Approval has been given to rebuild the private doctors surgery in Cloncurry to provide consulting rooms for two practitioners. Other health services in the local community will be enhanced to support the needs of the growing community.

650. Schedule of Rates Contracts

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (7/8/96)—

With reference to the decision to transfer schedule of rates contracts from the Department of Housing to the Department of Public Works—

Will he give a guarantee to schedule of rates contractors who have accepted a 12-month extension on their contracts that they will receive the

same level of work as they have come to expect in the past?

Mr Connor (6/9/96): There are no plans to change policy where it relates to schedule of rates contracts.

651. Health Department, Capital Works Projects

Mr BRISKEY asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (7/8/96)—

What is the total of Queensland Government debt raised to fund health capital works as at 30 June 1990, including debt not specifically allocated to the Health Department in the budget papers but raised for these purposes?

Mrs Sheldon (6/9/96): Details of State Government Debt for 1990 can be found on page 201 of the Treasurer's Annual Statement for that year. This shows that Debt serviced by the then Consolidated Revenue Fund amounted to \$4,156.5M. Debt serviced from other sources totalled \$5,128M. In total, State Government debt at 30 June 1990 totalled \$9,284.7M.

652. Incorp; Deeragun State High School

Mr McELIGOTT asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (7/8/96)—

With reference to his determination that Townsville based contractor, Incorp, did not have the "appropriate financial capacity" to be awarded the contract to build the Deeragun High School despite the fact that this tender price was \$50,000 lower than Brisbane firm Contrapac and as this is a clear case of discrimination against the North Queensland construction industry—

- (1) Will he spell out the circumstances under which North Queensland firms will receive equal consideration with southern competitors, on major projects?
- (2) What are the arrangements for damages in the event that this 34-week job is not completed on time?
- (3) Is the contract amount to be increased to meet overtime payments to enable the school to open on time in 1997?

Mr Connor (6/9/96):

(1) There is no discrimination between suppliers. Unlike the previous Labor Government we will not contract triple bankrupts like G J Constructions that will force subcontractors to the wall when they don't get paid.

(2) The contract conditions contain provisions for the application of liquidated damages for late completion by the contractor.

(3) There is no requirement at this time for the contract to be varied to enable the school to open on time for 1997.

661. Ambulance Service

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (7/8/96)—

With reference to the Queensland Ambulance Service—

- (1) How many auxiliary ambulance officers are currently performing duties with the Queensland Ambulance Service?
- (2) At what centres are these auxiliaries stationed?
- (3) What are the conditions regarding proximity to workplace which currently apply to these auxiliaries?
- (4) Is this under review; if so, when will the result of this review be known?

Mr Veivers (6/9/96):

(1) The Queensland Ambulance Service does not have any auxiliary officers. The term auxiliary is used in the Queensland Fire Service to define firefighters who are paid only for the part time hours they work. The Queensland Ambulance Service does have Honorary Ambulance Officers and there are currently 342 deployed across Queensland.

(2) I have included for tabling, a list of the Honorary Officer staff establishment for the State, including their station of deployment.

As you can see from the list, Honorary Ambulance Officers are located in all sections of the State and should be commended for their civic duty and dedication of service to the Queensland community. My department recognises the vital role they play and the Commissioner of the QAS informs me that the QAS is committed to the continual educational program for Honorary Ambulance Officers. Honorary Ambulance Officers can complete the Associate Diploma of Applied Science (Ambulance) and become a Qualified Ambulance Officer. The Commissioner also informs me that recruitment for Honorary Ambulance Officers occurs throughout the year as suitable applicants apply to the QAS.

(3) The Queensland Ambulance Service does not require any of its staff to live in any proximity to their place of work, the same is true for Honorary Ambulance Officers. There are many examples of where Officers live in neighbouring towns or outside the township.

(4) There is currently no review being undertaken in relation to the present conditions.

662. Youth Employment

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (7/8/96)—

- (1) Did the Coalition, on 3 July 1995, promise to create 3,500 new public payroll jobs?
- (2) Will this initiative cost up to \$50m to introduce?
- (3) Will this promise be implemented; if so, when?

Mrs Sheldon (6/9/96): The Coalition espouses a range of policies designed to combat youth unemployment.

In line with this, the Coalition budget will contain measures designed to improve employment prospects to young Queenslanders. These will be revealed when I present the budget on Tuesday.

664. Cairns Base Hospital

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Health (7/8/96)—

With reference to specialist services at the Cairns Base Hospital—

- (1) Is it true that Cairns Base Hospital is without a neurologist at present?
- (2) What arrangements are being made to recruit a full-time neurological specialist and when does he anticipate making any such appointment?
- (3) In the absence of a neurologist at the Cairns Base Hospital, what interim arrangements have been made to ensure that the people living in this region in need of specialist neurology services receive the treatment they need?
- (4) How much recurrent monies have been set aside for the position in question?

Mr Horan (6/9/96):

(1 & 3) A consultant neurologist is employed to visit Cairns Base Hospital, performing one session per fortnight for both inpatients and outpatients. General physicians provide appropriate complementary services to meet additional demand on an ongoing basis. Occasionally, superspecialist neurology services are required. In these cases, patients are referred to Brisbane in line with best clinical practice.

(2 & 4) I am advised that current levels of service demand does not justify recruitment of a full-time neurological specialist. However, given the status of Cairns and district as one of Queensland's key growth areas, I have directed that this situation be subject to continual review.

667. Queensland Health

Mrs EDMOND asked the Minister for Health (7/8/96)—

With reference to his answer to a series of issues relating to possible job losses in Queensland Health as a result of public sector cut backs, and notwithstanding the fact that many temporary and contract appointments are not necessarily renewed and that many are partly or fully funded by the Commonwealth, they are still positions attached to Queensland Health either in Corporate Office or in the community or district—

- (1) How many temporary or contract appointments existed in Queensland Health prior to the establishment of District Health Services?
- (2) How many temporary or contract appointments are currently attached to Queensland Health?
- (3) How many of these temporary or contract appointments are funded entirely by the Commonwealth at present?
- (4) How many of these temporary or contract appointments are currently funded solely by Queensland Health?
- (5) How many of these temporary or contract appointments are jointly funded by Queensland Health and the Commonwealth?

Mr Horan (6/9/96): The Staff Profile Information System inherited from Labor provides a snapshot of staff numbers (headcount only) on a quarterly basis. It produces figures which are based on data where 839 positions cannot be identified against a funding source. The information provided to me is, therefore, qualified by the reliability of this System. Given this, I am advised that:

- (1) 3634 temporary employees were identified in Queensland Health as at May 1996.
- (2) A snapshot to be undertaken in September 1996 will provide new District Health Service figures. The Corporate Office figure is currently 91 (end August 1996).
- (3) As at May 1996, 215 employees were in Commonwealth funded positions. The Corporate Office figure is currently 27 (end August 1996).
- (4) As at May 1996, 3167 temporary employees were funded by Queensland Health. The Corporate Office figure is currently 50 (end August 1996).
- (5) As at May 1996, 7 employees were identified as being employed in jointly funded positions. The Corporate Office figure is currently 14 (end August 1996).

669. Wairoonga Nursing Home

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Health (7/8/96)—

- (1) Has funding for the therapy centre at the Maryborough Base Hospital's Wairoonga Nursing Home ceased as this therapy centre provides important therapy services such as physiotherapy for more than 20 external patients a day, five days a week?
- (2) Have these patients been encouraged to go to the new activity centre provided by the Blue Nursing Service, which does not provide the important and necessary therapy needed by these patients?

Mr Horan (6/9/96):

(1) No, the funding for the therapy centre at the Maryborough Hospital's Wairoonga Nursing Home has not ceased. The centre provides a range of diversional therapy activities including craft and recreational activities (cards and games) and aims to provide a venue for people in the local community to interact socially with nursing home residents. The centre is staffed by one enrolled nurse and is an activity centre rather than a therapy centre in terms of the services provided to clients.

There are no allied health therapy services offered at the centre. However, a Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation (TENS) machine is located at the centre for treatment of chronic pain. This machine does not require professional supervision to use and is widely available for people to purchase for use in their own treatment of chronic pain.

(2) The patients who attend the therapy centre at the Wairoonga Nursing Home visited the activity centre operated by the Blue Nursing Service on one occasion in July 1996. The purpose of this visit was to provide an opportunity for people to link with another activity group.

671. Hospitals, Recurrent Expenditure

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Health (7/8/96)—

- (1) Will he detail the recurrent expenditure for year ended 30 June 1996 for the following hospitals: (a) Cairns Base, (b) Royal Brisbane, (c) Princess Alexandra, (d) Royal Women's, (e) Caboolture, (f) Toowoomba, (g) Bundaberg, (h) Townsville, (i) Prince Charles, (j) Gold Coast and (k) Mount Isa?
- (2) Was the recurrent expenditure adequate for those hospitals?

Mr Horan (6/9/96):

(1) Recurrent expenditure for year ended 30 June 1996 for the selected hospitals was as follows:

- (a) Cairns Base—66,063,000
- (b) Royal Brisbane—220,961
- (c) Princess Alexandra—207,788,000
- (d) Royal Women's—43,612,000
- (e) Caboolture—20,273,000
- (f) Toowoomba—59,818,000
- (g) Bundaberg—26,722,000
- (h) Townsville—92,607,000
- (i) The Prince Charles—95,804,000
- (j) Gold Coast—90,240,000
- (k) Mount Isa—19,107,000

(2) When the 1996 State Budget is brought down, you will see that the adequacy of hospital budgets is addressed, and that the Coalition's commitment to delivering health services on time and within budget is absolute.

These hospitals' expenditure represents part of the irresponsible blow out of costs which took place under your now Leaders, Messrs Beattie and Elder. These hospitals were also operating under Beattie/Elder system, which endorsed such practices as withholding accounts payable from small business just to balance the books. I ordered these accounts to be paid; therefore the figures given above contain up to fifteen months of such payments. Queensland Health is now operating under a new system of financial accountability, a system which will see it meet its responsibilities to its patients, its communities, its suppliers, and to this Parliament.

672. Land Tax

Ms BLIGH asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for the Arts (7/8/96)—

- (1) Did the Coalition, on 3 July 1995, promise to offer a youth employment land tax rebate?
- (2) Will this initiative cost up to \$60m to introduce?
- (3) When will this promise be implemented?

Mrs Sheldon (6/9/96): Prior to the '95 election campaign the Coalition released policies designed to create jobs for our youth. At the time, the Coalition had no knowledge of two very important factors:

- (i) an underlying Budget deficit of around \$240 million in 1996-97, which we inherited from the Labor Government; and

- (ii) a funding shortfall of around \$250 million or more in 1996-97 from the Commonwealth Government.

These factors have necessitated a reassessment of all expenditure and revenue measures and decisions need to be considered in the context of the State's overall financial position. Details of any revenue measures will be outlined in the Budget, which I will deliver on Tuesday.

674.Redcliffe Hospital

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Health (7/8/96)—

With reference to studies undertaken in his department involving length of stay for twenty diagnostic related groups in the ten largest hospitals in South East Queensland—

- (1) Is he aware that of all hospitals surveyed, Redcliffe Hospital had the shortest lengths of stay?
- (2) Is he aware that shorter lengths of stay impose greater burdens upon the community which has heavier responsibilities for assisting convalescence when length of stay is shorter?
- (3) What initiatives and what additional funding for community health has he made available to the Redcliffe district to make allowance for the savings that have been delivered by the Redcliffe Hospital?

Mr Horan (6/9/96): (1) Yes. Dr Tony Morton was commissioned by the Epidemiology and Health Information Branch of my department to conduct the study. His preliminary findings were presented to Queensland Health in an article entitled Variation in Length of Stay: Implications for Casemix Funding and Hospital Best Practice. His preliminary findings have been confirmed following his visit to Redcliffe Hospital to further investigate a number of the DRGs.

677.Queensland Building Services Authority

Mr MACKENROTH asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (8/8/96)—

With reference to his statement at the Queensland Master Builders Association awards night that building contracts would be awarded by his department until the builder was approved by the Queensland Building Services Authority (QBSA)—

- (1) How many contracts has the BSA advised him not to proceed with?
- (2) What is the name of each of these builders?
- (3) What was the value of each of these contracts?

Mr Connor (6/9/96):

(1) None. However as at 8 August 1996, advice had been provided not to proceed with tenderers on 14 Projects.

(2) Due to the commercial sensitivities of the issues involved, it is inappropriate for the names of these tenderers to be made public.

(3) \$6,339,312.00; \$153,863.42; \$132,978.00;
\$4,335,000.00; \$159,915.00; \$909,600.00;

\$475,000.00; \$97,100.00; \$187,000.00;
\$1,049,000.00; \$549,000.00; \$104,624.00;
\$227,217.00; \$322,115.00.

One of the tenderers rejected was seeking to be registered on future panels for tenders (not for a specific tender).

678.Commission of Audit

Mr HAMILL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (8/8/96)—

With reference to statements by her that the Government's response to the findings of the Queensland Commission of Audit is presently being formulated by a team of public servants and advisers—

Who are these public servants and advisers, what are their position titles, and to which Minister or Ministers will they be reporting?

Mrs Sheldon (6/9/96): Given the wide-ranging nature of the Commission of Audit recommendations and their potential impact on the shape of the Queensland public sector in the future, the Government has established a small Audit Commission Implementation Office to operate until 30 June 1998.

The role of this Office is to assess the Commission of Audit's recommendations and to advise the Government on their implementation. It reports directly to the Premier and myself. Dr Peter Crossman, who headed the Commission of Audit Secretariat, has been nominated to be the Executive Director of the Office. Dr Crossman and most of the other staff of the Office have been seconded from Queensland Treasury and the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

680.Superannuation Fund

Mr De LACY asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (8/8/96)—

With reference to her Ministerial Statement in Parliament on 7 August where she said that the State Government's surplus included \$750m in superannuation provisions—

- (1) What was the total Government contribution to the superannuation fund for 1995-96?
- (2) What was the interest earnings on the fund?
- (3) What was the total payment to beneficiaries of the fund?

Mrs Sheldon (6/9/96): The outcome for the 1995-96 financial year is currently being finalised and details, including the composition of the superannuation surplus, will be available shortly.

684.State Emergency Services

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (8/8/96)—

With reference to the heavy cuts to funding to the State Emergency Services and, in particular, the Rural Fire Brigades and Volunteer Coast Guards—

- (1) What will be the dollar value in funding lost to our area?
- (2) Will this Government continue the funding to the local coast guard Sandy Straits volunteer unit as the previous Labor Government had done to the tune of approximately \$20,000 per year?

Mr Veivers (9/9/96):

- (1) There will be no heavy budget cuts to the Rural Fire Division in the 1996/97 budget.

You have also asked for details specifically relating to your area. The Rural Fire Division does not allocate funds to any specific geographical area in Queensland. The Division maintains a number of schemes which provide financial and other assistance to rural fire brigades and each scheme has its own criteria and priorities. In general terms I can advise that the needs of each brigade are assessed on their merits and assistance is provided in accordance with those needs, to the extent that available funds permit.

With regard to volunteer coast guards, no subsidy funding has been lost in this area.

- (2) This government will continue funding to the local coast guard Sandy Straits volunteer unit in accordance with the current subsidy schemes criteria. If the Sandy Straits volunteer unit satisfies these requirements it will qualify for a subsidy of up to a maximum of \$20,000.

686. Workers Compensation Fund

Mr ROBERTS asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (8/8/96)—

With reference to Workers' Compensation Board funds (8/8/96)—

- (1) Were these funds used by the former Bjelke-Petersen Government to finance, or partially finance, the construction of a number of State Government building projects?
- (2) If so, (a) which buildings, (b) what funds were withdrawn in each case and (c) what rate of return was received from these funds?

Mrs Sheldon (6/9/96):

- (1) I am advised by the responsible Minister that no funds from the Workers' Compensation Board were used by the former Bjelke-Petersen Government to finance the construction of State Government building projects.

- (2) Not applicable.

690. Schools, Capital Works Projects; Runcorn State High School

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Education (8/8/96)—

With reference to the 16 major capital works projects in Queensland schools, listed by the Premier in answer to a question without notice on 5 August 1996—2 of the projects were listed twice, 12 of the 14 or 86 per cent of the remaining projects are located in National and Liberal Party electorates and

only 2 of the projects are located in Labor Electorates—

- (1) How does he justify this blatant pork barrelling of Coalition electorates at the expense of students in Labor areas?
- (2) In light of claims that there is no capital works freeze, why has there been a delay in providing funding from his department for the Runcorn Community Sports Complex at Runcorn State High School?
- (3) How many other major capital works projects in Queensland schools are awaiting his approval and what are the details?
- (4) What is the full list of major and minor capital works projects commenced in Queensland schools since he became Minister for Education and what are the details of each project including location, cost and the nature of the capital works commenced?

Mr Quinn (11/9/96):

- (1) Of the sixteen projects referred to on 5 August 1996, one project, Deeragun State High School—New School, was referred to twice. This occurred because a tender for the new school was accepted on 13 June 1996; the successful tenderer subsequently withdrew. A new tender was consequently accepted.

The fifteen unique projects referred to were all approved by the Labor Party Government as part of the 1995-96 Education Capital Works Program.

- (2) On 27 April 1995, the then Minister for Education approved a contribution of \$160,000 and a site, towards the Runcorn Parents and Citizens Association indoor sports complex project. Given that the Department of Education grant is being matched by funding from the P&C Association, the Department is awaiting acknowledgment that the association has incurred expenditure equivalent to the approved contribution. When the relevant documentation has been received, the grant will be paid. The Association was advised of the required procedures on 25 May 1995.

I am advised, therefore, that there are no outstanding matters in relation to the Department of Education and the funding of this particular project. It is believed, however, that the project has been held up as a result of a delay in the finalisation of a \$360,000 commitment by the Brisbane City Council.

- (3) There are no capital works projects in Queensland schools awaiting my approval.

- (4) A total of 59 projects from the main Capital Works Program and 27 projects funded under the Building Better Schools Conversion/Upgrading element have commenced in schools since 26 February 1996. The value of these projects total \$52.318 million. In addition, many small projects relating to improvements in security and routine minor works have been undertaken. Refer attached.

691. Women's Health Policy Unit

Mr HOLLIS asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (8/8/96)—

- (1) In her role as Minister responsible for Women's Affairs will she outline the Government's priorities and initiatives planned for women's health policy and programs administered by Queensland Health?
- (2) As the Women's Affairs Minister, will she elaborate on the rationale behind the downgrading of the Women's Health Policy Unit from branch status to just one advisory position for the entire Health Department?
- (3) Does she support these changes to the role of the former Women's Health Policy Unit and agree with the reasoning contained in the Queensland Health Information Paper on the restructure that "women's health has been a high priority for the past five years", the inference being that it no longer requires the level of attention it had under the former Labor Government?
- (4) Will she confirm reports that on International Women's Day in 1996, she embarrassed organisers and the audience by cutting short a speech which outlined priorities in women's policy areas that she is well aware will be cut when she delivers the upcoming Budget; if not, then will she summarise new initiatives and expenditure planned by the Borbidge minority Government in its first term across all portfolio areas with responsibilities for women's policy and services?

Mrs Sheldon (6/9/96): (1) The responsibility for women's health policy, programs and services, as for all health matters, rests with my colleague the Minister for Health.

However a range of specific initiatives relating to women will be delivered in the budget, which I will announce on Tuesday.

692. Taxes

Mr NUTTALL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (8/8/96)—

Is the Government considering the introduction of (a) a fuel tax, (b) increased tobacco tax, (c) financial institutions duty and (d) increased bad tax?

Mrs Sheldon (6/9/96): As the Honourable Member would be aware, the Coalition Government currently is in the process of preparing for its first Budget, which will be presented to Parliament on Tuesday. In this regard, two very important factors will make the framing of the 1996-97 Budget extremely difficult.

- (i) an underlying Budget deficit of around \$240 million in 1996-97, which we inherited from the Labor Government; and
- (ii) a funding shortfall of around \$250 million or more in 1996-97 from the Commonwealth Government.

These factors have necessitated a reassessment of all expenditure and revenue measures and decisions need to be considered in the context of the State's overall financial position. Details of any revenue measures will be outlined in the Budget.

693. State Capital Works Projects

Mr ELDER asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (8/8/96)—

Will she supply a list of all contracts for capital works let by this Government since February 1996, including those from the Labor Government Accelerated Capital Works Program, how much each one was worth and the dates on which they were let?

Mrs Sheldon (6/9/96): As the Honourable Member would be aware, details of major capital works projects (including actual expenditure in 1995-96) will be included in the Capital Works Budget Paper to be presented to Parliament on 10 September.

More detailed information on individual contracts is not maintained by Treasury and as such I am not in a position to provide details on the value of individual contracts nor of the dates on which such contracts were let.

699. Rockhampton Base Hospital

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Health (8/8/96)—

With reference to the Rockhampton Base Hospital—

- (1) How many people are on waiting lists for surgery of any kind at the Rockhampton Base Hospital?
- (2) How long will these patients have to wait to access surgery?
- (3) How many beds are currently available for patients at the Rockhampton Base Hospital?
- (4) How many beds were available in August 1995?
- (5) What was the waiting list/time in August 1995?
- (6) Has there been anytime during the last two months, a situation whereby patients have not been able to be admitted into either the psychiatric unit or any other ward in the hospital because of bed shortages?
- (7) Is there any dispute between the Queensland Nurses Union and his department over the staffing levels at the new psychiatric unit to be opened on 15 August; if so, what is the nature of this dispute, has it been resolved and will the staffing levels be to the level of that expected by the Queensland Nurses Union?

Mr Horan (9/9/96): I am advised by Queensland Health that:

(1) As at 1 August 1996, there were 1,470 patients awaiting surgery.

(2) The wait depends on the category into which the specialist has placed the patient.

Category 1—operation to be done within 30 days;

Category 2—operation to be done within 90 days; and

Category 3—no waiting time given, as urgent life threatening and trauma cases take first priority.

Currently, 43 patients are in Category 1; 169 patients in Category 2; and 1,258 patients in Category 3.

(3) There are currently 237 beds available at Rockhampton Base Hospital, of which approximately 216 have been occupied daily in the year to date.

(4) There were 269 beds available at Rockhampton Base Hospital in August 1995, of which approximately 193 were occupied daily.

(5) The number of patients waiting in August 1995 was 1,715.

(6) During the past two months, there have been no occasions when patients have not been able to be admitted into either the psychiatric unit or any other ward in the hospital because of bed shortages.

(7) There is no dispute with the Queensland Nurses Union over staffing levels for the Mental Health Facility. An agreement has been made with the staff that the in-patient numbers will be limited to 15 during the transition period. This limit will give staff and patients adequate time to settle into new surroundings. The transition was evaluated on 26 August 1996, and the extension of the transition period by one month has been approved. The current staffing levels have been agreed upon by the Manager, Rockhampton District Health Service, the Director, Mental Health Services, and the Queensland Nurses Union.

700. Fire Station, Kallangur Electorate

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (8/8/96)—

With reference to significant increases in population in the Narangba/Burpengary areas west of the north coast railway line, making up a large portion of the Kallangur electorate which now numbers approximately 31,000 and my concern that this area, in particular, is referred to as 'no man's land' by the Fire Service—

Will he give an undertaking to these residents that a fire station will be established in this region in 1996-97 to cater for this population explosion?

Mr Veivers (9/9/96): In response to the specific question made by Mr Hayward, I can advise as follows:

The Queensland Fire Service over the last three years has collected risk mapping data for the whole of Queensland. The profile of risk for the area covered by Caboolture, Deception Bay and Petrie fire stations, and a number of Rural Brigades indicates that the area detailed in the question will require an improved fire service as the development of the area progresses.

The Regional Service Delivery Plan is in the process of review to determine whether an additional station in the area is warranted, in addition to the relocation of Deception Bay and Redcliffe fire stations.

Therefore, the relocation of Deception Bay in the financial year 1996/97 has been deferred pending the outcome of this review.

704. Tobacco Tax

Mrs EDMOND asked the Minister for Health (8/8/96)—

With reference to his most recent statements ruling out the prospect of the introduction of an increase in tobacco tax in the Coalition's State Budget and his previous comments in support of such an increase— Will he restate his position to clarify the matter?

Mr Horan (9/9/96): Responsibility for this legislation and, therefore, any fee increase rests with my colleague, the Honourable the Treasurer.

705. Sydney 2000 Olympics; Sporting Facilities, Bundaberg

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (8/8/96)—

With reference to his statements and those of the Tourism Minister, regarding Queensland taking advantage of the Sydney 2000 Olympics by providing training facilities for overseas national teams in the lead-up to these Olympics—

- (1) To allow provincial cities such as Bundaberg to take advantage of the 2000 Olympics, will he make available special funds to provide international standard training facilities, accommodation and other associated services and facilities?
- (2) In view of the major investment in recent years to sporting and public facilities in Brisbane and Townsville, will he earmark special capital works funding to Bundaberg and other provincial areas to put these areas on equal footing to the large cities?
- (3) Will he make a priority for Bundaberg to receive significant sporting grants in view of the very high unemployment in Bundaberg?

Mr Veivers (9/9/96): In response to the specific questions made by Mr Campbell, I can advise as follows:

The provision of government funded sports facilities in Queensland is dependent on a number of programs. Those for which my department has direct responsibility include the National Standards Sports Facilities Program, Community Sports Development Program, and Minor Facilities Program.

A future focus of the department will include the development of a ten year capital works program which will determine the provision of International, National, State and Regional Queensland sports facilities to take advantage of the 2000 Olympics by providing training facilities for Australian and overseas teams in the lead-up to the Olympics. The main aim of the Community Sports Development Program is to develop sports facilities and programs which provide access and improved performance for all Queenslanders.

To this end, the provision of sport grants for Bundaberg and all other areas will be addressed in terms of the requirements of the programs outlined above. The availability of facilities as training venues for overseas teams would be seen as one of a number of factors which might assist in determining the placement of sports facilities across the state.

Any specific allocation of funds to Bundaberg will be dependent upon proven regional need.

707.000 Emergency Telephone Service

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (8/8/96)—

With reference to the high level of concern by the community of known problems with centralised 000 dialling—

What review is he proposing for this process and more especially in regional and rural Queensland?

Mr Veivers (9/9/96): The 000 emergency telephone line is a designated line operated by Telstra in the form of a Universal Service Obligation for the benefit of the community and comes within the Federal Government's jurisdiction. An emergency call on this service is directed by Telstra to the emergency service nominated by the caller. Considerable infrastructure and operator support is provided by Telstra for this purpose.

The Department of Emergency Services is a client of Telstra. We work closely with Telstra to ensure that they are constantly aware of our needs as an emergency service provider.

The Computer Aided Despatch system currently being installed by my Department will provide a professional and coordinated response to emergency situations with the need for helicopter assistance or additional ambulances or fire trucks to be immediately assessed and activated. It enables specially trained people to respond to the initial call for assistance.

To assist emergency vehicles to quickly locate properties and to minimise confusion with directions, the Department of Emergency Services, in association with the Local Government Association of Queensland, has developed a "Rural Addressing Strategy". The "Rural Addressing Information Package" was launched by me on Thursday, 11 July 1996, and has been sent to all Councils. There has been a very positive response to this important initiative.

While there is no specific review of the currently centralised 000 dialling system, my Department is in constant liaison with Telstra and is pro-active in continually developing systems to improve all aspects of emergency service delivery.

709. Queensland Health, Staffing

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Health (8/8/96)—

With reference to his answer to Question on Notice No: 490 to clarify the figures provided—

- (1) Has he decreased administration positions in regional and corporate offices by 200 positions, including those who were able to secure a Voluntary Early Retirement package?
- (2) Has this decrease in the size of Queensland Health's public service workforce been effected in full; if not, when will it be finalised?
- (3) With a view to clarifying his answer to part 3 of the previous Question No. 490, does "positions to be saved" mean these positions have been

shed from the administrative workforce, or does it mean that 200 positions will be retained?

- (4) If he is not responsible for authorising memoranda authored by his Director-General and Deputy Director-Generals in relation to important staff considerations resulting from Coalition savings policies as stated in his previous answer, who is?

Mr Horan (9/9/96):

(1) Administrative positions in the former Regional Health Authority and in the former Central Office will be decreased by about 200, including those occupied by personnel who were offered and accepted a Voluntary Early Retirement package.

(2) I anticipate that the decrease in the size of Queensland Health's public service workforce will be finalised by 31 December 1996.

(3) There will be fewer administrative positions.

(4) The constitution of the State, its administrative law, and the conventions of Westminster guarantee an independent, apolitical public service. In accordance with this guarantee, the Director-General carries the operational responsibility for the memoranda in question.

710. Aged Care Services

Mr NUNN asked the Minister for Health (8/8/96)—

With reference to the future of aged care services and the devolution proposals on the table for consideration by the Commonwealth and the States—

- (1) What is his interpretation or his department's advice on the implications of any proposals or decisions contained in the COAG Communique dated 14 June 1996 for Queensland's aged care health sector?
- (2) Will he outline the key issues raised by peak bodies and service providers in his discussions with them as part of his consultative process?
- (3) What advice has he received from non-political sources that favours the devolution proposal?

Mr Horan (9/9/96):

(1) The COAG Communique of 14 June 1996 indicated agreement to a broad direction for possible reform, and to a process for considering such reform arrangements. No agreement has been reached on responsibilities or funding. However, nothing will occur unless the financial assistance offered by the Commonwealth is adequate. The Health and Community Services Ministerial Council established a working group on the strategy and issues for devolution. Discussions between Queensland Health and the Commonwealth have just commenced: no agreement has been reached on responsibilities or funding.

Analysis of the implications of the proposed reforms for aged care services in Queensland will be undertaken in the coming months. This analysis, together with the proposed program of public consultation to take place later this year, will be the

basis for Queensland's input into further work undertaken under the auspices of COAG. Potential benefits may include those identified in the Communique, including improved effectiveness and efficiency of services and improved cost control, as well as improved flexibility in meeting people's needs. Clearly, the interests of consumers, providers, and the Queensland taxpayer will be paramount in assessment of all proposals. It should be noted that the Communique contains a number of structural proposals in addition to that of devolution.

(2) The key issues raised in initial discussions held by Queensland Health with peak bodies and service providers include:

the maintenance of quality and nationally consistent standards of care, including access to and affordability of services;

ensuring protection of funding for aged care services from diversion to other areas, including growth and capital funding, and addressing current funding inadequacies;

establishing incentives to reward quality service provision, and to enhance consumer choices through increased flexibility in service provision;

improved linkages between services; and

protection of disadvantaged groups.

(3) As indicated in the response to question (2), advice from industry representatives and peak organisations to date has identified both risks and opportunities arising from devolution. Similar advice has been received from Departmental officers.

711. Volunteer Marine Rescue Services Subsidy Scheme

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (8/8/96)—

With reference to the Volunteer Marine Rescue Services Subsidy Scheme—

Will he give an assurance he will honour the previous Government's commitment to increase funding from approximately \$760,000 to \$880,000, an increase of \$120,000 to the blue water rescue services, which include the coastguard at Southport, Point Danger Air Sea Rescue, and the Currumbin Voluntary Marine Rescue Association (air sea rescue)?

Mr Veivers (9/9/96): In response to the specific question made by Mrs Rose, I can advise as follows:

The only commitment given by the previous Government was a verbal statement by the Minister of the day, the Honourable Tom Burns, that funding to the blue water volunteer marine rescue associations (Volunteer Marine Rescue Association of Queensland Incorporated [formerly the Air Sea Rescue Association of Queensland] and Australian Volunteer Coast Guard) would be increased from \$610,000 to \$880,000, an increase of \$270,000 per association, over a three year period.

This increase was to bring the level of funding to these two associations up to their entitlement under

the Subsidy Scheme. Neither association had received its entitlement since 1992/93.

Service Agreements entered into between Volunteer Marine Rescue Association of Queensland and Australian Volunteer Coast Guard and the Government state that:

"The subsidy period shall be of five (5) years' duration with a minimum annual subsidy of \$750,000, subject to compliance by the Service Provider with this Agreement."

I have proposed that budget funding for 1996/97 increase to \$800,000 for each blue water association with a subsequent increase to \$880,000 over the next two years.

This budget proposal indicates my strong support to the Volunteer Marine Rescue system across Queensland and the great work that the blue water rescue services undertake in support of the community.

712. Commission of Audit; Privatisation of Public Hospitals

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (8/8/96)—

With reference to a recent edition of the *Northside Chronicle* where she said, "there are absolutely no plans by the Coalition Government to sell Prince Charles Hospital, or any other public hospital" and her repeated claim in this House following the publication of the Fitzgerald Financial Audit, that nothing can be ruled out, that everything is still on the table—

Will she now assure the people of Queensland that she rejects the relevant recommendations of Dr Fitzgerald, and that she will not privatise services offered in Queensland's public hospital?

Mrs Sheldon (6/9/96): The recommendations of the Commission of Audit (Fitzgerald Report) including those relating to health will be considered on a portfolio basis. While various support services provided in public health facilities such as hotel, pathology and pharmaceutical services could conceivably be provided by the private sector, significant gains could be made by retaining these services in-house and adopting commercial type practices.

The Government's primary focus will be on building a responsive, efficient and effective public health system with a solid funding base. In doing so, the benefits of contracting certain services to the private sector will be considered as a means of improving access to services.

766. Mr R. Henshaw

Mrs WOODGATE asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (4/9/96)—

With reference to the employment arrangements concerning Mr Rod Henshaw—

(1) How is Mr Henshaw employed?

(2) What are the terms and conditions of his employment?

- (3) What was the selection process by which Mr Henshaw was employed?
- (4) How many other applicants for the position were interviewed?
- (5) Was the position now held by Mr Henshaw advertised; if so, when and where?
- (6) How much is Mr Henshaw paid per annum?
- (7) How many hours does Mr Henshaw work each week?
- (8) Is Mr Henshaw free to take on additional employment outside of the Minister's department in those hours in which he is not contracted to the Government?
- (9) Is Mr Henshaw employed by the Minister's department or via the Ministerial Support Unit?
- (10) What is Mr Henshaw's role?
- (11) Is Mr Henshaw responsible to the Director-General of the Minister's department or is he part of the Ministerial staff and, as such, responsible to the Minister?
- (12) Did the Minister or anyone else attempt to award Mr Henshaw with a permanent public service position on a salary equivalent to that of Senior Executive Service Level Two; if so, who made this attempt?
- (13) How many people work in the capacity of Media Adviser to the Minister?
- (14) What experience does Mr Henshaw have in the areas of families, youth and community care?
- (15) What role did he play in helping Mr Henshaw win approval to interview jailed former Police Commissioner, Mr Terry Lewis?
- Mr Lingard (13/9/96):** Details of this question were supplied in response to a question in this house on 9th July.
- (1)-(14) Rod Henshaw is employed by the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care on a contractual basis through his own Company, Rod Henshaw Pty Ltd.
- He is contracted to provide media work for the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care. This includes preparation of speeches and promotion work undertaken by the Department.
- The financial arrangements between Mr Henshaw's Company and the Department are subject to normal confidentiality practices.
- Under the terms of his contract with the Department, Mr Henshaw is free to undertake any other work he and his Company wishes.
- There has never been any suggestion from either Mr Henshaw, myself or my Department that Mr Henshaw be appointed to a permanent Public Services position or that he perform duties other than those I outlined earlier.
- Mr Henshaw's media experience is extensive, covering all aspects of the media and promotional areas and that experience is utilised under the terms of his contract.
- (15) The answer is none.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**714. Theatre, Thuringowa**

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (3/9/96)—

With reference to an application, Consent File No. C24/96, which has been made to the Thuringowa City Council for the issue of a town planning permit for the use of land situated at Hervey Range Road, Thuringowa Central for a theatre—

- (1) Has any application been made to her, or to Treasury, or to the Arts Department for financial assistance towards the capital cost of building the theatre; if so, by whom and for how much?
- (2) If no such application has been made, has any discussion taken place with her, or with Treasury, or with the Arts Department with a view to such an application being made in the future; if so, by whom and for how much?
- (3) Has an application been made or proposed to be made for financial assistance towards ongoing recurrent funding of the proposed theatre; if so, by whom and for how much?

Mrs Sheldon (3/10/96):

- (1) No application has been made to the Treasury Department, the Office of Arts and Cultural Development or to myself for financial assistance towards the capital costs of building a theatre on Hervey Range Road, Thuringowa Central.
- (2) No discussion has taken place with the Treasury Department, the Office of Arts and Cultural Development or with myself regarding an application being made in the future regarding the costs of building a theatre on Hervey Range Road, Thuringowa Central.
- (3) No application has been made or proposed to be made for financial assistance towards ongoing recurrent funding of a proposed theatre on Hervey Range Road, Thuringowa Central.

715. Public Hospitals

Mrs EDMOND asked the Minister for Health (3/9/96)—

With reference to the issue of waiting times for surgery in public hospitals—

- (1) Is the waiting list at the Toowoomba General Hospital for orthopaedic surgery alarmingly long at present?
- (2) Is he aware that a 70 year old woman who was referred by her general practitioner, Dr Peter Hopson, in February 1995 to Orthopaedic Outpatients at the Toowoomba General Hospital waited six months just to see a specialist to confirm that she needed hip replacement surgery?
- (3) Is he aware that this patient has been placed on a waiting list at the Toowoomba General following this medical assessment and remained on the list for a further 12 months causing much medical and emotional distress to the patient?

- (4) Is he aware that the Outpatient Department at Toowoomba General has advised the patient and the general practitioner concerned that she will probably have to wait another 12 months for surgery?
- (5) Is this two-and-a-half year wait for orthopaedic surgery likely to continue for this patient and others on the waiting list in question?
- (6) As he has been advised of the situation by Dr Hopson directly, how long will patients have to wait before a reduction in waiting times at Toowoomba is effected?
- (7) What are the current waiting times for categories 1, 2 and 3 for elective surgery at the 10 key hospitals referred to in his Surgery on Time initiative and will he provide a list of this data as an attachment?

Mr Horan (2/10/96): I am disappointed that you have asked a question with so many parts, which breaches the spirit of the Standing Orders and which creates an unnecessary burden on the staff of Queensland Health. However, for the benefit of our constituents, I provide the following answer.

As at 1 September 1996, the number of orthopaedic long waits at Toowoomba General Hospital was less than the State average (29.8 % for Toowoomba compared to 37.2% for the 10 study hospitals). Waiting times for Orthopaedics have improved overall but vary according to the procedure or service. For example, the waiting time for orthopaedic outpatient clinics in 1995 was about 6 months for non-urgent cases. This has been reduced since that time.

I am advised that the patient to whom you refer is still on the waiting list, and that there are 9 total hip replacements and 7 total knee replacements on the list ahead of her. The patient is being contacted to offer a further orthopaedic review and the Director of Orthopaedics and the visiting surgeon concerned will reconsider the timing for this patient's surgery according to her relative need. This decision is a clinical one in which I cannot ethically interfere.

The Coalition's Surgery on Time initiative is reducing waiting times. However, this will take some time given the dreadful state of affairs left to us by Ministers Beattie and Elder. Reduction in waiting times at Toowoomba should continue over the next two years, by which time, I am pleased to say, three additional theatres will open at Toowoomba General to further reduce waiting times.

I regard part (7) of your question as an independent question, and therefore in breach of Standing Order 68(a).

716. Reef Tax

Mr BEATTIE asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry (3/9/96)—

With reference to the 600 per cent increase in the Reef Tax imposed by his Federal Coalition colleagues in the Budget and to the form letter which I encourage all Members to distribute widely and stick up for the Queensland Tourism Industry—

- (1) When was he first made aware that the Federal Government intended to break its pre-election commitment and increase tourism taxes for reef operators—before or after the Budget was announced?
- (2) Does he stand by his comments in the *Daily Mercury* on 23 August that the tax increase would not deter tourists from visiting the reef?
- (3) Will he join me and hundreds of North Queensland tourism operators in signing a form letter addressed to Tourism Minister, John Moore, protesting against the Federal Government's betrayal of the Queensland Tourism Industry?

Mr Davidson (3/10/96):

- (1) Like the Opposition Leader, I was overseas at the time of the Federal Budget. I was informed of the Federal Government's increase in the Environmental Management Charge on the day following the Budget.
- (2) Yes, I do stand by my comments in the *Daily Mercury* on 23 August but do not agree with all of the interpretation of my comments by this newspaper.
- (3) I am glad the Opposition Leader has finally followed my lead in writing to the Federal Tourism Minister on this issue.

717. Speech Therapy

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Health (3/9/96)—

- (1) Is he aware of a meeting between his departmental officers and university staff engaged in speech pathology at the Therapies Building, University of Queensland on 30 August?
- (2) Is he aware that at this meeting, it was proposed, by representatives of the University, that 70 speech pathology students should, in 1997, be sent out into the community to test the articulation, oro-motor development, and language skills and hearing of kindergarten and pre-school children?
- (3) Is he aware that the proposal was rejected by his officers on the grounds that the exercise would reveal needs in the community that would generate long waiting lists for speech therapy, and "we don't have waiting lists"?
- (4) Will he now reverse the policy adopted by his officers, and take the opportunity for screening the population for speech pathologies offered by the proposal referred to above?

Mr Horan (2/10/96):

- (1) I understand that a meeting was held between University staff and clinical educators from South East Queensland, and included representatives from Queensland Health, the Department of Education, the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care and non-government organisations.
- (2) I am aware that, at this meeting, the University proposed an additional model of educational practice

to be introduced in 1997. Whilst this is a matter for the University of Queensland, I will await its evaluation with considerable interest.

(3 & 4) Queensland Health has informed me that the proposal was not rejected, but this is a matter for the University of Queensland. I hope the model is a success.

718. Mount Isa Base Hospital

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Health (3/9/96)—

With reference to the Mount Isa Base Hospital—

- (1) What specialists visited the Mount Isa Base Hospital during the year ending 30 June 1996?
- (2) Approximately how many people secured assistance from the Patient Transit Scheme?
- (3) What are the staff levels at the Mount Isa Base Hospital and how do they compare with other hospitals of similar size?

Mr Horan (2/10/96): Queensland Health has advised me that:

- (1) The following specialists regularly visited Mount Isa Base Hospital in 1995/96:

Dr Jim Baker—Obstetrics and Gynaecology
 Dr Andrew Blair—Community Paediatrics
 Dr Bryan Burmeister—QRI, Radiation Oncology
 Dr Don Cameron—Endocrinology
 Dr Bruce Castle—Gynaecology
 Dr Mark Doyle—Plastic Surgery
 Dr John Evans—Gastroenterology
 Dr Susan Gorton—Paediatrics
 Dr Wal Grimmer—Anaesthetist
 Dr Kumar Gunawardane—Cardiology
 Mr Eric Guazzo—Neurosurgery
 Dr John Hack—General Surgery
 Dr Noel Langley—Orthopaedic Surgery
 Dr Bruce Low—Orthopaedic Surgery
 Dr Tony Matthiesson—Respiratory
 Dr Bob Morgan—Radiology
 Dr Ted Ringrose—General Medicine
 Dr Ren Tan—Cardiology
 Dr Chris Whight—Paediatric Cardiology

During the gap between psychiatrists at the hospital, regular visits in 1995/96 were received from psychiatrists including specialists from Townsville General Hospital.

There was also a gap in anaesthetic services at the hospital during which time a range of anaesthetists were employed, including specialists.

A trachoma team led by Dr Kearney also visited the hospital in 1996.

- (2) Approximately 1600 patients secured assistance under the Patient Transit Scheme. This included patients travelling by air (commercial and Royal Flying Doctor Service) and by land (motor vehicle, bus and train).

(3) Staffing in Full Time Equivalents at Mount Isa Base Hospital is approximately:

- Medical Staff—23
- Nursing Staff—130
- Allied Health Staff—21
- Administrative Staff—41
- Hotel Services—32
- Wardspersons—13

The numbers are comparable with other regional hospitals of a similar size.

719. North Queensland Supreme Court Building

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (3/9/96)—

With reference to the historic North Queensland Supreme Court building which, under the Goss Government administration, was saved from demolition and, with Federal Keating Government financial assistance, had extensive work carried out to seal the building externally to protect it from the severe tropical elements and other work undertaken to ensure the building's structural integrity, and as this priceless piece of our State's judicial and legal history is now standing unused, incomplete and apparently unwanted by the Government—

Will he (a) provide a report of the internal condition of the building, (b) indicate what funds are earmarked for further restoration of the building and (c) indicate the Government's future plans for the building and, in particular, if it intends to permit controlled community use as proposed by the Goss Government?

Mr Connor (3/10/96):

(a) A report detailing the internal condition of the building has been prepared and can be made available if requested.

(b) On 12 April, 1996, work up to the value of \$80,000 was approved to allow partial restoration of the interior of the building.

(c) Although various organisations have expressed an interest to occupy the building, only when an appropriate long term tenant can be secured and the requirements of that tenant known, is the Government likely to complete the remaining restoration work.

720. Sugar Industry

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (3/9/96)—

With reference to the Queensland Sugar Industry—

- (1) What steps has the Government taken to deal with the Queensland-wide problem of cane production exceeding milling capacity, particularly in the Herbert River region?
- (2) Will he assure the House that millions of dollars worth of sugar cane will not be left in the field, unprocessed, at the end of this season?

Mr Perrett (2/10/96):

1. The 1996 crushing season is estimated to produce the largest crop the Queensland sugar industry has

experienced. It is likely that in excess of five million tonnes of raw sugar will be produced.

This can only benefit growers and millers and coastal regional economies and the State economy. However, the size of the crop does bring with it some problems such as the capacity of mills to crush the crop in a reasonable timeframe.

The matching of milling capacity with cane supplies and the length of the crushing season is a matter for millers and growers to resolve on a commercial basis.

There is provision in the Sugar Industry Act 1991 for these discussions to occur and for a negotiated outcome to be determined. Industry requested changes to these provisions to enable negotiations to occur at a local mill area.

The Government has responded positively and quickly to the industry's request. The Government gave high priority to amending the Act to enable the Local Area Negotiation and Dispute Resolution procedures to be implemented. Subordinate legislation is currently being prepared to give effect to the amendment.

These procedures mean critical decisions will be made at the local level with fewer issues being negotiated on a statewide basis. In this way local conditions and circumstances can be better considered in the commercial arrangements between millers and growers.

2. This is an industry matter. It is in the best interests of all sections of the industry to work together to ensure every stalk of cane from this season's crop is harvested and processed.

In some mill areas where crushing capacity was identified as being a potential problem, millers and growers have cooperated by starting the crushing season early.

721. Noosa Hospital

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Health (3/9/96)—

- (1) Did the Coalition on 12 March 1994, and again on 22 June 1995, promise to construct a hospital at Noosa?
- (2) Will this initiative cost up to \$45m for a 130 bed hospital?
- (3) When will this promise be implemented?

Mr Horan (2/10/96):

(1) Yes—and unlike Labor, the Coalition remains committed to new hospitals in Queensland's growth areas, including Hervey Bay, the northern Sunshine Coast and the southern Gold Coast. For example, the Coalition is committed to the construction of the Noosa Hospital and that at Robina, in spite of the opposition of the Member for Currumbin, Merri Rose.

(2) The final size of the hospital will depend upon professional planning.

(3) The Government has already commenced implementing its promise as it is finalising negotiations to purchase a preferred site.

722. Pumicestone Passage

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Environment (3/9/96)—

With reference to often expressed concerns regarding water quality in Pumicestone Passage—

- (1) Is water quality testing undertaken, routinely or otherwise, in the canal developments adjoining the passage, namely Pelican Waters and Pacific Harbour; if so, when was the most recent testing conducted in respect of each development?
- (2) What were the results of that testing, expressed both in scientific and lay terms?

Mr Littleproud (24/9/96):

(1) No routine water quality testing in either Pacific Harbour or Pelican Waters is undertaken by the Department of Environment. However, the developers of both Pacific Harbour and Pelican Waters have been required by the Department to undertake their own monitoring programs.

In the case of Pacific Harbour, the monitoring program started on 20 March 1995 and has continued since then at weekly intervals. In the case of Pelican Waters, the program is due to commence once Stage 2 of the development has been completed. This is likely to be early in 1997.

On a single occasion, Department of Environment technical staff carried out monitoring of Pacific Harbour in parallel with the consultants employed by the Pacific Harbour developer. One of the aims of this was to test the quality of results being obtained by the consultant. It was found that the results obtained by the consultant were consistent with those obtained by Departmental staff.

(2) Results from the water monitoring program in Pacific Harbour show that in the fully developed canals to the north of Sunderland Drive, water quality is usually similar to that in Pumicestone Passage.

Monitoring results show that pH values in the operational part of Pacific Harbour i.e. canals to the north of Sunderland Drive are consistently in the range of 7-8 pH units. Creeks inflowing to the northern part of Pacific Harbour do have low pH values but this is due to the naturally humic waters of their catchments.

pH is a measure of the acidity of the water. A level of 7.0 indicates neutrality. Seawater normally has a pH of around 8. Freshwater usually varies between 6-8 but values of 4 or less can occur in naturally highly coloured humic (ti-tree) waters. Low values also occur due to leaching from disturbed acid sulphate soils.

Canals to the south of Sunderland Drive are not operational and not yet connected to Pumicestone Passage other than by a tidal drain which allows only limited tidal flushing. pH values in some parts of these waters are currently often below 3 pH units. This is thought to be due to leaching from disturbed acid sulphate soils in the area.

723. Asbestos Removal Program

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (3/9/96)—

With reference to the asbestos removal program from Government buildings being undertaken by his department—

- (1) How many Government buildings have been audited to date?
- (2) How many remain to be audited?
- (3) How many of these audited buildings have been cleared of asbestos?
- (4) Is work on auditing and clearing Government buildings continuing at present; if not, why not?
- (5) What funds is he seeking for the continuation of this work in the coming State Budget?
- (6) Will he give an undertaking that not only will critical cases of asbestos contamination be addressed, but that all Government buildings will be audited and cleared of asbestos as required?

Mr Connor (3/10/96):

(1) Approximately 9,600 buildings have been audited to date. There are some audits currently in progress.

(2) There are approximately 19,500 buildings remaining throughout Queensland to be audited.

(3) There have been in excess of 550 immediate asbestos removals conducted to date (with a number still in progress).

(4) Yes.

(5) \$2.5M has been approved to continue the auditing and management of the asbestos program. In addition, priority removals will be funded through client Departmental Maintenance Programs.

(6) There has been no change of policy.

724. Walla Weir

Mr MILLINER asked the Minister for Natural Resources (3/9/96)—

With reference to the Government's recent approval of the Walla Weir on the Burnett River—

- (1) Has the project received final approval from the Federal Government; if not, what Federal Government approvals have still not been obtained?
- (2) As this project is part of the Sugar Industry Infrastructure Package and is subject to joint Commonwealth/State funding, is it the State Government's intention to fund this project alone; if so, what amount of money is going to be required from State funds?
- (3) What environmental impact studies were still outstanding at the time of the State approval?
- (4) What are the upstream, downstream and cumulative impacts of this additional water storage on the Burnett River?
- (5) What is the final designed full supply level of the weir?
- (6) What was the full supply level funded by the Sugar Industry Infrastructure Package?
- (7) What areas of land already irrigated from the Burnett River are displaying land management problems such as salinity and waterlogging?

Mr Hobbs (30/9/96):

1. Federal Government approval of its share of funding for the project has yet to be obtained. A decision by the Federal Government in relation to this funding will be based upon the comprehensive review by the Department of Environment (DoE) of the Impact Assessment in conjunction with advice from the Commonwealth Environment Protection Agency. Ultimately, I understand that the Federal Environment Minister, Senator Hill, will make a recommendation to the Minister for Primary Industries and Energy who will determine the Commonwealth's position.

2. The original cost estimate of the Sugar Industry Infrastructure Package element, of \$14.25 million for the weir was to be sourced as follows:

Queensland Government—\$4.745 million

Federal Government—\$4.745 million

Industry—\$3.560 million

Sale of Allocation for Rural Residential—\$1.200 million

If the Federal Government contribution is not forthcoming, an additional \$4.745 million or an estimated total of \$9.5 million will be required from State funds. Actual figures will depend on a number of matters such as competition in tendering and the like.

3. No environmental impact studies were outstanding at the time of State approval. The DoE review report recommended that further collection of baseline data should be undertaken and that this should continue until construction commences and also during operation. The Department of Natural Resources is currently planning for this work to be carried out. The draft Environmental Management Plan would be refined in light of this monitoring and through further discussion with experts and interested parties.

4. A comprehensive Impact Assessment Study (IAS) carried out by independent expert consultants concluded that the benefits of the weir justify its construction subject to the preparation and implementation of the Environmental Management Plan.

In reaching this conclusion, the consultants noted the following:

There would be loss of habitat in the zone inundated by the weir although new habitat would be created by the new water body. Although the new habitat areas would not be identical to those lost, the overall available habitat would be largely maintained. Conditions for fish, waterfowl and some other birds would be improved.

Water quality downstream of the weir would not be adversely affected

The flow regime downstream of the weir would not be measurably affected.

There would be no impact on the Burnett River upstream of the storage area.

The weir would provide significant benefits in terms of an improved reliability of irrigation water supplies in times of drought.

The weir would also provide improved reliability of supply to urban areas which would relieve the currently heavily exploited underground sources and thereby reduce the risk of saltwater intrusion into coastal aquifers.

The weir would provide an area with improved recreational value.

The scenic and aesthetic values of the area inundated by the weir would be altered but not necessarily degraded.

The weir would be subject to potential blue green algal growth as with any storage but it would be unlikely to cause increased blooms elsewhere.

A study by a fisheries expert concluded that while there is some uncertainty about the breeding success of lungfish in the proposed weir, there should not be a detrimental effect on their breeding elsewhere in the Burnett River. In fact the weir could be expected to provide an additional habitat for lungfish during drought periods.

With respect to the cumulative impacts of the weir, the Impact Assessment process involved the determination of the incremental effects of the proposal on the biophysical and socio-economic environment and provided recommendations to mitigate the negative and to enhance the positive impacts expected to result from the proposal.

5. The weir, as approved, will have a full supply level of EL 19.0. The design of the weir has, however, made provision for a future possible increase of the full supply level to EL 21.0 by the addition of an inflatable rubber crest.

Any future augmentation would be treated as a new project that was subject of a further Impact Assessment Study.

6. The Sugar Industry Infrastructure Package funding only provides for a weir with a full supply level of EL 19.0, that is the approved project.

7. I am not aware of any lands which display either salinity or waterlogging problems as a direct result of the application of surface water from the Burnett section of the Bundaberg Irrigation scheme.

On the contrary, salinity problems in some areas owing to heavy groundwater usage may be alleviated by improved surface water supplies.

There are, however, some red soil areas which exhibited problems with waterlogging since before the Bundaberg Irrigation scheme was built. I believe farmers have since modified their irrigation practices to address this issue.

725. Queensland Health

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Health (3/9/96)—

(1) What were the instructions contained in an internal departmental memorandum provided to the Director of the Legislative Reform Branch concerning the future role and function, including staffing composition and numbers, of this branch under the Governments restructure plan for Queensland Health?

- (2) With a view to clarifying this issue, will he table for the information of the House a copy of the memorandum(s) and any departmental briefing notes issued at senior management level by his department (one of the relevant documents in this matter could be dated 31 March or thereabouts)?
- (3) Have some staff assigned to this branch at present been recently informed that they will become unattached or redeployed public servants; if so, how many public servants will be affected?
- (4) Is the rationale driving the scaling down or abolition of the Legislative Reform Unit related to issues associated with Queensland's current political climate in the Parliament?
- (5) Will he give an overview of any new legislative reforms (planned or under way) affecting Acts of Parliament administered by the Health Department excluding legislative reviews/reforms initiated by the previous Labor Government?

Mr Horan (2/10/96):

(1) The amalgamation of Corporate Office functions into larger Branches, as part of the restructuring arrangements, will achieve efficiencies in administrative support and in the management structure of the Department.

I understand that, as a result of the restructure, there will be a decrease in staffing for the Unit from 13 to 10. I envisage that the Unit will continue to be managed by an SES1 level Manager and will be staffed by 4 AO7 level officers, 2 AO6 level officers, 2 AO5 level officers and 1 AO3 level officer. This reduction in staffing is just part of the efforts of this Government to redirect funds from administration to the delivery of basic services in Queensland's public hospitals and other facilities, eg opening the two theatres closed by the Labor Government at Redcliffe hospital in your electorate.

I am advised that the Corporate Support Services Branch Project Plan (dated 21 June 1996) states that a Legislative Projects Unit is to be established and will be responsible for the functions of the previous Branch. I am further advised that the functions of the new Unit as to be—

- developing the Department's legislative review program,
- managing approved reviews of portfolio legislation,
- coordinating minor legislative amendments of portfolio legislation,
- providing legislative policy advice on reviews and amendments being managed elsewhere in the portfolio,
- developing legislative proposals for new policies/programs and rectify deficiencies in existing legislation, and

advising the Minister and Office of the Director-General on legislative issues.

(2) That would not be necessary or helpful, as the memorandum may now be out of date. The

document which details the current position for this Unit is the Corporate Support Services Branch Plan, described above.

(3) I am advised that two staff members of the Branch were informed that they will be redeployees. I have been told that both will have excellent opportunities to gain new positions as there are significantly more vacancies than redeployees at their levels.

(4) No, it is just part of the efforts of this Government to redirect funds from administration to the delivery of basic services.

(5) I will be shortly seeking leave to introduce legislation into the Parliament to provide for the rebuilding of Queensland Health. This legislation will abolish the failed Regional Health Authority structure and provide for genuine community input through a system of District Health Councils. I will also be seeking a range of consequential amendments to other health portfolio legislation at that time.

As for other reviews, I will ensure that reviews actually result in legislation. A large number of legislative reviews were initiated under Ministers Beattie and Elder but never resulted in legislation. While the resources of Central Office and the Regions were diverted into glossy but meaningless exercises in ministerial self promotion, decision making ground to a halt. So I am particularly anxious to finally progress the review of the Mental Health Act. I anticipate introducing, by leave, new mental health legislation into the Parliament next year. Amendments to health practitioner legislation and the Health Act are also priorities of this Government.

726. South East Freeway, Noise Barriers

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (3/9/96)—

With reference to his recent announcement regarding the upgrade of the South-East Freeway between Logan and the Captain Cook Bridge—

- (1) What is the expected date of commencement of construction work for the proposed bus ways along this stretch of the freeway?
- (2) Given his previous statement that the construction of noise amelioration barriers had been put on hold pending a decision about the expansion of the freeway, will he now confirm that the noise barriers project will begin immediately; if not, why not?
- (3) If the project is to be further delayed, when can residents in the electorate of South Brisbane expect these long-promised noise barriers to be put in place?

Mr Johnson (3/10/96):

(1) The expected date of commencement of construction work on the busway along the freeway is October 1997.

(2) & (3) Construction of noise barriers is to commence within the next few months at some locations along the freeway. Design of the noise barriers in some locations needs to be reviewed to accommodate the busway infrastructure, but work is

already under way on revising the designs. It is expected that construction of the noise barriers will be completed in the most critical areas early in 1997.

727. Dr B. Senewiratne

Mr NUNN asked the Minister for Health (3/9/96)—

With reference to the letter forwarded to Dr Brian Senewiratne by one of the Minister's Deputy Director-Generals, Mr Ross Pitt, on 3 July 1996 which asked Dr Senewiratne to consider resigning his commission from Queensland Health—

- (1) Is Mr Pitt's letter to Dr Senewiratne recorded as an official departmental correspondence on file?
- (2) What is the advice of his Freedom of Information Section in Queensland Health on the official status of this letter?
- (3) What action has he or will he be taking to ensure that offensive and politically motivated letters of this nature are not repeated by senior management?

Mr Horan (2/10/96):

- (1) A copy of the letter has been preserved as required by the Libraries and Archives Act 1988.
- (2) No application under the Freedom of Information Act has been made.
- (3) I do not believe that Mr Pitt's letter to Dr Senewiratne was intended to be offensive, nor do I believe that it was politically motivated. Neither I nor any of my staff were aware of his letter at the time that it was sent.

The Coalition Government has already brought about substantial change to the Princess Alexandra Hospital which had suffered so much under Labor.

728. Kirwan Women's Hospital

Ms SPENCE asked the Minister for Health (3/9/96)—

With reference to proposals mooted by him on the subject of the future of Kirwan Women's Hospital—

- (1) How many patients are currently being treated at Kirwan Women's Hospital per annum and what are the different levels of care provided to these clients?
- (2) What are the anticipated costs of transferring tertiary level obstetric and gynaecological services to Brisbane?
- (3) Were the actions taken by the Deputy Director-General, Dr Youngman, taken with the Minister's approval with respect to the handling of industrial issues at the Kirwan Women's Hospital and, in particular, Dr Youngman's decision to decline funding needed to appoint a female gynaecologist at Kirwan in May 1996?
- (4) Specifically, did Dr Youngman seek his advice or approval prior to rejecting requests from the hospital for funds to finalise the appointment of the female gynaecologist in question?

- (5) What personal action has he taken to resolve issues at the Kirwan Women's Hospital which have resulted in four specialist doctors tendering their resignations effective later in 1996?
- (6) Has he taken any specific action to avoid the loss of these highly dedicated medical specialists?
- (7) Will he be meeting with these doctors in an attempt to ensure that North Queensland retains a first class health service?

Mr Horan (2/10/96): I am disappointed that you have asked a question with so many parts, which breaches the spirit of the Standing Orders and which creates an unnecessary burden on the staff of Queensland Health. However, for the benefit of the people of North Queensland, I provide the following answer.

The number of patients admitted to Kirwan Women's Hospital in 1994/95 was 4298. Using the *Queensland Health Guide to the Role Delineation of Health Services*, the hospital provides Level 5 neonatal services and Level 5 obstetrics and gynaecological services. As these services will not be leaving Townsville, I see little point in wasting resources costing the absurd transfer you have proposed.

The recent budget demonstrated the Coalition's commitment to Kirwan, with approval and funding of \$250,000 for an additional full time obstetrician and an additional \$1.22 million for enhancements to the neonatal intensive care service, which will expand available cot numbers by 50%.

In addition, I have met with staff at the hospital and provided a personal assurance of the government's continuing support and commitment. During my two recent visits, I discussed with staff the need for further support which may be in the form of additional VMO services.

I am advised that already two specialists have been offered the positions of Director, Obstetrics and Gynaecological Services and Staff Specialist. The applicant for the former position has accepted the offer. Recruitment is continuing for the other positions.

729. Karawatha Forest

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Environment (3/9/96)—

With reference to the parcel of land located immediately to the west of the Southern Brisbane Bypass at Stretton, owned by Nev Pask Developments.

Will he confirm that consideration is being given to purchasing this land from the developer and including this parcel in the bushland reserve known as Karawatha Forest; if so, can he provide details on progress in relation to this matter?

Mr Littleproud (1/10/96): I am advised by the Honourable the Minister for Transport and Main Roads that prior to the last State Election, a decision was announced by the then Premier Wayne Goss and Mr Robertson that the parcel of land in question

would be acquired by the Government and added to the Karawatha Forest.

At the change of Government, the outgoing Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning apparently wrote to the owner and suggested he take up with the new Government the matter of the land purchase.

Accordingly consideration is being given to the acquisition of the property and negotiations are continuing with the land owner seeking to resolve agreement on compensation for land taken for road corridors, as well as the severed parcel to the west. I am advised these negotiations are well advanced.

730. Brisbane and Burnett Rivers, Saratoga

Mr LIVINGSTONE asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (3/9/96)—

With reference to recent media comments by the Freshwater Fishing and Stocking Association in relation to releases of saratoga—

- (1) Is this association intending to release saratoga into both the Brisbane and Burnett Rivers?
- (2) Are saratoga presently in either of these streams?
- (3) What knowledge exists of the likely impact of these introductions on native aquatic life in these rivers?
- (4) Will he be calling for an environmental impact assessment of the effects of these introductions; if not, why not?
- (5) Is he intending to advertise the release of these fish and call for public comment on the proposal; if not, why not?
- (6) Do these releases require the approval of Department of Primary Industries (Fisheries) and has this approval been given?
- (7) What other Government approvals are required before these releases occur?
- (8) Has the Department of Environment a say in whether these or other similar releases proceed?
- (9) Is he satisfied that these releases will cause no impact on other aquatic life in these rivers?

Mr Perrett (2/10/96):

1. The Freshwater Fishing and Stocking Association of Queensland Inc. is the representative body for locally based fish stocking groups within Queensland. Stocking of fish into Queensland waters is undertaken by individual stocking groups not the Association.

The media release to which you refer is an article by Geoff Orr that appeared in the Courier Mail on Friday 19 July 1996. The article stated that Saratoga stockings would be permitted in the Burnett and Brisbane Rivers.

The article was reporting the outcomes of the Fish Stocking Workshop held in Warwick in May 1996. At the workshop, the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority (QFMA) and the Department of Primary Industries agreed to allow Saratoga

stockings to continue in the Brisbane and Burnett catchments. As a result it is likely that local stocking groups will apply for permits to stock with this species.

2. Saratoga is not native to either the Burnett or the Brisbane catchments but is present in both as a result of a number of releases undertaken in 1989 as part of the Recreational Fishing Enhancement Program. The decision is to allow these stockings to continue.

It must be noted that these releases are into artificial impoundments in the catchments, not directly into natural waterways.

3. Whilst no comprehensive monitoring has been undertaken there have been no obvious adverse impacts resulting from these stockings. There is no evidence of Saratoga becoming established outside the impoundments.

4. No, I will not be calling for an Environmental Impact Assessment of the effects of these introductions as they are not new introductions. However, my Department is committed to an ongoing assessment of the situation in collaboration with local fish management groups.

It must be noted that my Department, in collaboration with the QFMA is developing a Policy and Assessment Procedure for all proposed translocations (i.e., movement of fish outside their natural range). Decisions are made according to a strict Protocol and the option is available to call for a full Environmental Impact Assessment if insufficient data are available to make a decision.

Although agreement in principle has been given to the continuation of Saratoga stockings in the Brisbane and Burnett Rivers, individual proposals to stock will still be considered according to the Protocol.

There is no intention to specifically advertise the releases of Saratoga into these catchments. However, the Draft Translocation Policy, Decision Making Protocol and river basin by basin interpretation of the Policy will be included in the QFMA Discussion Paper on Freshwater Fisheries. This Discussion Paper will be released later this year and will be the subject of a three month public consultation process. The Discussion Paper is the first step in the community consultation process for the development of a management plan for freshwater fisheries in Queensland.

The Discussion Paper will include maps showing where various species (including saratoga) can be stocked. Public comment on the appropriateness or otherwise of these maps will be welcome.

6. Any releases of fish into Queensland waters requires a permit from the QFMA.

The QFMA has set up a Subcommittee of its Freshwater Management Advisory Committee (FMAC) to consider all stocking of translocated species and to recommend whether or not permits should be granted.

The Committee consists of the Senior Resource Manager (Freshwater) from QFMA, the Senior Policy Officer (Freshwater) from my Department and two members of Fish Stocking Groups.

All decisions are made according to the Principles of the draft Translocation Policy and according to its Decision Making Protocol. The Subcommittee can refer the matter to the full FMAC if a unanimous decision cannot be reached.

7. No other Government approvals are required but the QFMA seeks all appropriate comment prior to making its decision, both via the FMAC, which has wide representations and from other stakeholders.

8. The Department of Environment has representation on the FMAC and as such has been party to the development of the draft Translocation Policy and to setting up the decision making procedure.

My Department has worked closely with the Department of Environment (DoE) on all matters related to freshwater fishes, particularly in relation to rare and endangered species. Early drafts of the Translocation Policy were forwarded to the DoE and their Scientific Advisory Committee for the Nature Conservation Act has been kept informed. My Department will continue to work closely with the DoE on this and other important issues.

9. Based on the lack of any apparent adverse effects of previous releases of Saratoga into these systems I am confident that further releases will not cause any impacts.

However, these releases will be strictly controlled via a permit system. It should also be reiterated that the releases are permitted in artificial impoundments only not directly into river systems.

I am confident that my Department in collaboration with the QFMA is dealing with the issue of translocation in a responsible manner in keeping with the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development and Natural Resource Management.

731. Decompression Chamber

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Health (3/9/96)—

- (1) Did the Coalition on 31 January 1995 promise to provide a decompression chamber based in Brisbane?
- (2) Will this initiative cost up to \$1.4m to introduce?
- (3) When will this promise be implemented?

Mr Horan (2/10/96):

- (1) On 29 January 1995, the Coalition made a commitment to ensure the availability of a Hyperbaric Unit in southern Queensland.
- (2) On the advice I have received, no.
- (3) I anticipate that this promise will be implemented no later than the year 2001 under the current rebuilding of RBH. However, I am investigating options which will see a much earlier implementation.

732. Mr L. McPherson

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (3/9/96)—

With reference to a recent article in the *Courier-Mail* by the crime journalist Bob Bottom in which he stated that the National Crime Authority had "unearthed the fact that Len McPherson had amassed millions of dollars, much of it apparently still out of reach in Queensland", and as Len McPherson was a prominent southern criminal whose most recent appearance was before the New South Wales Wood Inquiry into Police Corruption—

- (1) Is he aware of Mr McPherson's ill-gotten gains in Queensland?
- (2) Where are the millions of dollars located?
- (3) Why, as Mr Bottom states, are these millions "apparently still out of reach in Queensland"?
- (4) If he is not aware of the existence of these funds in Queensland does he intend to instigate a police investigation into Mr Bottom's allegations?
- (5) Will he give an undertaking to make public all findings of such an investigation?

Mr Cooper (27/9/96): The investigation into the assets of Len McPherson is being conducted at present by the National Crime Authority (N.C.A.) under the 'Sugar' Reference which relates to money laundering offences. Intelligence from that investigation has been provided to the Queensland Police Service.

The N.C.A., in fact, charged Mr McPherson with offences under the Income Tax Assessment Act 1936 (Cwth) whilst he was in prison in New South Wales prior to his death. That investigation is pursuing the assets of Mr McPherson throughout Australia.

There is no scope for any investigation by Queensland police as the Crimes (Confiscation) Act 1989 (Qld) is conviction based. Due to the death of Mr McPherson it is not possible to obtain the necessary conviction of any serious offence from which the assets were derived.

It is also important to note that it is not the policy of the Queensland Police Service to compete with other agencies for the forfeiture of assets. Arrangements are in place which permit the primary investigating agency to take the necessary action concerning forfeiture of assets.

733. Cooktown Primary School

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education (3/9/96)—

With reference to a detailed submission from the Cooktown State School Parents' and Citizens' Association to the Peninsula Region Education Office outlining a proposal to relocate Cooktown Primary School onto the secondary campus—

Given the difficulties experienced at the school in maintaining two campuses, what are the prospects for the primary school's eventual relocation?

Mr Quinn (2/10/96): The case for the relocation of Cooktown State School was assessed when the New Schools component of the 1997/98 Capital Works Program was being prepared.

This program uses performance indicators, such as limitations (capacities) of site, current student densities, and future enrolment growth (and thus future densities), to assess whether a particular case is able to compete successfully for funding.

The Cooktown relocation was not seen to present a case of outstanding need, relative to many other schools in the state. I am informed that the site, classrooms and amenities, of the existing school, are sufficient to accommodate enrolments in the medium term. However, I have asked the Department to continue monitoring the situation.

734.Scenic Rim, Camping Facilities

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Environment (3/9/96)—

With reference to the large influx of population into South-East Queensland leading to overuse of existing national park facilities, which will become acute if overseas trends are experienced and also to the large resource of the Scenic Rim of the Main and McPherson Ranges—

What steps are being taken by the Department of Environment to establish new access points and camping facilities along the Scenic Rim?

Mr Littleproud (24/9/96): While the previous Government increased the size of the National Park estate in Queensland, it did not match this with adequate funding for management. The Coalition Government has had to address this situation in the context of overall Budget mismanagement inherited from Labor at both Commonwealth and State levels.

There are currently no plans to increase the number of access points or camping facilities in the western Scenic Rim parks, rather, efforts are being made to better utilise existing sites through education and recreational infrastructure redevelopment.

While the national parks in the Main and McPherson Ranges experience heavy use during public and school holidays, for most of the year there is minimal use of existing facilities.

Significant capital infrastructural projects have been funded this financial year in the more popular eastern Scenic Rim parks such as Lamington, Springbrook and Tamborine National Parks. In excess of \$300 000 will be spent in upgrading walking tracks, lookouts and information centres to enhance visitor enjoyment and appreciation of these parks.

The Department of Environment carefully controls the number and location of visitor sites throughout the Scenic Rim to ensure public safety, protection of the natural values of these national parks, respect for the rights of neighbours and preservation of a range of recreation opportunities for park users.

735.Bundaberg Health Service

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Health (3/9/96)—

With reference to the Bundaberg Health Service—

(1) What is (a) the recurrent funding for community health, hospital services and total funding for

1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96, (b) the total number of hours, number of clients, number of staff and cost for community home help for 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96, (c) the capital funding and projects undertaken during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96, (d) the total number of services provided with details (for example number of births, operations, patient days, patients treated, outpatient visits, specialist visits, breast screening services, mental health services, dental services, x-ray services, pathology services, chemist/dispensary services, other community health services etc) during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96, (e) the total number of staff, including details of the number of medical staff and specialists etc employed for 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 and (f) the cost and services provided under the Patient Transit Scheme and Patient Transfer Scheme?

(2) Will he also provide details of patients treated to date with the Renal Dialysis Units?

Mr Horan (2/10/96):

(1) With reference to the Bundaberg Health Service—

(a) the recurrent funding for community health, hospital services and total funding for 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 were:

	COMMUNITY HEALTH	HOSPITAL SERVICES	TOTAL FUNDING
1993/1994	\$2,563,210	\$24,215,302	\$26,778,512
1994/1995	\$2,932,015	\$26,055,359	\$28,987,374
1995/1996	\$4,629,889	\$29,522,383	\$34,152,272

(b) the total number of hours, number of clients, number of staff and cost for community home help for 1993-4, 1994-5, and 1995-6 were:

	Total Client Hours	Total Number of Clients	Number of Staff	Community Home Help \$/Yr
1993/1994	33,494	692	117	699,588
1994/1995	24,603	717	94	692,827
1995/1996	28,168	731	71.5	711,701

(c) the capital funding and projects undertaken as part of the Capital Works Program for the Bundaberg District Health Service were:

1993/94

Specialist Equipment, Bundaberg Hospital:

Biochemical Analyser—\$120,000

Haematology Analyser—\$169,000

1994/95

Specialist Equipment, Bundaberg Hospital:

Fluoroscopy Unit—\$391,358

Breast Screening Assessment Service Bundaberg:

Establishment of a new service through refurbishment/extension of RMOs' quarters on hospital campus—\$1.361 million with majority of funding provided through the BreastScreen Queensland Program, a Commonwealth/State initiative

1995/96

Specialist Equipment, Bundaberg Hospital:

Monitoring, Laparoscopic and Ophthalmic equipment—\$635,972

Information System Support:

(Hospital Based Corporate Information Support—HBCIS)

Bundaberg/Maryborough Hospitals (combined project)—\$3,482,299

Bundaberg Hospital Redevelopment Stage II:

Electrical upgrade, carpark, civil works and construction of a new Red Cross facility—\$2.148 million including \$263,603 for the Red Cross facility funded by the Red Cross Society of Australia

Bundaberg Hospital—Renal Unit:

4 chair unit in refurbished area of existing Women's Unit—\$475,00

Gin Gin Hospital Minor Works:

Bathroom upgrade, internal and external painting, replacement of roof—\$55,000 of total budget of \$220,000.

- (d) the total number of services provided with details (for example: number of births, operations, patient days, patients treated, outpatient visits, specialist visits, breast screening services, mental health services, dental services, x-ray services, pathology services, chemist/dispensary services, other community health services etc) during 1993-4, 1994-5, and 1995-6 was:

	1993/1994	1994/1995	1995/1996
Births	1,048	960	847
Operations	4,472	4,687	4,856
Patient Days	59,312	55,623	53,013
Patients Treated (3)	11,431	11,679	11,782
Outpatient Visits (1)	4,896	10,071	9,693
Specialist Visits (1)	13,244	16,077	18,185
Breast Screening	0	0	4,242
Mental Health (1)	2,750	2,744	2,588
Dental Services	16,308	19,297	20,570
X-Ray Services (1)	7,750	9,740	10,281
Pathology Services (1)	9,485	10,846	12,270
Chemist/Dispensary (2)	37,014	35,325	28,902
Other Community Health Services	na	39742	42,861

(1) Outpatients occasions of service only;

(2) Number of items dispensed;

(3) Separations.

- (e) the total number of staff, including details of the number of medical staff and specialists etc employed for 1993-4, 1994-5, and 1995-6 was:

	Total Number of Staff (FTE)	Medical/Specialist Staff (FTE)
1993/1994	537	30
1994/1995	552	34
1995/1996	587	34

- (f) the cost and services provided under the Patient Transit Scheme and Patient Transfer Scheme were as shown in the following tables.

The cost of services provided through the Patient Transit Scheme and Patient Transfer Scheme was:

	1993/1994	1994/1995	1995/1996
Patient Transit Scheme	\$432,106	\$431,366	\$537,030
Patient Transfer Scheme	\$103,493	\$117,199	\$50,085

The range of services provided through the Patient Transit Scheme was:

Anaesthetics, Burns, Breast clinic, Cardiology, Cardio-thoracic surgery, Clinical haematology, Clinical pharmacology, Coronary angiography, Dermatology, Development assessment teams, Diagnostic radiology, Endocrinology, Gastroenterology, General medicine, General surgery, Geriatrics, Gynaecology, Ophthalmology, Orthopaedics, Otorhinolaryngology, Hyperbaric medicine, Intensive care, Infectious diseases, In-Vitro fertilisation, Magnetic resonance imaging, Medical oncology, Neonatology, Nephrology, Multiple trauma, Plastic and reconstructive surgery, Psychiatry, Radiation oncology, Neurology, Neurosurgery, Nuclear medicine, Obstetrics, Oral pathology, Oral surgery, Orthodontics, Periodontics, Paediatrics, Paediatric surgery, Pain clinic, Pathology, Prosthodontics, Alcohol and Drugs, Allergy, Angiography, Rehabilitation medicine, Renal dialysis, Rheumatology, Spinal injuries, Sexually transmitted diseases, Thoracic medicine, Transplant surgery, Urology, and Vascular surgery

(2) Two hundred and thirty-two patients have been treated to date (24 June 1996-5 September 1996) with Renal Dialysis Units.

736. Government Advertising**Mr PEARCE** asked the Premier (3/9/96)—

With reference to a four-page State Government advertising feature in the *Gladstone Observer* on 30 May which featured large photographs of himself and Training Minister Santoro—

How much of the public's money was used to pay for this feature and will the public pay for similar features in other newspapers?

Mr Borbidge (3/10/96): The advertising feature was one initiated by the *Gladstone Observer* newspaper with the apparent intent of focusing on State and Local Government services in the region. The approximate cost of State Government related advertisements in this feature was \$2,800.

It is not unusual for newspapers to publish regional features from time to time, but any State Government departmental involvement in terms of advertising in such features is subject to consideration on a case by case basis.

737. Department of Housing, Stones Corner and Capalaba Offices**Mr PURCELL** asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (3/9/96)—

- (1) Is he seeking to close the Stones Corner and Capalaba area offices of the Department of Housing?

- (2) Is he aware that the Stones Corner office receives over 5,000 calls a year from clients and has over 1,600 clients personally visit the office every year?
- (3) Does he know that the Capalaba area office's wait lists have increased by 37 per cent over the past three years?
- (4) How can he justify considering the closure of any area offices when anecdotal evidence shows that clients are much happier and more problems have been solved since the introduction of regional offices?
- (5) Does he appreciate the difficulty departmental clients, particularly the elderly, have in travelling into the city?
- (6) Will he give an assurance that no jobs will be lost if the closure goes ahead?

Mr Connor (3/10/96):

- (1) My Department has advised me that as part of its desire to improve service delivery to customers and achieve commercial efficiency in its services, it is undertaking a review of customer service delivery. Initially the focus will be on service delivery in the Brisbane Metropolitan area.
- (2) Yes. I am aware that these are monthly figures, not yearly.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) The Honourable Member can be assured that I am committed to the provision of high quality service to the Department's customers. Consequently, the direction I have given the Department is to identify ways of improving the way housing services are provided to those people in the community wanting to access them. In addition, it is essential that service is provided in the most efficient and effective way possible. It is appropriate for the Department to continue to review the products and services provided to the community.
- (5) Accessibility to the Department's housing services is to be considered as an important component of the current review.
- (6) There are no plans for forced redundancies.

738. Rental Subsidy Scheme

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (3/9/96)—

With reference to the proposed rental subsidy scheme for tenants, being proposed under current or recent negotiations on the Commonwealth/State Housing Agreement—

- (1) Will he guarantee tenants that they will not be financially disadvantaged by this scheme?
- (2) When is the scheme intended to be introduced in Queensland?

Mr Connor (3/10/96):

- (1) This matter is still subject to negotiation with the Commonwealth.
- (2) The timeframe for implementation of the scheme is currently the subject of negotiations between the Commonwealth and State Ministers.

739. Whitsunday Electorate, School Closures

Mrs BIRD asked the Minister for Education (3/9/96)—

With reference to concerns in the Whitsunday electorate about school closures, e.g., Pindi Pindi etc—

- (1) What schools are to be closed in the Whitsunday electorate?
- (2) What alternative arrangement will be put in place for school children to attend school?

Mr Quinn (2/10/96): (1) & (2) There are no plans currently to close schools within the Whitsunday electorate. Consequently, no procedures have been developed to facilitate alternative arrangements for school attendance, within your electorate.

740. Department of Housing, Loan

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (3/9/96)—

With reference to an application to transfer from a Rental Purchase Plan to a Queensland Housing Loan—

- (1) Why did the Department of Housing allow the offer of a Queensland Housing Loan to proceed up to the stage of the client, reference HOF 21292, signing the documents and returning same, before advising the client they were withdrawing the offer?
- (2) On what grounds did the department base the withdrawal given that the department had carried out all the necessary steps prior to the offer being made such as an independent property valuation and income assessment?

Mr Connor (3/10/96):

- (1) The Department made an error in withdrawing the loan offer to the client (HOF 21292). The client has been contacted and informed the loan can proceed, if that is the client's wish.
- (2) The Department's withdrawal of the loan offer (in error) arose from subsequent concerns that the applicant would have difficulty in meeting the necessary loan repayments as they increased over the term of the loan.

Upon the advice of the Department the client has obtained independent financial advice to consider which housing option best meets her needs. Both the client and the financial adviser agree that the Queensland Housing Loan best meets the client's needs. The Department is proceeding with the settlement of the loan.

741. Suncorp/Metway/QIDC Merger

Mr D'ARCY asked the Premier (3/9/96)—

With reference to the Suncorp/Metway/QIDC merger fiasco and the fact that when he has been asked why a merger is necessary he says it will have "Queensland's interests at heart as opposed to what we have seen so often where the best interests of this State have been placed second to

Melbourne/Sydney establishment when certain matters have got to board tables down south"—

As this seems to be his sole reason for creating a State bank, will he name and give details of just four or five of these examples he mentioned where the lack of a Queensland bank has caused Queensland's interests to be placed second?

Mr Borbidge (3/10/96): The merger does not create a State Bank. The previous Government created a State Bank when it corporatised QIDC, gave it a commercial charter, had it declared to be a bank under the Banking Act and placed it under Reserve Bank supervision. The Government's initiative creates a stronger banking and insurance entity that will be owned directly by the people of Queensland as the Government floats off its shareholding. The Government's actions are in direct contrast to the former Labor Government which created a State Bank in the form of the QIDC, and in direct contrast to other State Labor Governments who have presided over financial disasters in relation to State Banks.

There was no one reason for the decision to propose the merger and subsequent float. There was a large number of compelling reasons which were outlined at some length in the second reading debate which is recorded in *Hansard*.

742. Water Supply

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Natural Resources (3/9/96)—

With reference to his current plans to privatise water supply in Queensland—

Will he guarantee that (a) no job losses will flow from this move, (b) no water consumer will pay more for water as a result of this move and (c) no foreign company will gain control over the supply of water to Queenslanders?

Mr Hobbs (16/9/96): It is assumed by privatisation the honourable member means that assets transfer from Government ownership to the private sector.

The Government's policy allows for the local management of irrigation assets. It does not propose that assets be divested to foreign companies. Local management will only occur where local irrigation groups indicate to the Government that they wish to accept that responsibility.

The question of which local groups might wish to take up this option and whether they would also seek a change in ownership of assets is something that will need to be discussed with irrigators on a scheme by scheme basis. It must be emphasised that even where the local management option is taken up, the question of asset ownership will be very much dependent on the type of local management arrangement negotiated for each individual scheme. Local management represents a partnership with the Government and does not necessarily require a change in asset ownership.

As part of this process it will generally be the case that the existing strategic assets such as dams and major channels would remain in State ownership

because of their importance to regional development.

Local management arrangements will only proceed where satisfactory arrangements are made for the welfare of the Queensland Government employees who currently operate such schemes. The precise arrangements would be worked out in consultation with the employees and the Unions which represent them. The Unions have been consulted during the development of our policy and this process will continue as part of local management negotiations.

The Queensland Government will have to approve the arrangements for each particular scheme.

Of course the Queensland Government welcomes private sector investment in the construction of the new water supply assets. In such cases, it may be desirable to allow direct private sector ownership of major water supply assets.

743. Yeronga State High School; Asbestos Removal Program

Mr FOLEY asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (3/9/96)—

With reference to asbestos at the Yeronga State High School identified by his department for immediate removal for reasons of health and safety and to the Government's appalling failure to remove the said asbestos—

- (1) Was a report issued on 1 March 1996 of an inspection on 17 January 1996 identifying the following asbestos problem areas warranting immediate removal on health and safety grounds (a) the fume cupboard in Room A10 of A block, (b) the Townsend and Mercer lab oven in H block, (c) the sheeting store under the bench below the Bunsen burners in H block and (d) the roof of the Manual Arts block?
- (2) Why did his department fail to advise the school of this until the Q Build Building Management Plan for Yeronga State High School dated 31 July 1996 was received by the school on 6 August 1996?
- (3) Why has he cut funding to the asbestos removal program, preventing removal of the problem asbestos at Yeronga State High School and exposing students, teachers and other staff to unacceptable health and safety risks?
- (4) With reference to the downgrading of the priority for removal of the asbestos roof of the Manual Arts block from "Immediate" priority to "High" priority, (a) was this a dishonest attempt to conceal the urgency of this problem as the Government had withdrawn funding from the vital asbestos removal program and (b) why, how, when and by whom was the priority downgraded from "Immediate" to "High"?
- (5) Does he accept that it is grossly unsatisfactory that students and staff should be exposed to health and safety risks because, according to his department's letter to the school of 17 July 1996, funding for immediate removal is

presently unavailable pending the announcement of the 1996-97 budget?

- (6) Will he now take immediate steps to rectify the problems of asbestos identified at the Yeronga State High School?

Mr Connor (3/10/96):

(1) A preliminary asbestos register report was printed on 1 March 1996.

(2) This department did not fail to advise the school of these items. There was continuous contact and briefings given to the School during and after the audit. The school was informed of the findings of the audit prior to the Building Management Plan (BMP) being delivered.

(3) There has been no cut in funding to this program.

(4) No. The reassessment of the roof of the Manual Arts block was undertaken when a query was raised of Central Office by the auditing team regarding the condition of this particular roof. An inspection and risk analysis was undertaken by Central Office support staff and the material was reevaluated as being in satisfactory condition with no associated health risk to students or other persons. The roof is registered on the planned removal schedule under the maintenance program. Obtaining a second opinion is common, and good practice in this industry.

(5) Students and staff have not been exposed to any asbestos-related health or safety risks. The only asbestos in the 'immediate' removal category was contained in a lab oven. This oven was taken out of service when the asbestos was identified and assessed, and has been rectified as part of the 1996-97 program. The remaining asbestos identified is in a stable condition. It poses no immediate threat to health or safety and can be safely managed in situ until it is removed.

(6) All asbestos identified as requiring immediate removal has been removed.

744. State Bank

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (3/9/96)—

With reference to her pledge that a State Bank would be good for Queensland—

- (1) In which State did she find the person selected to head the merger planning group?
- (2) In which State is the company she selected to lobby Metway shareholders based?
- (3) In which State is the company she employed as her adviser and broker for this merger based?
- (4) In which State is the company she is employing to perform the independent valuation for the merger based?

Mrs Sheldon (3/10/96): No pledge has been made in relation to a State Bank—Labor Governments have presided over disasters in relation to State Banks in other States; we are ensuring that Queensland does not suffer the same fate. However, I have stated that the merger of three fine

Queensland institutions would provide significant benefits for the State and was in the best interests of all concerned: the businesses of Suncorp, QIDC and Metway; the staff and customers of the three entities; the shareholders including the people of Queensland as owners of QIDC and Suncorp. The merger also produces financial and economic benefits for the State.

1. The chairman of the Merger Planning Group, Mr John Lamble, is from New South Wales. The fact that the merged group can attract a national business leader of the calibre of John Lamble should indicate the strength and prospects of the merged group.

2. Metway shareholders were not lobbied. Polling of Metway shareholders by Metway and by the Government was conducted by Levita Pty Ltd, a New South Wales based firm.

3. Brokers and advisers on the issue of Exchanging Preferred Units by the listed unit trust is a consortium of Brisbane based stockbroking firms. Lead managers are Wilson HTM and Morgans Stockbroking, together with the national stockbroking firm, J. B. Were & Son.

4. Consultants for the independent valuation were selected and employed by the Merger Planning Group. They were not employed by me.

745. Wet Tropics Management Authority

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (3/9/96)—

With reference to the Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA)—

- (1) Does he support the \$1.2m cut in the Federal Government budget allocation to the WTMA announced in the Federal budget?
- (2) What activities of the WTMA does he believe should be cut to accommodate this reduction in funding?
- (3) When did he last have contact with Councillor Jim Chapman regarding his proposal for him to become Chair of the WTMA?
- (4) Has he advised Mr Chapman that Senator Hill regards Mr Chapman to be an unacceptable choice for Chair?
- (5) Which WTMA Board members does he consider to be representing the Queensland Government?
- (6) Which of the board members did he write to informing them of the State Governments policies in terms similar to that in a letter of advice to Dr Lesley Clark?
- (7) What areas of inefficiency and waste has he identified in the WTMA to justify any funding cuts?

Mr Littleproud (24/9/96):

1. I am aware that the Federal Government framed its budget on the basis of what was best for the nation given the disastrous financial situation left by the previous Labor Government. This approach did require a reduction in funding in certain areas

including the Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA).

2. Even if the Federal Government's Budget Allocations to the WTMA for the 1996/97 financial year had remained at the previous year's level, I would have been encouraging the WTMA Board to review its operations to ensure that its activities were the most cost effective ones. This approach is even more important now that Federal Government funding for the current financial year has been reduced. I would expect the WTMA Board to undertake a comprehensive review of its operations and budget arrangements and allocate funds to the highest priority areas.

3. I have not had contact with Councillor Jim Chapman for some weeks. However, he is only one of several people being considered with regard to the position.

4. See (3) above.

5. Two Board Members nominated by the Queensland Government.

6. Two Board Members nominated by the Queensland Government.

7. See (1) and (2) above.

746. Rail Line Location, Bracewell

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (3/9/96)—

With reference to residents of the Bracewell areas who continue to be frustrated in reaching a satisfactory finalisation to discussions with QCL for their proposed expansion—

What progress has the department made on the issue of the rail line's location, particularly as Option 7 affects Mrs McNally and Mr and Mrs Paget whose preference is Option 4—a scenario examined in the IAS and dismissed apparently only on cost factors?

Mr Johnson (3/10/96): The QCL Impact Assessment Study process involved consultation with landholders and resulted in the evaluation of a total of 7 options for the rail spur layout at East End. Option 4 is the least feasible and practical alternative of the layouts. This is because the option requires sterilisation of mining reserves, the topography of the land makes construction of a rail spur difficult and it would result in a significant increase in rail spur and conveyor construction costs.

Option 7 has been identified as the preferred layout for the rail spur. Option 7 does not sterilise mining reserves and it provides the benefits of being practical and cost effective to construct and operate, while attempting to address the concerns of all of the parties consulted. In fact, it minimises the overall resumptions from all landholders, not just Mrs McNally.

Notices of Intention to Resume to landholders were issued on 2 August 1996 in accordance with the Option 7 layout. Objections to the resumptions have been lodged by Mrs McNally and Mr and Mrs Paget. The resumption process allows these objections to be heard on 13 September 1996, with the outcome being a determination on the respective landholders' concerns and the finalisation of the spur alignment.

747. Rockhampton, Office of the Premier

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Premier (3/9/96)—

With reference to the Office of the Premier to be established in Rockhampton—

- (1) When will this office officially open?
- (2) What staff numbers will be employed in this office?
- (3) What duties will these staff perform?
- (4) What is the classification and salary of each of these staff?
- (5) What process will be used to employ these staff?
- (6) Will these staff be public servants or political appointments?
- (7) Will these staff be expected to travel to other central Queensland centres?
- (8) Will Government vehicles be provided to these staff; if so, what type of vehicles will be provided and will they be officially marked?
- (9) Where will this office be located?
- (10) What annual rent is to be paid for these premises?
- (11) What is the proposed annual budget for salary and running of this office?

Mr Borbidge (3/10/96): There is no Office of the Premier to be established in Rockhampton.

(1) to (11) see above.

748. Ipswich General Hospital; Asbestos Removal Program

Mr HAMILL asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (3/9/96)—

With reference to alarming reports in the Queensland Times (2 September) of asbestos materials being present in the Maternity Wing of the Ipswich General Hospital—

- (1) When will this material be removed?
- (2) At what cost?
- (3) Has the Asbestos Management Program been curtailed by the Coalition Government?
- (4) Is it proposed to withdraw over \$3m from the program in 1996-97?

Mr Connor (3/10/96):

- (1) The material will be removed as soon as planning for coordination with hospital operations is complete.
- (2) Approximately \$10,000 to \$12,000.
- (3) No. There has been no change of policy.
- (4) A direct allocation of \$2.5M for the program will be available in 1996-97 for auditing and management of the program. The program has been made more flexible by making funds available from Departmental maintenance programs for the removal of high priority asbestos.

749. Royal Children's Hospital

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Health (4/9/96)—

With reference to a memorandum to all staff at the Royal Children's Hospital (RCH), dated 21 August 1996, which confirmed that a number of options designed to effect budget savings included the closure of the Segal Ward for at least six months and the decommissioning of the specialist infectious diseases unit previously provided for in the Patterson Ward—

- (1) Will he accept any responsibility for increased rates of cross-infection in children receiving treatment at the RCH caused by putting infectious beds in with the general medical ward for children?
- (2) Does he accept that the decommissioning of the Patterson Ward was causing serious distress to parents of young patients and nursing staff because of the heightened risk of cross-infection in a mixed ward arrangement such as this?
- (3) Will he explain the details behind recent reports of a proposal that hospital staff could face fines if cross-infection in patients under their care could be proven against them?
- (4) Why was this proposal aired and then later withdrawn by him?
- (5) Has he approved any documents of a submission nature concerning this proposal to fine hospital staff on infection control issues?
- (6) What consultation took place, if any, between either himself or his department and the generous sponsors of the children's ward mentioned for closure at the RCH (Segal and Woolworths) to maintain their valued support in the future?

Mr Horan (2/10/96): I am disappointed that you have asked a question with so many parts, which breaches the spirit of the Standing Orders and which creates an unnecessary burden on the staff of Queensland Health. However, for the benefit of your constituents, I provide the following answer.

No final decision has been made about the patient management changes at the Royal Children's Hospital. Management has initiated a consultation phase to seek input from medical and nursing staff on the proposals.

At a meeting of the Medical Staff Association with Hospital management on 2 September, medical staff voted overwhelmingly to proceed to develop an implementation plan for the possible merger of three medical wards into two medical wards. Only one medical staff member voted against the motion. Management is now in a detailed process of consultation with medical and nursing staff to develop a plan for the ward merger. The current proposal incorporates concerns about cross-infection. As a result, an infectious area will be maintained and a more rigorous admission assessment will identify clinical infection status. This initiative has potential to raise infection control standards. When an acceptable plan has been

developed, discussions will be held with the sponsors to ensure they are informed and their interests taken into account. I deeply value their support.

The issue of fines was raised in an interview which a journalist conducted with a senior officer of my Department. That officer has told me that he was misreported. The reported views do not reflect either Departmental policy, nor even views of the officer concerned. I have not and will not be approving any scheme of this nature.

750. Queensland Health, Board Appointees

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Health (4/9/96)—

- (1) Will he confirm his commitment to the role of consumer representatives on appropriate boards?
- (2) Will he confirm that it is the role of these appointees to represent the interests of health consumers?

Mr Horan (2/10/96):

(1) The current health practitioner legislation draft paper proposes doubling the current representation. The Government's preferred position will be canvassed in a policy paper on all the health practitioner legislation (with the exception of the Queensland Nursing Act) which will be released shortly.

(2) The current registration legislation uses the term "representing users of the services" of the relevant practitioners. The legislation does not specify the roles and responsibilities of that member of the Board and this will be addressed in the policy paper. However, in *Bennetts v The Board of Fire Commissioners of NSW and Others*, His Honour Mr Justice Street commented that:

"Nomination of the individual members and their election to membership by interested groups ensure that the Board as a whole has access to a wide range of views, and it is to be expected within this wide range of views that inevitably there will be differences in the opinions, approaches and philosophies of the Board members. But the predominating element which each individual must constantly bear in mind is the promotion of the interests of the Board itself. In particular a Board Member must not allow himself to be compromised by looking to the interests of the group which appointed him rather than to the interests for which the Board exists."

Clearly Mr Justice Street's opinion in this definitive case establishes the benchmark for the role of any board member.

751. Compulsory Third-party Insurance

Mr BRISKEY asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (4/9/96)—

With reference to the Fitzgerald Audit Report recommendation to deregulate Compulsory Third Party insurance—

What effect would the implementation of this recommendation have upon the premiums paid by motor vehicle owners?

Mrs Sheldon (3/10/96): The Government has established an Audit Commission Implementation Office to coordinate the assessment of the recommendations from the Commission of Audits' report. No assessment has been made of the potential impact of the recommendation regarding the setting of CTP insurance premiums.

Meanwhile the existing legislation requires an annual review by the Motor Accident Insurance Commission of CTP premium levels. This encompasses actuarial advice and culminates in a recommendation to Government, and the fixing of premiums by Regulation. This process is enhanced by the legislative requirement that if the Government fixes premiums, different to the Commission's recommendation, the Government must table in the Legislative Assembly a report setting out in detail the reasons for the difference.

752. Suncorp/Metway/QIDC Merger

Mr MILLINER asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (4/9/96)—

With reference to the unanimous vote of this Parliament on 11 July 1996 that the proposed merger of Suncorp, Metway and QIDC does not result in forced redundancies or diminution of services—

- (1) Will the Government be able to deliver the outcome for which its members, to a person, voted?
- (2) What advice has she received from Treasury or Mr Lamble on the number of jobs to be lost and branches to be closed as a result of the merger?
- (3) Does that advice indicate that forced redundancies will be necessary to achieve savings targets imposed by the costs of this mega-bank merger; if so, how many forced redundancies will occur, and over what period?

Mrs Sheldon (3/10/96):

1. Consistent with the position it has stated from the outset, the Government expects that there will be some rationalisation of branches and staff arrangements arising from the merger. However, this is expected to be accommodated through natural attrition without recourse to forced redundancies and without diminution of services.

2 and 3. Treasury conducted a review of Queensland Government Financial Services Sector for the previous Government in December 1995. That report is now outdated as circumstances have changed significantly since that time. Accordingly, some of the analysis is no longer relevant. For example, it was assumed that all duplicated branches in any centre would be closed and all jobs lost. It made no allowance for expanded staffing requirements of branches of the new bank that would provide a wider range of services to a larger customer base. Further, the report took no account of the jobs saved or additional jobs created by a major head office

located in Brisbane. Up to 600 jobs in Metway's head office would have been lost if the St George takeover proceeded. Jobs also will be preserved in businesses providing support services. Importantly, as part of a solid merged group, the Suncorp, Metway and QIDC businesses will be stronger and, in the longer term, will have the opportunity to grow and provide enhanced job and career prospects for staff.

Mr Lamble has not provided any advice on this issue.

753. Timber Industry

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Natural Resources (4/9/96)—

With reference to the National Forestry Policy Statement and the concept of Deferred Forest Areas based on a 15 per cent criterion, both of which are supported by the Howard Government—

- (1) Does the Queensland Government support a national reserve criterion which includes a benchmark of 15 per cent of the pre-1750 distributions of forest type?
- (2) In light of the fact the Forestry Working Group, established by Labor and supported by the Queensland Timber Board and the conservation movement, has not been permitted to meet under this Government, what process does he have in place to ensure the long term protection of areas of high conservation value as well as the future viability of the more than 300 native forest timber mills in Queensland?

Mr Hobbs (30/9/96): (1) The Queensland Government remains opposed to the arbitrary application of a 15% reservation rule.

The latest version of the reserve criteria, produced by the Joint Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council/Ministerial Council for Forestry Fisheries and Aquaculture National Forest Policy Statement Implementation Sub Committee Group (JANIS) represents a substantial moderation of the earlier position (established unilaterally by the Commonwealth Government) of an absolute 15% reserve lock up. Queensland representatives on JANIS argued for, and won significant amendments to the original criteria. For example, the report now recognises the need for flexibility in the application of the criteria to deliver "optimal nature conservation outcomes as well as acceptable social and economic outcomes". It further indicates that area criteria such as the 15% should be "considered as guidelines rather than mandatory targets". Thus the 15% can be modified for areas where the forest ecosystem is extensive, or where there are selectively harvested areas over a long rotation or where there are unsatisfactory social or economic consequences.

(2) The Forest Working Group is supported by this Government. It has met three times since early July this year and is making a very significant contribution to the forest policy debate. In giving positive support to the concept of a Forest Working Group, I restructured it in consultation with my colleagues the Minister for Primary Industries and the Minister for

the Environment to make it a far more representative body.

The Queensland Cabinet will be considering Queensland's position with respect to the whole Regional Forest Agreement process in the near future, and I will be announcing that position when it has been resolved. In the meantime let me assure you that this Government will be providing resource security to the timber industry and at the same time ensuring that nature conservation values of our forests are adequately protected.

754. Police Staffing

Mr NUNN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (4/9/96)—

- (1) How many police officers have resigned or left the Police Service since 15 February 1996?
- (2) How many police have been recruited in that time?
- (3) How many police stations have had an increase in the number of uniformed officers in that time?
- (4) Which stations?
- (5) By how many?
- (6) How many police are expected to be recruited in 1996-97?

Mr Cooper (27/9/96):

- (1) A total of 138 separations from the Service have occurred between 15 February 1996 and 1 September 1996.
- (2) A total of 175 new officers have been sworn in during that period.
- (3), (4) and (5) The Authorised strength for the Service has not altered over the period commencing 15 February 1996 through to the present time. The actual strengths of individual stations may have fluctuated a number of times during this period with increases and decreases occurring as a result of transfers, secondments, appointments and natural attrition. Identification of increases in the actual strength of individual stations would not present a valid representation of staffing trends across the Service as other stations experience commensurate decreases in actual strengths. Increases to the authorised strength of the Service together with the continued implementation of the civilianisation program have been incorporated into the budget for the 1996/97 financial year.
- (6) A total of 410 new officers are expected to be sworn in during the 1996/97 financial year.

755. Fertilisers

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (4/9/96)—

With reference to the fact that certain commonly used fertilisers can be used as explosives when mixed with diesel fuel—

- (1) Is he aware of American legislation requiring fertiliser manufacturers to put chemical "fingerprints" or tagettes in certain products so

their origin could be identified after their unauthorised use as explosives?

- (2) Will he consider similar legislation to prevent the use of these fertilisers for unlawful purposes?

Mr Perrett (2/10/96):

1. From the best advice that I can obtain it would seem that legislation as you have outlined does not exist in America. Advice to me, however, suggests that the United States Congress has foreshadowed such legislation but that this foreshadowed legislation is still on hold pending further investigation as to its suitability.

2. I have no plans to introduce similar legislation.

In this regard I would advise as follows. It may be useful to include taggants (spelt incorrectly in question) in fertilisers that have the capacity to cause an explosion when mixed with other substances, for the purpose of ascertaining the origins of that fertiliser. However, in the absence of a licensing scheme requiring all parties in the sale and transfer of the fertiliser to record all such sales or transfers, the taggants included in fertilisers would not help in any way to identify the individual or individuals that committed the actual unlawful act.

Legislation already exists under the Queensland Explosives Act prohibiting any person from manufacturing any explosive unless that explosive is approved under the Act and the person manufacturing the explosive is licensed under that Act.

756. Parking of Buses and Trucks in Suburbs

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (4/9/96)—

With reference to concerns expressed by many residents with respect to the parking of buses and trucks in suburban streets which can compromise the safety and visual amenity for neighbouring residents—

What plans or proposals does he have to address this problem and when can concerned residents expect action in response to their concerns?

Mr Johnson (4/10/96): There is little evidence to suggest that the parking of heavy vehicles on residential streets adversely affects road safety as the speed limits in these areas are relatively low and drivers normally approach large vehicles with extra care. I acknowledge that large vehicles can impede a driver's sight line, however the other factors I have mentioned generally negate any adverse road safety implications. This issue is more one of residential amenity.

The Traffic Act 1949 sets out the necessary controls for the safe movement of, and equity of access for, pedestrians and vehicles when using a road. The Traffic Act 1949 was amended in July 1994 to provide clear examples of how a local government may control various activities in its area of jurisdiction. One activity in particular was the control of "parking by time" restraints which limits the time that a single vehicle may park in a particular area, and

by doing so, provides the opportunity for other road users to utilise the parking facilities in that area.

The decision to delegate this authority was made in consultation with Local Governments. Local Governments are in a better position to make informed decisions based on local circumstances regarding the regulation of parking within a particular area. When making a determination regarding parking restrictions, Local Governments must take into consideration traffic safety issues and equity of access to all road users.

While these amendments provide Local Governments with greater control over the parking of vehicles, the amendments do not interfere with the existing authority of a police officer to direct the immediate removal of a vehicle that is parked in a manner which creates a danger, hindrance or obstruction to other road users.

757.Cattle Industry

Mr BEATTIE asked the Minister for Economic Development and Trade and Minister Assisting the Premier (4/9/96)—

With reference to plans for the Queensland cattle industry to supply more than 100,000 live cattle to Indonesia as a result of a recent trade delegation he led—

- (1) Are any of these cattle coming from the following properties (a) Gilgunyah—Richmond area, (b) Woodmillar—Gayndah area, (c) Campbell Grove—Gayndah area, (d) Yetton—Gayndah area, (e) Dutton Downs—Hughenden district and (f) Glenearn—Surat district?
- (2) Will he also outline (a) what numbers of cattle are involved from whichever properties are involved, (b) the likely cash return and (c) the Indonesian companies purchasing the cattle?

Mr Slack (2/10/96): I take it that the Leader of the Opposition's question relates to the indication by the Indonesian Government of their desire to purchase 100,000 breeding stock for their transmigration program.

For the information of the honourable member, talks are occurring between the Indonesian Departments of Transmigration and Agriculture and the Department of Primary Industries regarding the possible sourcing of some or all of these cattle from Queensland.

In answer to Section 1, it is not anticipated that any of the cattle would be sourced from the properties mentioned in the question.

If the honourable member is trying to imply by the question that I may be involved in the gaining of some personal benefits from the program, I can assure him that this is not the case.

I can also assure him I will continue to push for more exports of Queensland cattle and beef for the benefit of Queensland cattlemen, rural communities, the Queensland economy and jobs for Queenslanders.

Section 2 does not apply.

758. Aboriginal Housing; Palm Island Dam

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (4/9/96)—

With reference to his recent expression of concern about inadequate Aboriginal housing and the international consequences of not addressing the problem, and the fact that the Goss Government had committed to a substantial increase in public housing, together with financial assistance for the development of residential blocks where housing construction was to be funded by ATSIC on Palm Island, the largest Aboriginal community in Queensland contained within my Electorate of Townsville, and in view of the occupation of existing homes running in some instances up to 20 people per dwelling—

- (1) Will he provide a detailed commitment of his Government's intention to address the problem in (a) the immediate future, (b) to the end of the decade and (c) beyond the year 2000?
- (2) As well, in a related field, does he acknowledge the progress and planning of the new Palm Island Dam has fallen well behind schedule?
- (3) When is the dam now proposed for completion?
- (4) What plans does the Government have to guarantee a supply of potable water to the island community, particularly prior to the completion of the new dam, and more seriously, if a water shortage arises through unfavourable seasonal conditions?

Mr Connor (3/10/96):

(1) The Queensland Government is committed to addressing the housing needs of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Queensland, including Palm Island. The magnitude of the housing problems on these communities cannot be solved by the resources of the Queensland Government alone. In order to have any impact on the problem, a substantial injection of Commonwealth Funding is required.

(2),(3) and (4) The Palm Island Dam construction is a joint State/ATSIC project and the State Government's involvement in the project is managed by the Department of Local Government and Planning, through the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Infrastructure Program.

The Honourable Member should therefore direct these questions to my Cabinet colleague, the Honourable Di McCauley MLA, Minister for Local Government and Planning.

759. Logan Motorway Toll

Mr HAMILL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (4/9/96)—

With reference to her statement in Parliament on 3 September 1996 where she claimed that "I do not see why the people of the Sunshine Coast should pay twice for an arterial road through their taxes and through the toll" and as the Logan Motorway is also an important arterial road which is extensively used

by workers travelling to and from their place of employment and by small business operators—

Will she apply the same policy to the collection of tolls on the Logan Motorway as she has to the collection of tolls on the Sunshine Motorway; if not, isn't this a clear demonstration that she and her Government applies one rule for the Sunshine Coast and another for the people of Ipswich and Logan?

Mrs Sheldon (3/10/96): There are several significant differences between the Sunshine Motorway and the Logan Motorway which make the removal of tolls on the Logan Motorway inappropriate. In particular:-

the large proportion of local traffic captured by the Sunshine Motorway is in direct contrast to the significant proportion of commercial and non-local traffic using the Logan Motorway. This difference is illustrated by the fact that the Logan Motorway will form part of a priority freight network to the south of the City once the Southern Brisbane Bypass is completed;

whilst tolls have been in place continuously on the Logan Motorway since 1988, there have been various changes to tolling arrangements on the Sunshine Motorway (including no toll on the Maroochy River Bridge for a period of time), leading to a high degree of uncertainty for the local community;

there exists readily accessible toll free alternative routes to the Logan Motorway. The alternative route over the Maroochy River involved a disproportionate additional driving time; and

both sides of politics undertook to eliminate tolls on the Sunshine Motorway. No such promises have been made for the Logan Motorway.

For the reasons outlined above, a clear distinction can be made between operational and economic features of the Sunshine Motorway and the Logan Motorway. Under present Government policy, removal of the tolls on the Sunshine Motorway is not intended as a precedent for Queensland's other existing motorways.

There is planned to be a review of the toll structure applying to the Logan Motorway after completion of the Southern Brisbane Bypass to ensure consistency of toll structure across the full Logan/Southern Bypass/Gateway network.

760. Mr I. McCauley

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (4/9/96)—

With reference to the DME Project Management and Control Structure and noting that Mr Ian McCauley is a member of the Steering Committee—

- (1) Is this Mr McCauley related to any prominent National Party identity?
- (2) Will Mr McCauley receive any payment from the Queensland Government for any work performed?

(3) Who recommended Mr McCauley for the position?

(4) Will the report go to Cabinet for consideration?

Mr Gilmore (1/10/96):

(1) Mr Ian McCauley is the spouse of Mrs Di McCauley the Minister for Local Government and Planning.

(2) Mr McCauley is entitled to receive meeting fees as remuneration arrangements prescribed by Government (Department of Training and Industrial Relations) for attendance at Steering Committee Meetings for part-time chairs, members of Government Boards, Committees and Statutory Authorities. (A maximum rate of \$140.00 per meeting is payable for a chair for a steering committee that will involve general consultation, advice and liaison activities).

(3) Mr McCauley was recommended for the position because he is a mining engineer who has been involved in metalliferous mining at Mount Isa (in his early years) and been very prominent in the coal industry in the Bowen Basin. Mr McCauley has also been involved with Queensland Mining Council for many years.

(4) The Report is not intended to go to Cabinet for consideration.

761. Speed Cameras

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (4/9/96)—

With reference to the impending introduction of speed cameras to curb inappropriate speed on all roads—

What steps have been taken to ensure that local authorities survey roads under their control so that some inappropriately low speed limits do not unfairly trap drivers travelling at a safe speed?

Mr Johnson (4/10/96): Initially, speed cameras will be used on State-controlled roads only, with the inclusion of other roads later as part of a staged implementation process. A staged approach is being adopted due to the complexities and costs associated with implementation. State-controlled roads will provide the most efficient first stage of implementation as over 50% of all speed related crashes occur on this part of the road network which represent just 20% of the total road network for Queensland.

Expansion of the program onto Council-controlled roads will be subject to the extent of cooperation received from Local Governments in reviewing speed limits on their networks. It will be incumbent on Local Governments to demonstrate that these reviews are conducted in accordance with the new Speed Control Guidelines developed by Queensland Transport in consultation with Local Government representatives and other stakeholders. In addition, Queensland Transport and the Department of Main Roads will conduct random checks of Local Governments to ensure adherence to the new guidelines during the review phase.

Any expansion, including any additional funding requirements, is expected to occur in late 1997, subject to approval by Cabinet. In the interim, it is expected that the method of deploying cameras, and the complementary public education program, will have an effect on all drivers on all roads. It is also expected that the use of speed cameras will contribute to increased availability of conventional enforcement resources for application to local roads which have documented safety problems.

With respect to Local Governments setting inappropriately low speed limits on some roads, there will be rigorous selection criteria in place for the selection of speed camera locations. One such criterion is that the speed limit must be reviewed on a given section of road, in accordance with Queensland Transport Speed Control Guidelines and Supplementary Policies, prior to the use of a speed camera being approved.

Work is also continuing at a national level to resolve issues relating to the use of limits less than 60 km/h in urban areas. Once resolved the Speed Control Guidelines will be amended to suit. The current guidelines only allow for the use of lower limits where there are supporting physical devices (40 km/h) or where it is clearly a shared traffic environment (10 km/h).

762. Townsville/Thuringowa, Home Help Services

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Health (4/9/96)—

With reference to complaints from residents of Townsville/Thuringowa to me that their home-help services have been totally withdrawn—

- (1) What are (a) the total hours withdrawn for the Townsville/Thuringowa area and (b) the dollar savings?
- (2) To which other section of the health budget will these savings be applied?
- (3) Given that the previous recipients of home-help services are almost exclusively elderly and ill, how are they expected to carry out the chores no longer done for them?

Mr Horan (2/10/96):

(1 & 2) (a) Under an initiative of the Beattie administration, a total of 192 hours per fortnight of home-care service has been withdrawn. This represents services to 122 clients.

(b) Under my administration, there have been no dollar savings, since service hours have been reallocated to the highest risk clients in the Townsville/Thuringowa area.

(3) I am assured that the level of need of home-care recipients is regularly reassessed. When demand for services exceeds available funds the most highly dependent clients are given priority. The way in which your now Leader, Mr Beattie, managed this change was precipitous and caused unnecessary distress.

763. Bundaberg, Railway Crossing

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (4/9/96)—

With reference to the railway crossing at Bourbong Street, Bundaberg and my understanding that interim works would be undertaken to repair the very rough and dangerous surface in July/August 1996, and that a major replacement to the crossing would be carried out in the near future—

- (1) As no repairs have been made to date, will he request Queensland Rail to undertake interim repairs as a matter of urgency?
- (2) When would the works be undertaken to upgrade the crossing as a long term permanent solution to the very rough and dangerous (for bikes, motorcycles and loaded trucks) road/rail crossing?

Mr Johnson (4/10/96):

1. I can confirm that the repair work proposed was completed as scheduled.
2. The works to upgrade the crossing are programmed to be completed by the end of September 1996.

764. Granville Bridge

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (4/9/96)—

With reference to further widening of the Granville Bridge which is under way, the third such addition since its construction in 1926—

- (1) Is he aware that the foreman in charge of work has commented that the bridge is not in good shape?
- (2) Is he aware the bridge was designed and constructed as a one-lane bridge 70 years ago to carry horse drawn traffic with a maximum weight of a few tonnes and yet today it is carrying hundreds of vehicles, some weighing up to 60 tonnes?
- (3) Is he aware the extra width and added weight to the top of the bridge puts it at higher risk in times of floods?
- (4) Is he aware that if we were to lose the bridge it would be an absolute disaster for Maryborough as Hyne Timber Mill, Maryborough Sugar Mill and Walkers Engineering Works plus many other smaller businesses resource their materials and workforce via the Granville bridge, as do some thousands of residents of Granville, Poona, Maroon and traffic of the Cooloola Coast Road that is increasing rapidly?
- (5) In view of all this, does he agree it would be prudent to start now to procure a corridor and site for a new bridge across the Mary River since the period from planning to construction is usually about 5 years?
- (6) Will he give an undertaking to Maryborough citizens that he put into action the securing of a corridor and site for a new bridge across the Mary River?

Mr Johnson (4/10/96):

(1) I have been advised of the comments made by the foreman-in-charge on the project. These were referred to the Main Roads Bridge Design Section. Since the comments were made, the Senior Engineer (Bridge Design) inspected the bridge on 21 August 1996.

During the inspection of the bridge, it was noted that some areas of honeycombing were evident in the concrete of the existing footpath, as well as some areas of poor concrete compaction in the piers.

The areas inspected on the bridge that raised the concerns are not extensive and do not affect the structural integrity of the bridge.

(2) Granville Bridge was designed for the Granville Bridge Board in 1923. The bridge was 23 feet wide and consisted of a 5 foot footpath and an 18 foot roadway. An 18 foot roadway was the standard width of two-lane bridges in that era.

The live load design criteria for the design of the bridge is not currently known by the Department of Main Roads. The bridge is currently rated by Main Roads as "A" class, which is the highest rating which existed in 1923, but subsequently has been assessed as capable of carrying current vehicle loads.

(3) The flood loading of a submerged bridge is a function of the cross-sectional area of the bridge. The footpath extension does not alter this cross-section area. The original widening was on the downstream side. The footpath extension is on the upstream side which will provide additional stability to reduce the risk in times of flood.

(4) I am aware that the loss of the bridge would be a major issue to Maryborough; however, the threat of the loss of the bridge is no greater now than in the past.

(5) The 1989 Maryborough Road Network Study identified the need for an additional bridge over the Mary River as a low priority; however, the study did recommend to protect a corridor for a new bridge.

The Bundaberg Office of Main Roads has concept planning proposed to commence in the next two years to address this issue.

(6) Depending on the outcome of the concept planning for a new bridge over the Mary River, action will be taken at an appropriate time to secure the necessary corridor required.

765. Ron Camm Bridge

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (4/9/96)—

With reference to the Federal Coalition Government's intention to cut \$622m from the National Highway system—

(1) What discussions has he had with the Federal Minister for Transport to ensure that the duplication of the Ron Camm Bridge at Mackay will proceed in line with his departmental forecast, as detailed in the National Highway document which was forwarded to the Federal Department of Transport in February 1995?

- (2) Will he detail the extent and cost of preliminary work that has been completed or is currently under way on this project?
- (3) Will he provide details of the overall cost of this project including State and Federal funding contributions?
- (4) Will he guarantee that the project, including associated roadworks, will be completed as scheduled in the National Highway document; if not, what is the projected completion date of the project?

Mr Johnson (4/10/96):

(1) I have met with the Honourable John Sharp MP, Federal Minister for Transport, regarding funding provided under the National Highway Program and discussed State priorities for funding of specific projects. The Ron Camm Bridge duplication is one of several high priority projects which the State is seeking to have proceed in accordance with timing and funding schedules provided previously

(2) Main Roads has carried out site investigations and preliminary planning and is currently finalising plans and specifications for the bridge duplication and approach roadway upgrading. Expenditure on this work to 31 August 1996 was \$506,000 with an estimated total cost of \$700,000.

(3) The estimated cost of the Ron Camm Bridge and approach roadway duplication between the Showgrounds and Philip Street is \$23.55 million. The project has been proposed to be funded by the Federal Government under the National Roads Program.

(4) Currently, the National Roads Program is being prepared by the Federal Department of Transport in conjunction with State agencies. The final funding and timing of individual projects will be dependant on funding available and Federal and State Government's priorities. The Federal Budget cuts to National Road funding inevitably will lead to delays in the National Roads programs.

767. Workers' Compensation

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (4/9/96)—

With reference to workers' compensation matters—

- (1) Does a 15 per cent WRI equate to a 37 per cent injury to the lower limb or 25 per cent injury to the upper limb?
- (2) Does a tradesman with a knee injury, who can't climb ladders, work in confined spaces or walk on uneven surfaces like house roofs, fall short of the threshold?
- (3) Does a carpenter who can't work his tools because of a shoulder injury, also fall short of the threshold?
- (4) How does he expect such a person and their family to survive if the person can't carry out their trade and is left with a handout of around \$10,000?
- (5) Does the Government intend to pay approximately \$160m to employers in merit

- bonuses despite the current situation of the Workers' Compensation Fund?
- (6) How much of this is attributable to employers who had a common law claim made against them in the period to which the merit bonus relates?
 - (7) How many employers who have common law claims from previous years still in the courts received merit bonus payments in 1996?
 - (8) Is it true that under the Workers' Compensation scheme envisaged by the Government, medical assessment tribunals will be left to determine the extent of an injured worker's WRI, and that the injured worker will have no right of appeal from any such determination?
 - (9) Is it true that the Government's proposed answer to employer avoidance of payment of premiums is to restrict coverage to PAYE employees with a right to self insurance with Workcover to be provided to certain workers who are non-PAYE employees?
 - (10) What if any affect does the Government expect that this will have on increasing the premium income to be recovered by Workcover?
 - (11) What if any impact does the Government expect that this will have on the number of future claims, both statutory and common law, to be paid from the fund?
 - (12) Will common law be made a separate part of the fund or will common law be paid out of the general fund?
 - (13) Will common law claims still not affect employer merit bonuses?
 - (14) Does no other compensation scheme in Australia require that for any injury to be compensable, work be the major significant contributing factor to its development; if so, why does the Queensland scheme need such a requirement?
 - (15) Who are the 132 employers (0.06 per cent of all workplaces) who are responsible for 30 per cent of all Queensland Common Law claims as referred to in the Kennedy Report?
 - (16) As over 105,000 injury claims occurred in Queensland in 1995 and as these were caused by only 7.98 per cent of all employers, what industries (the top six) were responsible for these claims (e.g. building, mining etc.)?

Mr Santoro (2/10/96):

(1) The 15 per cent Work Related Impairment (WRI) is not expressed as a proportion of the injured part of the body or of the whole body but as the percentage of the statutory maximum compensation (recommended to be increased to \$130,000) payable for the permanent impairment. In order for a worker to access common law, they must have a WRI of greater than 15 per cent which in effect means a lump sum amount payable from the Table of greater than 15 per cent of \$130,000 that is a lump sum greater than \$19,500.

A 37% permanent impairment to the leg would result in a statutory lump sum payment of \$36,075 which equates to 27.75% WRI.

A 25% permanent impairment to the arm would result in a statutory lump sum payment of \$26,000 which equates to 20% WRI.

(2)-(4) In the absence of any definite medical diagnosis or evaluation of WRI in the cases and scenarios outlined at numbers (2)-(4), it is impossible to respond to these questions.

(5) While merit bonus discounts on employers' workers' compensation premiums will still be paid, the rates at which the discounts will be granted have been scaled back to a maximum of 35% and will cost approximately \$138M. The merit bonus will be granted as an incentive for employers to maintain safe workplaces. The abolition of the merit bonus would have punished the employers with good claims records, sending the wrong message to employers.

(6)-(7) This information is not readily available with respect to individual employers. As a measure of the impact of the exclusion of common law payments from merit bonus calculations, the following information may be of assistance. \$126.6M in merit bonus was granted in the 1995/96 financial year, in respect of 1994/95 assessments. Had common law payments been included in the calculation of merit bonuses granted in the 1995/96 year, (which was based on claims experience for the 1994/95 year and excluded common law claims payments) the merit bonuses would have been reduced by approximately \$17M. Common law claims were excluded from merit bonus calculations by the previous Labor Government from 1 July 1994 in respect of merit bonus granted in the 1995/96 financial year for 1994/95 premium assessments.

(8) WRI is the percentage of the statutory maximum compensation (\$130,000) payable for the permanent impairment sustained. The statutory lump sum entitlement is determined under the table of Injuries by a registered medical practitioner. If a dispute occurs regarding the level of permanent impairment, the case will be referred to a Medical Assessment Tribunal for determination. Medical Assessment Tribunals are comprised of independent medical specialists in the field of the injury, appointed on the basis of their qualifications, experience and professional standing. While there is no appeal from a decision of a Medical Assessment Tribunal, there is an avenue of review should a worker, within 12 months of the first hearing, present fresh medical evidence unknown to the original Tribunal. This represents a retention of the system introduced by the Labor Government for determining permanent impairment for statutory lump sum payments on the "election" provision.

(9) The determination of who is a "worker" for the purposes of statutory workers' compensation has been a difficult area for many years. This definition will clarify the issue for all stakeholders and will allow those under the PPS system to be clear of the need to take responsibility for their own cover. Kennedy stated in his Report:-

"The Inquiry has undertaken an analysis of premium avoidance. This is an issue of concern. The concerns relate primarily to labour only contractors, labour hire workers and other out workers.

The changing nature of employment in many occupations and industries has progressively created compliance difficulties with the payment of premium for workers in certain occupations where traditional employer/employee relationships do not operate."

Given that 'workers' by definition under the Workers' Compensation Act are automatically covered, the above described arrangements mean that the Fund carries the liability for injuries to these people without adequate premium being collected from employers.

The legislation must be defined to limit opportunities for avoidance and there must be a policy of vigorous pursuit of employers who avoid paying required premiums with significant penalties applied, particularly now that there will be more clarity and certainty as to which workers are covered. Under the PAYE scheme there will be no excuse for understating premiums."

It is important to note that increased efforts by the Board have also been devoted in recent times to reducing premium avoidance. Considerable extra resources have already been allocated to this area and more will be utilised in 1996/97.

(10) While the change in definition will allow more accurate monitoring and auditing of employers with less opportunity for fraud, Kennedy stated:-

"I am not able to estimate the financial benefits which might follow stronger enforcement but they could be considerable."

(11) Mr Kennedy states that one of the advantages of the new PAYE definition is the cost savings through certainty as to who is and who is not covered. This definition will clarify the issue of who is and who is not covered for all stakeholders. The actual number of claims affected by this definition change is difficult to quantify.

(12) No. Common law claims costs will continue to be made from the Workers' Compensation Fund.

(13) No. Under the proposed experience rating premium system, employers will receive premium assessments calculated on their individual claims performance, including both statutory and common law claims, with corresponding increases or decreases in the premium calculation. Merit bonus premium discounts/demerit charges will not apply under this system.

(14) In four other jurisdictions, the definition of injury requires employment to be a significant or substantial contributing factor. The Tasmanian definition requires employment to contribute to the incapacity to a substantial degree, i.e. to be the major or most significant factor.

(15) The reference in the Kennedy Report is at Appendix Volume 7, page 20 of Background Paper

No. 6 from the Department of Training and Industrial Relations which provided an analysis of non-Government statutory claims and stated that "132 policyholders (0.1%) accounted for 29.8% of claims". This clearly relates to statutory claims and not common law claims. WCBQ statistics show that in 1994/95 132 Queensland employers were responsible for approximately 30% of all statutory claims and approximately 27% of all common law claims. It must be noted that these 132 employers comprise some of the largest employers in Queensland, who contributed approximately 30% of workers' compensation premium for the corresponding period. Thus their claims performance is commensurate with their premium contributions.

The Workplace Health and Safety Council was advised on 15 August 1996 that of these 132 employers only one received a demerit penalty on their workers' compensation premium based on their claims to premium ratio and the remainder received varying merit bonus discounts from their premiums as a result of their low claims to premium ratios. In short, once size is taken into account, 90% of these employers are performing very well in terms of their safety record.

(16) This question appears to relate to the 1994/95 financial year in which 100,530 statutory claims were lodged. The six industries with the most claims were, in order—

Retail/Wholesale; Manufacturing; Engineering/Metal Trades; Government; Health; and Building/Construction.

768. Rockhampton Base Hospital

Mr **SCHWARTEN** asked the Minister for Health (4/9/96)—

With reference to his recent statements that waiting lists are being reduced in Rockhampton—

- (1) How many patients are on Priority 1, 2 and 3 waiting lists to access surgery at the Rockhampton Base Hospital?
- (2) How many patients were on Priority 1, 2 and 3 waiting lists as at 1 July 1995 and 1 January 1996?
- (3) What is the average waiting time (as at 4 September 1996) that patients can expect in order to access non-urgent surgery at the Rockhampton Base Hospital?
- (4) What is the average waiting time for this surgery as at 1 January 1996 and 1 July 1995?

Mr **Horan** (2/10/96): Reduced waiting times are the objective and the success of the Coalition's Surgery on Time initiative. The number of patients on the waiting list matters little to the individual patient, but the length of his or her wait is critically important. It is in reducing waiting times that the Coalition has delivered to the people of Rockhampton. In this context, waiting list data would not be helpful; in fact, information systems under the Beattie administration were so poor that much of the information you seek is not available. But I am happy to supply the following waiting time data from the term of the Coalition Government.

As at 1 September 1996, the average waiting time for Category 1 patients was 1 month, for Category 2 patients, 2.8 months, and for Category 3 patients, 19.8 months.

The lack of full-time staff anaesthetists has been a significant contribution to long average waiting times at the Rockhampton Base Hospital, where these still exist. It is to the disgrace of the ALP that one of these positions has been vacant since it came to office in 1989, and another lay vacant for the whole period of Labor's failed Regional system.

In contrast, the Coalition is already fulfilling its commitment to the people of Rockhampton. I am advised that another two full-time staff anaesthetists are commencing employment at the Rockhampton Base Hospital. One has already commenced and the second will commence in December/January. A third additional anaesthetist was to have been engaged by this time but in the event did not take up the position. This latter position will therefore be readvertised. The current full-time locum will continue employment until late 1996.

769. Central Queensland, Water Infrastructure

Mr LIVINGSTONE asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (4/9/96)—

- (1) Did the Coalition on 27 June 1995 promise to proceed with Central Queensland Water Infrastructure Projects announced in "From Strength to Strength"?
- (2) Will this initiative cost up to \$500m to introduce?
- (3) When will this promise be implemented?

Mr Perrett (18/9/96): The matter which Mr Livingstone raised comes under the portfolio of Minister for Natural Resources and should be referred to the Minister the Honourable Howard Hobbs.

770. Government Projects

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry (4/9/96)—

What projects have been initiated and completed through the Major Projects Incentive Scheme in the period since his Government came into office?

Mr Davidson (16/9/96): My Department is actively managing twenty five projects under the Major Project Incentives Scheme. For a total of \$27.2 million in financial assistance, these projects represent \$570 million in new capital expenditure and the direct creation of approximately 2,900 new full time jobs for Queensland. At least another 6,000 jobs will be created indirectly in downstream and upstream support activities.

Since taking office, the Government has received five applications from companies seeking assistance under the Major Project Incentives Scheme. These projects represent \$83 million in new capital expenditure and the direct creation of a further 1,160 jobs in Queensland.

Four offers of assistance have been made since February 1996. These offers will result in a payback to the State of an additional \$26 million in new investment plus another 165 full time jobs.

At present, officers of my Department are also negotiating with a further three major project proponents on investments worth \$315 million in new capital expenditure and 715 new jobs for the State.

771. Teacher Relief Scheme

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education (4/9/96)—

With reference to the concerns being expressed by many schools and Parents and Citizens' Associations about the Teacher Relief Scheme and its proposed devolution to schools, and specifically to concerns that schools will not be provided with sufficient resources to cover genuine teacher absences and that this will impact on schools with sick teachers feeling compelled to turn up for work and, in other cases, schools engaging in unacceptable relief practices and also concerns that Parents and Citizens' Associations may find themselves in the position of having to "top up" teacher relief funds—

Will he give a commitment to resolve the concerns of teachers and parents before proceeding with this area of devolution?

Mr Quinn (2/10/96): Two regions are currently implementing a devolution of TRS to schools. Resources for relief teachers have been increased over the past few years and my Department continues to monitor the overall position. In addition, resources have continued to be applied to provide teachers with a rehabilitation service to assist their early return to work.

Placing the funds for TRS in schools allows them to manage their total staffing process, including relief, in the way that is most suitable. However, as I have indicated, the resources need to be adequate.

I am confident that this will resolve the concerns of teachers and parents.

772. National Parks, Contaminated Land

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Environment (4/9/96)—

With reference to reports of highly contaminated land being located near homesteads on a number of Western Queensland National Parks—

- (1) Which National Parks have been identified with this contamination?
- (2) What levels of contamination have been detected?
- (3) What steps have been taken to assess the health impact on staff living in those homesteads?
- (4) Are staff still using the homesteads; if not, what alternative arrangements have been made to house these staff?
- (5) What steps are being taken to solve this contamination?

- (6) How are park visitors being excluded from the contamination areas?
- (7) Have homesteads on other Western Queensland parks been tested for similar contamination; if so, which other parks were checked and what results were achieved?
- (8) If no checks have been made, why not?
- (9) If National Park homesteads are contaminated, why couldn't other property homesteads be similarly contaminated and their occupants at risk; if so, what warnings have been issued to all Western Queensland property owners?
- (10) If none has been made, why not?
- (11) When does he intend to issue such a warning and direct his Contaminated Land Section to address this potentially major health risk in rural Queensland?

Mr Littleproud (3/10/96):

(1) This is, of course, a problem inherited from the Labor Governments given their lack of funding for National Park management. The homestead at Lochern National Park is the only residence on a national park found to date to have significant and unusual levels of contamination. The circumstances arose due to poor maintenance practices and the unusual and persistent use of farm chemicals within the house previously. The problem was exacerbated by previous poor maintenance practices.

Most of the other residences checked had levels of contamination at various levels either associated with the house or associated rural infrastructure such as sheep and cattle dips and outbuildings which had previously been used for storing chemicals. These are Bielba, Culgoa, Currawinya, Diamantina, Girraween, Idalia, Sundown, Thrushton, Welford.

(2) Levels of selected contaminants in the dust samples taken from the house at Lochern National Park are:

Arsenic 10-80 (mg/kg dust)

Chromium 10-20

Lead 40-490

Mercury <10

Copper 10-120

Zinc 200-1,600

Aldrin 25-109

Dieldrin 45-172.

(3) Blood samples were taken from the occupants at Lochern. The blood tests of the occupants of the house revealed that:

Blood Aldrin levels were not significant and were below the detection limit,

Dieldrin was detected, but not at toxic exposure levels,

Blood lead levels were within acceptable levels.

Blood tests have been requested for occupants of Currawinya and Sundown National Parks as a precautionary measure.

(4) The occupants of the Lochern residence were moved into rented accommodation in Longreach

pending further investigation. The levels of contamination at other parks are not expected to require staff and their families to move from the houses.

(5) Due to the poor condition of the house at Lochern and its location in a flood prone area, the Department has taken the decision to demolish the old part of the house and to build a new house on a flood free location. A newer addition to the homestead has been cleaned, moved and renovated at the new house site to serve as the park office and as quarters for visiting staff. This information is, of course, not new and correction of the problem was an option forgone by the previous Labor Government as its financial position deteriorated.

However, funds have been set aside in the 1996/97 budget to deal with problem areas identified in the study of western parks. Studies will be conducted in other parks this financial year to ensure that national park workplaces are safe.

Disused cattle and sheep dips have been assessed and where they are not required for cultural heritage purposes will be filled in. All dips not in use are to be adequately fenced. Dips with significant levels of contamination will be referred to officers of the Waste Management Branch of the Department for inclusion on the Contaminated Sites Register.

(6) Park visitors do not normally have access to the staff residences and associated infrastructure.

(7) See (1).

(8) See (1).

(9) Medical and scientific advice was sought from the Environmental Toxicology Branch of the Queensland Department of Health in the investigations. The officers found that there were no significant health problems associated with the level of contaminants found in the survey.

It is likely that many rural and urban homesteads throughout Australia suffer in some degree from contaminants of various forms. The indications from the national park study are that in some houses the level of some contaminants in localised areas may be within the level requiring investigation.

In regard to paint lead contamination, a major and joint Commonwealth/State program was put in place two years ago. Brochures are generally available at hardware stores and paint outlets advising of the potential risk associated with renovating older houses which may have lead paints.

(10) See (9).

(11) If any warning in the future is required it would be issued through the Department of Health as the lead agency in these matters. The Queensland Department of Health has participated in the review and has not provided this Department with any concerns in relation to long term health risks. It should be noted that the Contaminated Land Act 1991 provides a mechanism for notification and management of contaminated sites.

If there is to be any condemnation of the Department of Environment in this matter, it should be that we have been over cautious in ensuring that our ranger staff have a safe environment in which to work.

773. Water Infrastructure Task Force; Winton District, Dam

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Natural Resources (4/9/96)—

With reference to recent recommendations from his Water Infrastructure Taskforce—

- (1) What are the locations and rivers involved in the 75 recommended dam proposals?
- (2) Is one of them in the Winton district, affecting the Bladensburg National Park?
- (3) Will the dam wall be located within the national park?
- (4) What area of the park will be inundated by the dam?
- (5) To what uses will the water be directed?
- (6) Does the Water Resources Commission support this proposal as a viable dam option?
- (7) How does he see this complying with the requirements of the Nature Conservation Act?
- (8) Did he recently visit Winton and inspect the site of this proposed dam?
- (9) Who is proposing this dam proposal?
- (10) Has the Department of Environment been involved in this proposal; if so, what is their position?

Mr Hobbs (30/9/96):

(1) The Water Infrastructure Task Force has not yet made any recommendations to me concerning 75 dam proposals. Their Terms of Reference require that they submit an interim report to me by 30 September and a final report by the end of the year.

After a public call for submissions for water infrastructure requirements, the Task Force has received notices of intention to lodge submissions relating to more than 75 dams or dam raising proposals—from industry groups, from my department, local governments, from other agencies and from individuals. In some cases, the same proposal has been nominated by more than one group. The submissions themselves are now being received and the Task Force will assess them over the next few months.

Again, I do not expect to receive Task Force recommendations relating to any of the proposals until the end of the year.

The notices of intention to lodge submissions indicate interest in water storage development in every region of the state which is not surprising given the very limited program of water resources development in recent years. I will provide the Honourable Member with a list of the proposals actually submitted when that becomes available to me.

(2)-(5) Yes, I can advise that the Winton Shire Council has forwarded a submission relating to a dam proposal on Mistake Creek to the west of the town.

The site proposed by the Council is located within the Bladensburg National Park. A lake of some 1,000 hectares would be created if the proposal were to proceed. The purpose of the Council's proposal is

for town water supply, the creation of a horticultural industry and for stock fodder on a limited basis.

(6) Neither the Water Infrastructure Task Force nor my Department have a position on the Council's specific submission which has only just been received and it is yet to be assessed. However, my Department is aware that there are other options for the supply of water in the area.

(7) Regarding compliance with the Nature Conservation Act, this proposal or indeed any of the proposals for new water storages will need to comply with all legislative requirements.

(8) Yes—I did visit the Winton District recently and was invited to inspect the Bladensburg site together with a number of other areas of interest in the district. I am concerned that the Winton town water supply is limited in terms of quantity and quality and trust that the most appropriate way of addressing the town's problem is identified in the near future.

(9) The Winton Shire Council

(10) I am aware that officers of the Department of Environment know of the proposal but I am not aware whether they have been actually involved in the Council's preparation of their submission to the Task Force. You should direct inquiries in that regard to my colleague, the Honourable the Minister for the Environment.

I stress that all projects recommended by the Task Force will be subject to normal impact assessment procedures.

774. Demolition of Irish Club, Toowoomba

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Environment (4/9/96)—

With reference to the recent midnight demolition of the old Irish Club in Toowoomba—

- (1) When did he and his department first become aware that this building or its heritage listed neighbour were under any threat of demolition?
- (2) What action did he or his department take at that time to address this issue?
- (3) Why didn't he issue a stop order notice against the demolition when he and his department were first aware of the threat?
- (4) On what date and at what time was the stop order eventually issued?
- (5) What engineering advice has he taken to save the heritage listed building that has been damaged?
- (6) What costs are likely to be incurred in restoring this building?
- (7) What legal action is he considering against the owners and the demolishers responsible and if he is not doing so, why not?
- (8) Is he and the Toowoomba City Council considering withholding development approvals on the site of the demolished building to send a clear message to other like-minded developers; if not, why not?

- (9) Was the demolished building ever proposed for heritage listing; if so, when was it due for consideration by the Heritage Council?

Mr Littleproud (24/9/96):

1. On 19 June 1996 an application was lodged with the Heritage Council by Betros Bros Pty Ltd, under s.34 of the Queensland Heritage Act 1992, for the demolition of the former Toowoomba Auto Electrical Shop. The former Irish Club building did not form part of the s.34 application.

The Department only became aware of the threat to the former Irish Club building when demolition commenced.

2. None, as the former Irish Club building was not entered in the Heritage Register and was therefore not subject to the provisions of the Queensland Heritage Act 1992.

3. The former Irish Club building was not entered in the Heritage Register, nor was it the subject of an application under s.24 of the Queensland Heritage Act 1992 seeking its entry in the Heritage Register.

The Department therefore had no evidence that the former Irish Club building was a place of cultural heritage significance for the purposes of s.58.(1) of the Queensland Heritage Act 1992—Stop orders.

4. The Department was advised of the demolition of the former Irish Club building of Friday 5 July 1996. A "stop order" in relation to the former Toowoomba Auto Electrical Shop, a Heritage Registered place, was signed by me on Monday 8 July 1996, and attached to the building at approximately 6.00 pm on that date.

5. No engineering advice has been sought by the Department in relation to the damage to the former Toowoomba Auto Electrical Shop.

6. No figures for the cost of restoration of the former Toowoomba Auto Electrical Shop have been sought.

7. Legal advice has been sought in relation to the unauthorised works to the former Toowoomba Auto Electrical Shop.

8. Any future development of the former Toowoomba Auto Electrical Shop requires the submission of an application for Heritage Council approval under s.34 of the Queensland Heritage Act 1992. This is therefore a matter which rests entirely with the Heritage Council.

The Department has no knowledge of Toowoomba City Council's position in relation to the future development of the site.

9. The former Irish Club was not proposed for entry in the Queensland Heritage Register.

775. Townsville Watchhouse

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (4/9/96)—

With reference to overcrowding in the Townsville watchhouse—

- (1) What numbers have been held in the watchhouse on a daily basis from 1 August 1996 to the present?

- (2) What classification of prisoners were involved?
- (3) What was the longest period any one inmate was held in the watchhouse?
- (4) What numbers of inmates is the Townsville watchhouse designed to hold?
- (5) What caused this overcrowding situation?
- (6) Why wasn't the Stuart Correctional Centre in Townsville able to accept this overload from the Townsville watchhouse?
- (7) What were the numbers of inmates on a daily basis in the Stuart Correctional Centre over the same period?
- (8) What number of inmates is the Stuart Correctional Centre designed to accommodate?
- (9) How does he intend to address the overcrowding problem in the Townsville watchhouse?
- (10) How does he explain why his seven day rule for watchhouse stays has not been followed in Townsville?

Mr Cooper (1/10/96):

- (1) The following table represents the maximum number of prisoners at the Townsville Watchhouse on the given day for the period 1 August 1996 up to and including 5 September 1996.

	Male prisoner	Female prisoner	Male child prisoner	Female child prisoner
01/08	24	2		
02/08	22	1	2	
03/08	26	1		
04/08	24			
05/08	22			
06/08	19		3	
07/08	18		2	
08/08	23	3	1	
09/08	23	2		
10/08	13	1	1	
11/08	16	1		
12/08	15	3		
13/08	19	4		
14/08	21	4	2	
15/08	11			
16/08	18	2		
17/08	22	1	2	
18/08	22	2	3	
19/08	20	3	2	
20/08	17	1	3	
21/08	18	3	4	
22/08	11	2	2	
23/08	12	2	2	
24/08	14	3	2	
25/08	19	3	2	
26/08	25	1	1	
27/08	29			
28/08	29	2	1	
29/08	29	1		
30/08	28	1		
31/08	28	1		
01/09	28	1		
02/09	30	1		
03/09	27	4		
04/09	36	5	3	
05/09	28	2		

(2) The prisoners held within the Townsville Watchhouse during the period were classified under the following categories:

Corrective Service prisoners remanded in custody

Corrective Service prisoners sentenced to imprisonment

Corrective Service prisoners held on warrants of commitment (unpaid fines)

Corrective Service prisoners who had been escorted to the Watchhouse pending a court appearance

Persons refused bail awaiting court appearance

Recent arrests waiting to be processed before being bailed

Persons arrested for offences where a mandatory period is to be held in a Watchhouse before release (eg arrests for drunkenness, drink driving offences over .15%, detentions under Domestic Violence Act)

At any given time during a day, a minimum of 90% of the prisoners held within the Watchhouse are Corrective Service prisoners.

(3) The longest period of detention for any one inmate during the above period was 15 days.

(4) The Townsville Watchhouse is able to hold a maximum of 42 prisoners at a given time. There are three separate 'areas' within the Watchhouse which house 14, 10 and 18 prisoners respectively.

(5) Townsville Correctional Centre is usually able to promptly accommodate receptions from the local courts. A backlog arises when as many as a dozen prisoners are sent to Townsville Watchhouse from Mount Isa without notice to the Townsville Correctional Centre. This can result in overcrowding as Townsville Correctional Centre also assists the Lotus Glen Correctional Centre by taking prisoners from the Cairns Watchhouse.

(6) The Townsville Correctional Centre has a total capacity of 416 which includes 89 male and female mainstream prisoners cells with double up facilities. This is the current agreed maximum state. The only time that prisoners are not received from the watchhouse is when the Centre is at its maximum occupancy rate.

(7)

01/08/96—403;	13/08/96—394;	25/08/96—403;
02/08/96—400;	14/08/96—398;	26/08/96—403;
03/08/96—402;	15/08/96—403;	27/08/96—397;
04/08/96—402;	16/08/96—403;	28/08/96—409;
05/08/96—400;	17/08/96—403;	29/08/96—398;
06/08/96—400;	18/08/96—401;	30/08/96—410;
07/08/96—402;	19/08/96—401;	31/08/96—400;
08/08/96—401;	20/08/96—396;	01/09/96—400;
09/08/96—401;	21/08/96—404;	02/09/96—402;
09/08/96—401;	22/08/96—408;	03/09/96—400;
11/08/96—402;	23/08/96—403;	04/09/96—400;
12/08/96—402;	24/08/96—403;	05/09/96—405

(8) The total number of prisoners that the Townsville Correctional Centre is designed to accommodate in single mainstream cells and rooms is 351 (open and secure custody). However, 24 cells are off line for

refurbishment. The maximum capacity in single and double up cells and rooms is 416. Although the daily prisoner population for this period would be less than maximum capacity, vacant beds would have existed for women and for protection prisoners.

(9) Prisoners will continue to be removed as expeditiously as possible within seven days, from the Townsville watchhouse to the Townsville Correctional Centre.

(10) Since the instruction was issued regarding this rule (as from 1/3/96) no prisoner was to stay in a watchhouse for a period longer than seven days. This instruction, with rare exceptions, has been followed in Townsville. Occasionally the Police have required a prisoner to remain in the Watchhouse for a period in excess of seven days for the convenience of processing further matters through the courts. During a Nurses industrial dispute at Townsville Correctional Centre when there was limited capacity to process new prisoners, it was not possible to ensure that all prisoners were transferred within the seven day rule.

776. Flaggy Creek, Dam

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (4/9/96)—

With reference to proposals to dam Flaggy Creek—

- (1) What correspondence or other communication has he had with the Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA) over this matter?
- (2) Why did he attempt to pressure the WTMA into compromising the ecological impacts of such a proposal?
- (3) Why does he disregard the Wet Tropics Management Plan which specifically does not contemplate such a dam?
- (4) Upon what evidence does he base his view that a dam would be consistent with ecologically sustainable development or the Wet Tropics Management Plan?
- (5) What environmental impact assessment has been conducted into this proposal; if none, will he direct one be conducted before the matter proceeds further?
- (6) Has an Integrated Catchment Management Plan been prepared for the relevant region; if not, will one be prepared to address the streamflow and other downstream effects of a dam?

Mr Littleproud (24/9/96): WTMA was asked for a briefing note for a deputation with Cairns City Council on the day of the Regional Cabinet Meeting in Cairns on 12 August. WTMA's Manager of Policy and Planning and a Planning officer attended the meeting. Subsequently, another briefing note was requested and the Authority was also consulted with regard to a media release on the matter.

No pressure was exerted on WTMA. It is obvious from this question that the Labor Opposition, including Mr Welford and his colleague, the Member for Cairns, have no interest in taking note of the concerns of Cairns City Council with regard to future water supply for the city.

The Plan is currently in draft stage and will be finalised following consideration by Queensland Cabinet and the Wet Tropics Ministerial Council, taking into account submissions from interested bodies and individuals including the Cairns City Council.

Any views I have on the matter will reflect the advice of the WTMA.

If the proposal were to go ahead in the future, possibly 20 years away, an EIS would be required before approval.

Flaggy Creek is part of the Barron River Catchment. A coordinating committee is preparing a Water Quality Strategy for this catchment as part of the process of integrated catchment management. An integrated management plan would be expected to be part of this process.

777. Ipswich General Hospital; Asbestos Removal Program

Mrs EDMOND asked the Minister for Health (4/9/96)—

With reference to recent reports regarding funds assigned for the removal of asbestos at the Ipswich Hospital maternity ward—

- (1) As the Minister responsible for hospital facilities, what communication has he had with the Department of Administrative Services regarding the delay in the removal of dangerous asbestos from the maternity ward at Ipswich Hospital?
- (2) What are the details of all hospitals identified for asbestos removal?
- (3) What is he doing to ensure the safety of patients and staff in other hospitals affected and to avoid any additional delays in the asbestos removal program caused by funding reviews?
- (4) What public health advice has he received from his own department on asbestos removal in buildings which house health or administrative services provided by Queensland Health?
- (5) What, if any, communications has he forwarded to the relevant authorities in the matter including his Ministerial colleague in the Administrative Services portfolio?
- (6) What communications has he received from the authorities (mentioned in Part 5 of this question)?
- (7) Will the delayed removal of asbestos from the maternity ward at Ipswich Hospital have any impact on the \$6m upgrade of the hospital which he claims will take place in 1997?

Mr Horan (2/10/96): I am disappointed that you have asked a question with so many parts, which breaches the spirit of the Standing Orders and which creates an unnecessary burden on the staff of Queensland Health. However, for the benefit of the people of Ipswich, I provide the following answer.

(1, 3 & 4) I am advised that there has been no major delay in removal of asbestos where it could

significantly impact on safety of patients or staff, and further that there is no site where the safety of either patients or staff is at risk.

(2) A number of asbestos audits completed to date for Queensland Health. Facilities recommended for significant asbestos removal include:

Ingham Hospital
 Townsville Hospital
 Toowoomba Hospital
 Baillie Henderson Hospital
 The Prince Charles Hospital
 Princess Alexandra Hospital
 Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Hospital
 Gold Coast Hospital.

It should be noted that all of the above facilities, with the exception of Ingham Hospital, are to undergo major redevelopment. In such cases, asbestos identified during audit will be removed in conjunction with the redevelopment. Such removal will be in accordance with management procedures developed to minimise/eliminate any potential health risks to builders, users and maintenance personnel arising from the asbestos. All work involving asbestos containing materials must be undertaken in accordance with strict codes, guidelines and procedures.

(5 & 6) There has been ongoing dialogue between officers of my Department and officers of the Department of Public Works and Housing in relation to asbestos audits and removals.

(7) No. Removal of asbestos at Ipswich Hospital will be undertaken when an effective and safe removal plan has been established by Public Works and Housing. Close liaison with Ipswich Hospital will occur to decide on the best method and timing in undertaking the removal.

778. Macgregor, Noise Barriers

Ms SPENCE asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (4/9/96)—

With reference to a speech by the Member for Mansfield to the House on 3 September relating to unacceptable delays in the completion of any freeway noise barriers to Portulaca Street, Macgregor in which the Member states that "a substantial reason for delay in our ability to complete those fences were the absence of the Upper Mount Gravatt Development Control Plan"—

- (1) Will he confirm that his department has delayed building these fences because of the Upper Mount Gravatt Development Control Plan; if so, why has this control plan delayed these fences and what consultation has his department entered into with the Brisbane City Council regarding these fences?
- (2) Does he agree with the Member for Mansfield that the delay in building these fences under his Government is indeed unacceptable?

Mr Johnson (4/10/96):

(1) I am not aware of any association between the Brisbane City Council Upper Mount Gravatt Development Control Plan and the provision of noise barrier fences along the South East Freeway.

(2) As stated several times previously, the provision of noise barriers has been delayed pending the resolution of issues in relation to busways and proposed eight-laning of the freeway and Pacific Highway between Brisbane and the Logan Motorway.

You will be aware that State Cabinet now has approved planning to build a busway on the South East Freeway between the City and the Gateway Motorway and additional transit lanes between Mains Road and the Logan Motorway.

Main Roads now will reactivate the implementation of noise reduction measures on the South East Freeway. This will include redesign where earlier proposals now require amendment in light of the busway decision. Public consultation also will be undertaken.

779.Industrial Relations Act

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (4/9/96)—

With reference to the Governments proposed changes to the Industrial Relations Act which are anticipated to be similar to those contained in the Commonwealth Workplace Relations Bill—

Will he guarantee that no Queensland worker will be worse off as a result of the implementation of the Government's proposed new industrial laws?

Mr Santoro (18/9/96): Industrial relations reforms will be introduced into Queensland in order to promote a more flexible industrial relations system that allows employers and employees greater choice in establishing working arrangements suited to the enterprise or workplace. The final form that the legislation will take in Queensland to support these reforms has not been determined.

Industrial relations reforms are not being introduced either federally or at the State level in order to reduce wages or conditions of employees. The reforms at both the State and Federal level will increase flexibility and improve productivity and promote economic growth, including growth in wages and profits. The result of economic growth will be to create more jobs and to reduce unemployment.

It is through more cooperative working arrangements that employers and employees can work together to improve wages and conditions through improved efficiency and ultimately the living standards of the community.

780.Anti-Discrimination Commission

Mr FOLEY asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (4/9/96)—

(1) Is he planning to dismantle the Anti-Discrimination Commission by requiring its

functions to be undertaken through Magistrates Court Registries?

- (2) Does this mean, for example, that an Aboriginal person from Cherbourg with a complaint of racial discrimination against local police would be obliged to attend the Murgon Court House to lodge a complaint and have any conciliation undertaken?
- (3) Does he accept that such an arrangement would be likely to deter the victims of discrimination on the grounds of race, sex or disability from seeking access to justice?

Mr Beanland (1/10/96): (1) (2) & (3) The existing arrangements whereby the Commonwealth Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission acts as the Queensland Anti-Discrimination Commissioner under the Anti-Discrimination Act 1991 expire in December 1996. The Commonwealth has indicated it will not renew such arrangements. The Queensland government is continuing to explore options to fulfil its obligations under the Anti-Discrimination Act 1991. The Queensland government will ensure that all persons who claim to be the subject of discrimination will have appropriate mechanisms available to resolve their complaints.

781.Caloundra Coastal Plain, Land-clearing

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (4/9/96)—

With reference to the recent formation of an ECO Caloundra Network of 15 different environmental groups in response to the massive extent of land clearing on the Caloundra coastal plain and as it appears that if the present rate of land clearing continues there will be no native bushland left in the area by the year 2004—

- (1) What percentage of land on the coastal plain does she believe should be retained in its natural state?
- (2) On what basis should this land be selected?
- (3) Under what tenure should this land be protected?
- (4) Will she support a buy back of land supporting remnant native vegetation on the coastal plain?
- (5) Will she support a compensation scheme for landholders holding rezoning approvals for urban development over areas of remnant native?

Mrs Sheldon (3/10/96): (1) to (5) These are policy issues outside my portfolio and should therefore be referred to the responsible Minister.

782.Mahogany Glider Habitat

Mrs ROSE asked the Premier (4/9/96)—

With reference to the ongoing destruction of the habitat of the rare mahogany glider as a result of his Government's failure to honour the Labor Government's rescue package put together at both State and Federal levels—

- (1) What was the Coalition's policy prior to the July 1995 election and the Mundingburra by-election in relation to protection of this glider and its habitat?
- (2) Did he give the environment movement an undertaking to honour the \$16m joint Federal/State rescue package for this glider; if so, what was the nature of this commitment?

Mr Borbidge (3/10/96):

(1) The Coalition's policy prior to the July 1995 election and the Mundingburra by-election was to protect the mahogany glider habitat. Furthermore, this commitment has been demonstrated clearly by the issuing of interim conservation orders on land supporting key habitat until acquisitions were completed where necessary. In addition, funding was provided in the 1996-97 Budget to implement the strategy.

(2) Yes, I did give an undertaking to the North Queensland Conservation Council Inc. by correspondence dated 8 November 1995 that the Federal/State conservation package announced in late 1995 had the support of the Coalition and would continue to be fully supported in the event of a change of Government. Further reference was made to this issue in correspondence to the Queensland Conservation Council dated 19 January 1996.

To date the Coalition has fully matched the financial contribution of the Federal Government. You should be aware that the previous Labor Government, while making promises regarding the conservation of the area, failed miserably by not making provision for full funding of the initiative. This has resulted in the Federal Government's level of funding to date being at only \$6 million. I am advised that ongoing discussions are occurring at officer level to clarify any misunderstanding the Federal Government may have concerning the total level of funding required for this initiative.

783.Calliope River

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Environment (4/9/96)—

With reference to high current and expected levels of industrial development for the Gladstone/Calliope region and the need for balance in environment, social development, recreation, primary industry and development generally—

What is the department's view of the proposed damming of the Calliope River given its impact on ecology, primary production (fisheries) and nursery areas?

Mr Littleproud (24/9/96): The issue of assessing the potential impacts of the proposed dams on the Boyne and Calliope Rivers is being addressed in close consultation between the Departments of Environment, Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry and Natural Resources.

A wide range of issues are being raised and considered including:

Protection of fisheries resources, including habitats, nursery areas and the requirements for fish migration.

The high priority of maintaining proper environmental flows to maintain habitats and river sediment dynamics. This would include the potential effects on critical habitats, sand resources and coastal sediment supply.

Consideration of the full range of biota that may be effected, not just fisheries species, but also significant groups such as turtles, lungfish, amphibians, reptiles, crustaceans and other aquatic invertebrates.

The protection of unfettered coastal streams, under the Department's proposed 'Natural Rivers Policy' which is at policy-in-principle stage. The Calliope River has been discussed in connection with the proposed policy.

The needs of present and future urban and industrial growth in the Gladstone as well as the wider strategic water needs such as in Miriam Vale. The Department is also considering strategies to encourage best practice including water use minimisation and options for water reuse to reduce pressure on water resources.

Longer term studies to supplement and extend existing baseline information are already being formulated and commenced against which a comprehensive assessment of local, regional and wider issues will be made. These studies would ultimately be input into the EIS process at the appropriate time.

I would draw your attention to the environmental outcomes achieved by agreement between the Departments in respect of recognition, assessment and protection of the environmental values of Baffle Creek north of Bundaberg and Raglan Creek south of Rockhampton. In these cases development was precluded on the basis of environmental and other considerations.

If the proposal for resource development on the Calliope River progresses further the appropriate detailed assessments of the full range of issues will be carried out and the necessary decisions made in the context of ecologically sustainable development.

784.School Swimming Pools

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Education (4/9/96)—

With reference to the problem of shallow end diving in school swimming pools, and to material forwarded to his office, which includes advice from Mr John Kane (Senior Policy Officer, Physical Education, Studies Directorate) and Australian Swimming Inc, and the draft policy currently being developed by a school in my electorate—

- (1) Recognising that the frequency of injury resulting from shallow end diving is very low, how will the Department of Education address the difficulties arising from this problem?
- (2) How will school swimming carnivals and amateur swimming clubs be able to operate if a strict policy of "no shallow end diving" is adopted by State schools?

- (3) Will the Education Department take a statewide approach to this growing problem, which strives to achieve a balance between the safety of pool users and common sense?
- (4) If capital works are needed to render pools safer, how will the Government fund these works?

Mr Quinn (2/10/96):

(1) & (2) The depth at the shallow end of school swimming pools varies throughout the state. Swimming pools at primary schools are built to teach children to swim, and in order to enable the average height Year 1 student, and some shorter Year 2 students, to stand in the shallow end of the pool, the depth does not generally exceed 0.8 metres; whereas some high school swimming pools have a shallow end which is up to 1.2 metres in depth.

From a departmental perspective, it is quite clear that in a "teaching situation", where children are learning basic aquatic skills, there is little doubt that diving should not be permitted from the shallow end of a pool. However, it is important to note, the Department of Education and Australian Swimming Incorporated (the national swimming body) recognise that there is a clear distinction between the practice involved in "teaching activities" and "competition activities".

Students who have mastered the sequential steps in learning a standard dive may be competent to perform the skill into water, which is less than the recommended depth for novice swimmers.

Amateur school swimming clubs must consider the size and weight of competitors before convening events that require shallow end diving. As a general safety rule, no person should dive from the edge of a pool if the water depth is below waist level. In such instances, consideration should be given to starting competitive events, including relay changes, at the deep end of the pool.

(3) It is not proposed to have one single rule for all school swimming pools as physical conditions, and human characteristics, vary significantly. School swimming pools vary in terms of depth, the actual water level and the slope of pool bottom, at the shallow end. As mentioned, the age, size, experience and skill level of the competitor must be assessed in determining whether shallow end diving should be permitted. It is also important for schools and other pool users to ensure that they have access to competent teachers, coaches and officials.

(4) If the above criteria are applied, in the risk assessment/risk management process, injury should not occur, and capital works should not be required.

785. Justices of the Peace (Qualified), Training

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (4/9/96)—

- (1) Did his Director, Development Directorate, receive a letter dated 22 April from the Justice of the Peace unit in the Attorney-General's Department, which indicated that following a statistical analysis of Justices of the Peace (Qualified) in rural and remote electorates, a

further major need for training in these electorates had been identified?

- (2) Was a priority need for training identified in the electorates of Western Downs, Crows Nest, Callide, Cunningham, Warwick and Tablelands, and a need also identified in Barambah and Lockyer?
- (3) Were the centres identified as sites for that training Dalby, Roma, Chinchilla, Miles, Injune, Crows Nest, Esk, Oakey, Gayndah, Monto, Biloela, Theodore, Rolleston, Kingaroy, Murgon, Pittsworth, Goondiwindi, Gatton, Boonah, Laidley, Inglewood, Texas, Stanthorpe, Warwick, Mareeba, Atherton, Mount Molloy, Ravenshoe and Chillagoe?
- (4) Was the funding for that program available from his department at the time his department received the letter, as his departmental officers had previously confirmed that it was?
- (5) Was the payment of circa \$450,000 payable to the JP training organisation, Walker Pender, ready and available at the time, stopped as a result of a communication from the Attorney-General's Department advising they did not want the money for this training any more?

Mr Santoro (18/9/96):

(1) Yes—the Director, Development Directorate did receive a letter dated 22 April from the Justice of the Peace unit in the Attorney-General's Department. This letter indicated that following a statistical analysis of Justices of the Peace (Qualified) undertaken by the Department of Justice in rural and remote electorates, a major need for training had been identified in a number of electorates.

(2) A major need for training was identified in those electorates.

(3) Yes.

(4) Yes.

(5) No. A stop was not placed on the funding, for any reason.

786. Suncorp/Metway/QIDC Merger

Mr D'ARCY asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (5/9/96)—

- (1) Which Government agencies and enterprises have been involved in the Suncorp/Metway merger process?
- (2) What expenses have been incurred by each of these agencies for activities related to the merger proposal?
- (3) How much has each agency paid for activities related to this proposal?

Mrs Sheldon (3/10/96):

1. Treasury, Suncorp and QIDC are the government agencies that have been involved in the Suncorp/Metway merger process.

2. All of their expenses in relation to the merger have been incurred by Treasury and will be recouped from the proceeds of the float of the Government's interests.

3. An amount of \$518,000 was outlaid for consultancies in 1995-96.

787.Reef Tax

Mrs BIRD asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry (5/9/96)—

With reference to the recent Federal Budget announcement of an increase in the then Environment Contribution of \$1 per person to a Reef Tax of \$6 per person—

- (1) When did he become aware of the budget increase?
- (2) Did either the Federal Minister for Environment or Federal Minister for Tourism or any member of their staff approach him or discuss with him the budget announcement?
- (3) Was he or his staff involved in any discussions concerning the budget announcement on Reef Tax subsequent to the Budget?

Mr Davidson (3/10/96):

(1) Like the Opposition Leader, I was overseas at the time of the Federal Budget. I was informed of the Federal Government's planned increase in the Environment Management Charge on the day following the Federal Budget.

(2) My staff have been in constant liaison with both the office of the Federal Minister for the Environment and the Federal Minister for tourism since the Federal Budget. I have written to both Ministers and have spoken to the Prime Minister on this issue.

(3) No.

788. Department of Mines and Energy, Appointment of Director-General

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (5/9/96)—

With reference to the appointment of the Director-General of the Department of Mines and Energy and in view of the fact that the energy side of his portfolio is of paramount importance in the months and years ahead—

- (1) What qualifications has the newly appointed Director-General in the field of energy?
- (2) What criteria was used in appointing this person and how can the energy industry of Queensland have confidence in a person who is now the leader of this important portfolio yet is understood to have little, if any, knowledge of energy matters?

Mr Gilmore (1/10/96):

(1) The qualifications of the newly appointed Director-General of the Department of Mines and Energy, Dr R W Day, are highly relevant to the field of energy. He has formal qualifications in Science (Bachelor of Science with 1st Class Honours and Doctor of Philosophy) and Business Administration (Graduate Diploma in Business Administration), his experience encompasses employment in both private and Government energy sectors, and he has held significant senior level positions in Government and in energy industry bodies.

(2) The following standard criteria were used in appointing the Director-General of the Department of Mines and Energy:

1. A demonstrated ability to determine and achieve corporate goals through successful performance as a strategic leader responsible for the management of a diverse organisation.

2. Highly developed interpersonal skills, with the ability to negotiate and communicate at all levels of Government and with relevant outside bodies, coupled with a sound understanding of intra and inter-Governmental relations.

3. Demonstrated high calibre conceptual, analytical and problem solving skills.

4. Demonstrated outstanding abilities in policy formulation and strategic planning, including the development of regional strategies.

5. Demonstrated innovative and strategic approach to service delivery and organisational improvement.

6. Demonstrated ability to manage a work force undertaking diverse functions, including the ability to develop further the effectiveness of a senior management team.

7. Demonstrated commitment to community consultation.

A merit selection process confirmed that Dr R W Day was the most suitable candidate for appointment to this position. The energy industry in Queensland can have every confidence in Dr Day's leadership of the Department.

789. Southern Brisbane Bypass, Freight Rail Line

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (5/9/96)—

With reference to the proposed freight rail line along the southern Brisbane Bypass outlined in his Draft Integrated Regional Transport Plan and in order that I can properly advise and consult with constituents in my electorate about this proposal and encourage them to make comment during the public consultation period which is intended to end on 31 October—

Will he provide as soon as possible (a) all necessary information, including maps of suggested routes for this freight line, (b) the reasons why this rail line is deemed necessary, including any technical papers prepared to justify this proposal and (c) any other advice as to probable impacts on residential areas and the environmentally sensitive bushland known as Karawatha Forest?

Mr Johnson (7/10/96):

(a) The draft Integrated Regional Transport Plan for South East Queensland (IRTP) does not include a proposal for a freight rail line along the Southern Brisbane Bypass. It does, however, refer to a need for rail to deliver a service competitive with road freight, and the need to develop new freight rail facilities.

It proposes investigations of the most cost effective way to segregate passenger and freight rail onto separate dedicated systems.

The schedule for such investigations is indicated in the draft IRTP as occurring within the next two years.

Using the Logan Motorway, the Southern Brisbane Bypass and Gateway Motorway Corridor for a new freight rail connection to the Port of Brisbane would be one option to be considered in those investigations.

For this reason, the draft IRTP identifies those corridors as part of multimodal investigations for long term improvements to both road and rail.

It must be stressed that the building of a new freight rail along these corridors is simply one option for improving the ability of the rail system to carry freight. Other obvious options would include upgrading existing railway facilities.

For this reason, the draft IRTP does not include maps of the option.

(b) The draft IRTP says that an investigation is required to establish new rail facilities. It does not establish that a new freight rail line along the Logan Motorway/Gateway Motorway corridor is necessary. It simply points to a potential difficulty which requires further investigation.

Technical reports, as well as public information brochures would be prepared in the event the study of options does proceed.

The major purpose of having the IRTP stems from a need to establish a strategic context for transport investigations, so they do not proceed on an ad hoc basis.

Within this strategic context, investigation of transport facilities, including establishing a clear need, can be undertaken.

There is a working paper on freight issues prepared in 1995, which discussed freight rail options. Mr Robertson is welcome to a copy and he might care to contact my office in this regard. I should stress this is a working paper prepared under the previous government and is not this government's policy.

There is no formal study of impacts of any such freight railway on surrounding communities, or the environment it may traverse.

Environmental and social considerations would play a big role in deciding on future options, and would be a part of the investigations recommended in the draft IRTP.

It is an important theme of the draft IRTP that decisions on major transport facilities be taken with appropriate information on environmental and social impacts, and with community involvement at an early stage, before any decision is made.

790. South-East Queensland Vegetation Clearance Summit

Mr MILLINER asked the Minister for Local Government and Planning (5/9/96)—

With reference to the recent South-East Queensland Vegetation Clearance Summit held in Nambour—

(1) Was she invited to speak at the summit?

(2) Did she accept; if so, when?

(3) Did she attend; if not, why not?

(4) When and how did she advise the organisers of her inability to attend?

(5) Whom did she send in her place?

(6) Why didn't an elected representative such as a member of the Minister's Parliamentary Committee attend in her place?

(7) Does she believe the level of land clearing on the Sunshine Coast on freehold land is appropriate and ecologically sustainable?

Mrs McCauley (8/10/96):

1. Yes.

2. Yes.

3. No, I was unable to attend due to unforeseen urgent Ministerial business.

4. The summit organisers were advised by my Personal Secretary by facsimile on 17 July 1996 that I was unable to attend the summit. They were also advised that Mr Ian Schmidt, Director of the SEQ 2001 Regional Resource Unit in my Department would attend in my place and address the conference on my behalf.

5. See response to (4) above. It should also be noted that Mr Schmidt is a Senior Executive Officer in my Department whom I consider was best placed to speak on my behalf at short notice.

6. I did not consider it appropriate for another Member of Parliament to deliver my speech given its content was portfolio specific. In any event, there would have been insufficient time in which to arrange for a member of my Policy Committee to attend the conference in my place, as the members of this Committee all reside outside of Brisbane and Parliament was not sitting on the day that the summit was held.

7. I am not prepared to comment on levels of vegetation clearing in specific areas, given that the matter of vegetation management throughout the whole of Queensland needs to be fully examined and a determination made as to the most effective and appropriate manner in which to manage vegetation clearance.

791. Childers, State Forest

Mr NUNN asked the Minister for Natural Resources (5/9/96)—

With reference to his intention to excise 7,182 hectares of land from State Forest 179 in the Childers area—

(1) Will 7000 hectares of the area be made national park as intended; if so, when?

(2) What plans does he have for the 36 hectares of leasehold land in the north of the State forest which he intends to excise from the State forest?

(3) What future water storage use does he intend for the 126 hectares he intends to excise and convert to resource reserve?

Mr Hobbs (30/9/96): I presume you are referring to State Forest 169 (Good Night Scrub State Forest).

A proposal for the revocation of the setting apart and declaration as State Forest of about 7,186 hectares of State Forest 169 (Good Night Scrub State Forest), was tabled in the Parliament on Thursday 25 July 1996.

(1) About 7,000 hectares of the land is proposed for conversion to National Park under the provisions of the Nature Conservation Act 1992. However this cannot occur unless and until the current revocation proposal is approved by the House. The matter will then be one for my colleague the Honourable Brian Littleproud, MLA, Minister for Environment.

(2) About 36 hectares in the north of the reserve is currently leased for grazing purposes. The area was not required for National Park and is no longer required for forestry purposes. The lessee has been offered a further lease for "Primary Industry Grazing Purposes" provided the proposed revocation is approved by the House.

(3) It is proposed the balance of the revoked area will be declared a Resource Reserve with the Department of Environment and the Department of Natural Resources as joint trustees. This land which is located in the south of the proposed revocation area has been treated in this way to accommodate possible future water storage requirements in the area. Unless and until the land is required for this purpose it will be managed to protect and maintain its natural condition to complement adjoining areas which are proposed for conversion to National Park.

Any future use of the proposed Resource Reserve for water storage purposes will be determined following a full and proper water allocation and management planning process, assessment of future water supply needs in the Burnett River Basin and full consideration of all options available to meet these needs. There are no current plans for development of a water storage on this reserve.

This proposal has the support of the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Environment, the Department of Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry and the lessee and will formalise the future management of the respective areas under the most appropriate land management agencies, legislation and management strategies.

792.QE II Hospital

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Health (5/9/96)—

With reference to the status of a major upgrading for the QE II Hospital ordered by the former Labor Government to improve health services to Brisbane's southside and announced by the former Minister for Health, Hon Peter Beattie on 16 October 1995, and noting the Minister's previous answer to a Question on Notice from the Honourable Member for Archerfield refers only to the staged implementation of initiatives already announced by the Labor Government late in 1995—

Will he provide a more detailed response regarding the Government's intended service profile for this hospital to allay community fears that the work started by Labor will be reviewed and probably dropped off the agenda and in doing so will he provide specific details regarding (a) the Function Plan guiding the Government's capital works projects for the hospital, (b) new management arrangements in place to provide the hospital with increased autonomy and enhanced identity in the transition to a community hospital facility, (c) full costings associated with the upgrade and a list of all services to be provided, (d) details of the hospital's elective surgery capacity as a result of the upgrade and (e) an action plan documenting the progress of the staged implementation process and current starting and completion dates for the upgrade of the QE II Hospital?

Mr Horan (2/10/96): I am disappointed that you have asked a question with so many parts, which breaches the spirit of the Standing Orders and which creates an unnecessary burden on the staff of Queensland Health. What is worse, it is identical to Question 398 asked by the Member for Sunnybank and answered on 14 June 1996, so please refer to that answer.

The people know that the Labor Government effectively destroyed the once great QE II Hospital and that during the 1995 state election the Coalition promised to restore it to a full community and general hospital.

The people also don't need to be reminded that Mr Beattie's announcement of 16 October 1995 copied the Coalition's earlier commitment of 4 July 1995. They saw nothing happen when Mr Beattie was Health Minister but since the Coalition has come to power, constituents have witnessed a major recruiting exercise for specialists, medical staff, nurses and allied staff. Now bed occupancy is increasing as more and more services open under the Coalition action plan.

793.Public Service Staffing

Mrs WOODGATE asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (5/9/96)—

With reference to the spate of staff cuts to the public service under the new Government—

Will she provide the following information in table form including the following (a) the name of the department, (b) the name of the units in each department, (c) the number of staff working in each unit as of 19 February 1996, (d) the number of staff removed from each unit, (e) the number of staff removed from each department, (f) the number of temporary staff removed from each department, (g) the number of permanent staff removed from each department, (h) the number of contract staff removed from each department, (i) the total number of voluntary redundancies taken in each department, (j) the total number of sackings from each department and (k) the total number of temporary, permanent and contract staff removed from all departments?

Mrs Sheldon (3/10/96): Information on these matters is not collected by the Queensland Treasury Department.

794. Bruce Highway, Gunalda Range

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (5/9/96)—

With reference to a strong case put to his Federal counterpart for funding to carry on the planned realignment of the Bruce Highway at the Gunalda range and in view of the Federal Government's slashing of \$622m from National Highway funding—

Will he now be able to secure the \$14m necessary to carry out this urgently needed realignment; if so, when will construction begin?

Mr Johnson (7/10/96): Officers from the Federal Department of Transport have inspected the Gunalda Range section of the Bruce Highway and are aware of the current concept planning in progress.

Following the completion of the concept planning, a Project Proposal Report, including an estimate of cost for the project as well as a statement of benefits that will accrue from the construction, will be submitted to the Federal Government for funding consideration.

Approval of funding for the construction of this project is a matter for the Federal Government.

I am confident the Federal Government will recognise that this project warrants high priority. Given the Federal Government's budgetary restraints, it remains to be seen whether funding will be approved in 1996/97.

795. Department of Environment, Staff Retrenchments

Mr BEATTIE asked the Minister for Environment (5/9/96)—

With reference to recent cutbacks his Government has made to temporary staff in the Department of Environment—

- (1) How many temporary or contract staff have been cut from the department, or not had their contract renewed, since February 1996?
- (2) How many temporary or contract staff were in the department at the change of Government earlier in 1996?
- (3) What was the source of funding for those staff retrenched?
- (4) How many temporary or contract staff remain with the department?
- (5) What is their source of funding?
- (6) What further retrenchment of temporary or contract staff is he planning?
- (7) What number of these retrenched staff received redundancy payouts?
- (8) From what sections of the department have these staff losses occurred and in what numbers and at what classification levels?

(9) What plans does he have to cover the loss of these staff?

(10) Will he guarantee the public of Queensland the delivery of services they have come to expect from the Department of the Environment?

Mr Littleproud (24/9/96): The bottom line is that the new Coalition Governments at both State and Commonwealth levels inherited serious financial situations.

(1) 269, or net 127

(2) 480

(3) Consolidated Revenue, New Initiatives, Commonwealth, Revenue Retention, Treasury Specials, Revenue Offset, Capital Works, Trust.

(4) 353

(5) Consolidated Revenue, New Initiatives, Commonwealth, Revenue Retention, Treasury Specials, Revenue Offset, Capital Works, Trust.

(6) No retrenchments are planned. However as the Honourable Member would know temporary staff join or leave Departments as their contract projects commence or cease. There is always an ebb and flow of temporary staff and it is not possible to predict future levels with complete accuracy.

(7) 9

(8) From most sections of the Department, at most classification levels.

(9) and (10) My Department has strategies in place to ensure that quality of service delivered to clients will continue at a high standard. The record level of funding provided in the recent Budget will ensure that the Department has the resources to implement the Coalition Government's commitments in the Environment area. I can guarantee that we will be tackling these challenges in the most efficient and cost effective way possible—without resorting to the employment of consistently high levels of temporary staff which characterised the last few years of the previous Government's administration.

796. Fertilisers

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (5/9/96)—

With reference to an article in the *Courier-Mail* on 5 September titled "Internet recipe leads to boys bomb horror" and to the fact that certain commonly used fertilisers can be used as explosives when mixed with diesel fuel—

Will he take appropriate steps to prevent the illegal use of fertilisers and chemicals that are easily obtained from pool and hardware outlets, by either requiring manufacturers to put "chemical fingerprints" or tagettes on their products to identify unauthorised use, or to establish a uniform register of purchases of these products so that potential illegal users can be identified?

Mr Gilmore (1/10/96): I share the concerns, expressed by the Honourable Member, with respect to the apparent ease with which various chemicals can be used to make explosive devices. Such

devices can, as indicated in this particular incident in Cairns, lead to tragic consequences.

However, the suggestions proposed would be ineffectual in preventing such incidents. While it is true certain fertilisers can be used as explosives when mixed with diesel fuel, neither of these materials was used in this instance. The materials used could be found in most supermarkets and households in Queensland. Indeed, I am told, the range of chemicals that can be used in explosives manufacture is quite extensive, including very common ingredients selected from most household kitchens, medicine cabinets and garden sheds. Hence any proposals for controls on chemicals or registers of purchases would be impractical and without significant effect anyway.

It needs to be stated that the manufacture of any explosive is already controlled under the Explosives Act, which makes it illegal to make explosives unless the explosives have been approved and the maker has been licensed. Such a licence would ensure the safety of the operations undertaken and the competence of the persons involved.

It is worrying that information concerning the making of explosives is freely available on the Internet and in publications targeting an immature or less than professional audience.

We need to continue to warn children in particular that playing with chemicals to achieve explosive effects is fraught with dangers and inevitably leads to tragic consequences. The story in the Courier-Mail on 5 September describes but one of the many incidents around Australia that provide unfortunate testimony to those dangers.

797.Toxic Waste Treatment Plant, Townsville

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Environment (5/9/96)—

With reference to his recent statement that the State Government will take over the responsibility for the control of toxic waste from Local Government and in view of Townsville's central location in North Queensland and its prominence as the principal centre for both production and distribution of industrial products—

Will he commit to the establishment of a toxic waste treatment and disposal plant in the Townsville region to be developed in parallel with and in the same time frame as the facilities proposed for South East Queensland?

Mr Littleproud (24/9/96): Firstly, it should be realised that waste management is an area which was not adequately addressed by the Labor Government. This Government has taken a lead role in the management of hazardous waste, and is putting in place a framework for the private sector to establish treatment facilities in the State. The priority for establishing such facilities in different areas of the State and the number and type required, will not be set by the Government, nor is it likely that the Government itself will establish and operate any facilities. However, there may be a government role in facilitating the establishment of some disposal

facilities in the future. It is expected that the private sector would follow normal land use approval processes for any proposed facilities.

With regard to Townsville, the city's Mayor stated recently that Townsville is a likely site for a hazardous waste disposal plant, and that a suitable site could be found to the south or west of the Twin Cities region. Local support for this initiative is obvious.

With a cooperative approach involving state and local government and industry, the establishment of hazardous waste disposal facilities for Queensland can be achieved in a responsible and expeditious manner.

798.Oakey Power Station; Mr T. St Baker

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (5/9/96)—

With reference to his recent announcement concerning the Oakey Power Station where the contract was awarded to a consortium which had, as one of its leading consultants, a Mr Trevor St. Baker—

- (1) Is this Mr Trevor St Baker the same person who was an unsuccessful National Party candidate in the State election?
- (2) Is this Mr Trevor St Baker a member of his Minerals and Energy Committee?
- (3) What advice, if any, did this committee offer the Government in formulating its policy for the last round of power station announcements?
- (4) Will he assure the people of Queensland that there was no involvement at all from the people who have a vested interest in any of the bids?

Mr Gilmore (1/10/96): Mr St Baker ran for the seat of Moggill in the 1992 State Election, and the seat of Dixon in the 1993 Federal Election.

Yes, Mr St Baker is a member of the Coalition Party's Minerals and Energy Committee.

The Coalition Party's Minerals and Energy Committee played no role in the determination of the successful bidders from the recent competitive bidding process.

This bidding process was conducted by an independent Tender Assessment Panel to ensure that all bids were assessed in an even-handed and fair manner. Furthermore, the evenhandedness and confidentiality of the process was overseen by an independent probity auditor. On the basis of its evaluation, the Tender Assessment Panel recommended the three projects which included the Oakey Power Station.

There was no involvement in the evaluation process by people with vested interests in the bids. Declarations of Interests and employment contracts were signed to ensure that those people involved in the process were impartial and not influenced by outside interests.

The fact that the Government accepted the recommendation of the Panel as it stood without alteration clearly shows that there was no political influence on the process.

799.Mr A. Meuhl

Ms BLIGH asked the Premier (5/9/96)—

With reference to the engagement of Mr Arthur Meuhl by the Government—

- (1) Was Mr Meuhl engaged by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet or by his Ministerial Office?
- (2) On what basis was Mr Meuhl engaged?
- (3) On what level and on what remuneration (including salary and non-salary components) was Mr Meuhl employed?
- (4) What were Mr Meuhl's duties during his engagement?
- (5) What action, if any, did the Premier take about Mr Meuhl's attacks on staff in the Planning Division of the Department of Local Government and Planning, as outlined in an article in the *Courier Mail* on 30 August?

Mr Borbidge (7/10/96):

- (1) Mr Meuhl was employed by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.
- (2) Mr Meuhl was engaged on a fixed term contract basis from 7 March 1996 until 7 June 1996. These arrangements were extended by mutual agreement until 18 June 1996.
- (3) Mr Meuhl was paid at a rate of \$60.00 (gross) per hour. Payment of a \$20.00 (gross) per hour travelling allowance for work that had to be performed outside the Brisbane Metropolitan Area up to a maximum of \$100.00 (gross) per day.
- (4) Mr Meuhl's duties were as designated by the then Acting Director-General.
- (5) By 30 August 1996 Mr Meuhl had ceased providing consulting services to the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

800.Water Supply, Thuringowa City Council

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Local Government and Planning (5/9/96)—

With reference to a State Government subsidy of \$210,000 paid to the Thuringowa City Council for a reticulated water supply to the suburb of Jensen of which only \$105,000 has been applied to that scheme and as the original source of funding for the Jensen reticulation extension came via the then Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning, the Hon Terry Mackenroth—

- (1) What is proposed to be done with the remaining \$105,000?
- (2) If there is no other scheme in Thuringowa to which the funds can appropriately be applied, will they now be used to reduce the cost to ratepayers of the Jensen scheme?

Mrs McCauley (27/9/96): The former State Government made available on 21 June 1995 a special 30% subsidy to a maximum of \$210,000 to Thuringowa City Council to provide a reticulated water supply to residential properties in Jensen, Black River, Hencamp Creek Road and O'Connor Road.

On 27 March 1996, council advised that works to the value of \$534,768 had been undertaken and further works were continuing.

In accordance with the standard subsidy guidelines, \$105,000 (i.e. 50% of the \$210,000) was paid to council.

Upon completion of the works and council submitting a final claim, the balance of subsidy will be paid (i.e. 30% of the total final cost up to a maximum subsidy of \$210,000).

Council has advised my department a final claim for the project will be forwarded shortly.

If the total final cost is less than the \$700,000, the unused subsidy will remain in my department's general budget allocation for infrastructure grants to local governments.

801.Prince Charles Hospital

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Health (5/9/96)—

With reference to his Ministerial Statement of 4 September 1996, "Surgery on Time"—

Will he provide the following statistics with respect to the Prince Charles Hospital cardiac waiting lists (a) the current waiting lists in all categories and (b) the waiting lists in all these categories over the last 12 months?

Mr Horan (2/10/96): Reduced waiting times are the objective and the success of the Coalition's Surgery on Time initiative. The number of patients on the waiting list matters little to the individual patient, but the length of his or her wait is critically important. It is in reducing waiting times that the Coalition has delivered to the patients of The Prince Charles Hospital. In this context, waiting list data would not be helpful; in fact, information systems under the Beattie administration were so poor that some of the information you seek is not available. But I am happy to supply the following waiting time data from the term of the Coalition Government.

As at 1 September 1996, 16.6% of Category 3 cases were classified as long waits, as were 40.8% of Category 2 cases. No Category 1 case (the most urgent) had waited longer than 30 days. This is a great achievement for the patients of The Prince Charles Hospital, and I would like to place on record my acknowledgment of their tremendous efforts.

802.Caboolture Hospital

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Health (5/9/96)—

With reference to development plans for Caboolture Hospital—

- (1) Will he confirm that documentation provided to prospective tenderers for Stage 2 of the hospital require them to consider a 68 bed addition?
- (2) How does he justify effectively halving the size of the new stage that had been planned for the hospital by the former Labor Government?

(3) What is the mix of beds planned to be included in the reduced development and what new services will these enable the hospital to provide to the people of the Caboolture areas?

Mr Horan (2/10/96):

(1) No, because I am advised that no documentation has been provided to prospective tenderers for Stage 2.

(2) The local District Health Service and the Queensland Healthcare Research Group planning team engaged by the department have recommended 68 additional beds plus an additional 20 day surgery beds. Under this proposal Caboolture Hospital will increase its inpatient bed numbers in Stage 2 by 68, bringing its total bed allocation to 198 plus the additional day surgery beds.

As for the number of beds "announced" by Labor, this was admitted at the time to be "indicative only".

My position remains one of support for what is necessary in terms of bed numbers and hospital services for the population now and in the future.

(3) The mix of beds planned in the redeveloped Caboolture Hospital will depend upon the outcome of the bed numbers decision.

As the Honourable Member is aware, there is also a proposal for a collocated private hospital for which Expressions of Interest have been invited. A short list of applicants is now being evaluated.

The new services to the Caboolture area arising from the redevelopment will be mental health inpatient services, neonatal services and critical/coronary care. Moreover, the existing services will be substantially enhanced, including obstetric, day surgery, accident and emergency, and medical imaging. The total cost is estimated at \$35 million for this stage, with further stages envisaged when population growth demands.

To this must be added services yet to be identified as benefits of the proposed collocation, with sharing of resources reducing costs, increasing private specialist facilities and making private beds more attractive.

803. Public Service Bill

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Health (5/9/96)—

With reference to the concerns raised by 200 delegates representing 25,000 nurses at the 15th Annual Queensland Nurses Union conference in Brisbane during the week ending 31 August relating to the Government's Public Service Bill which will give the Premier unlimited powers to sack independent commissioners, tribunals or statutory boards at any time without reason—

(1) Will he be taking or has he taken any action to represent concerns expressed by Queensland nurses who marched to the Executive Building and onto Parliament House during the conference to protest against the introduction of this Bill in its present form?

(2) What action has he taken in relation to concerns about the offensive dismissal clauses in Part 8 of the Government's Public Service Bill and the impact on several independent statutory bodies, independent boards and tribunals in his portfolio responsibilities such as the Queensland Nursing Council and the Health Rights Commission?

(3) Has he requested or received any advice or briefing material in relation to his responsibilities as Minister responsible for ensuring the independence and impartiality of many functions of his department on these matters from his department or any other Government agency on the subject; if so, what was the nature of that advice?

Mr Horan (2/10/96):

(1) No. The substance of their concerns has not been communicated to me.

(2) Provisions under Part 8 of the Bill allow for statutory offices exempt from that Part to be specified by regulation.

The Premier during debate on the Bill tabled a draft regulation setting out those offices which the Government intended to exempt from the operation of Part 8 and stated that all departments would be consulted by the Office of the Public Service to determine if any further offices should be exempted. In tabling this regulation the Premier made it clear that its presentation to Parliament in association with the Bill was to ensure that quasi judicial offices and offices critical to the body politic would be exempted from Part 8 of the Bill.

The position of Health Rights Commissioner was included in this draft regulation and will be exempted from the operation of Part 8.

Removal from office of members of the Queensland Nursing Council by the Governor in Council is already provided for in section 24 of the Nursing Act 1992, which allows such removal in a similar manner as provided for under Part 8 of the Bill.

(3) As Minister I am aware of my obligations to statutory bodies, boards and tribunals which come under my portfolio.

804. Bundaberg Abattoir

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (5/9/96)—

With reference to the urgent need for the Bundaberg Abattoir to be upgraded to a modern flexible meat processing facility to not only ensure jobs remain in Bundaberg but also to provide a valuable service to the regional meat producing industries—

(1) Will the Government provide funding for investment in the abattoir?

(2) Will the Government make available the reserves built up by the previous Bundaberg Abattoir Board for investment in new facilities?

(3) Will the Government allow the abattoir to develop the valuable excess land and the funds reinvested in the abattoir redevelopment?

- (4) Is he committed to ensuring a meat processing industry in Queensland, especially for meat for the domestic market; if so, will he ensure the Bundaberg Abattoir is part of this commitment?

Mr Perrett (2/10/96):

1. At its meeting on 9 September 1996, Cabinet considered a submission by me on Government Involvement in Meat Processing in Queensland. The submission included a description of the historical involvement of Government in meat processing. It also highlighted a number of key factors that are currently influencing the meat processing sector. These included the present service kill requirements and client demand for that service in Queensland. It also highlighted the concerns among producers about competition and the extent of foreign ownership in the meat processing sector. You will be aware that the Industry Commission Report on Meat Processing has questioned the need for continued direct Government involvement in the meat processing industry while the Queensland Commission of Audit has recommended that Government should privatise the Queensland Abattoir Corporation.

The Queensland Abattoir Corporation is currently preparing options concerning its future operations in South East Queensland and will report on these to me and Cabinet in the near future. At the same time, there have been a number of proposals to Government by private sector enterprises for developments in meat processing in Queensland including alternative approaches to Government involvement in providing a service kill for the industry.

Because of the complexity of issues now impacting on the involvement of Government in the commercial aspects of meat processing, Cabinet accepted my recommendation for the establishment of a Steering Committee. The Committee will comprise representatives of the Departments of Primary Industries, Treasury, Economic Development and Trade, Tourism, Small Business and Industry, Office of Rural Communities, industry and a consultant and will be chaired by the Director-General of Primary Industries.

The Committee will:

- review the Queensland Abattoir Corporation Business Plan;
- report on the capacity of the private sector to provide an alternative to the Queensland Abattoir Corporation for service kill for cattle, sheep and pigs;
- recommend a strategy on the future of the Corporation with particular attention to existing strategies compatible with industry's improved operations;
- develop strategies for harnessing private sector interest including key infrastructure so as to improve the meat industry's international competitiveness;
- consult with the Corporation, relevant producer and processor organisations, key clients and customers of the Corporation, the Australasian Meat Industry Employees' Union and other

parties the Committee considers relevant in developing its report; and

report to Cabinet via the Treasurer and myself by 4 November 1996 or such later date as may be approved by me and the Treasurer in consultation with the Premier.

Until the work of this Steering Committee has been completed, and indeed in order not to pre-empt its findings, I believe it is inappropriate for me to comment on what funding Government will or will not provide for investment in abattoirs generally and Bundaberg Abattoir in particular.

2. With regard to the reserves built up by the previous Bundaberg Abattoir Board for investment in new facilities, these reserves were vested in the Queensland Abattoir Corporation under the Meat Industry Act 1993 along with all public sector assets that were previously owned by the former Livestock and Meat Authority of Queensland. Investment decisions concerning those funds are part of the commercial business operations required of the Corporation, and are not a decision for this Government.

However, I am advised by the Corporation that since June 1992, some \$367,373 has been spent on repairs and maintenance of the Bundaberg Abattoir compared with expenditure of \$275,183 in the five years prior to 1992 when the abattoir was run by a local public abattoir board.

3. As I have explained, decisions by Government in regard to public abattoir assets will be considered in the light of the outcomes of the Steering Committee investigating Government involvement in meat processing. Therefore, I believe it is inappropriate for me to comment on any possible future development or investment of funds that may result from such development at Bundaberg at this time.

4. The meat processing industry is a major contributor to the economy of Queensland. Beef remains a major rural export earner with a value to Queensland of some \$1.6 billion in 1994/95. While the industry is facing some present difficulties economically, I believe the future of the industry is assured both domestically and internationally.

In recognition of the very important role played by the beef industry, I have recently established the Beef Industry Development Advisory Council under the Chairmanship of prominent industry identity Mrs Hazel Marland, with a view to bringing the representatives of all major sectors of the industry together to advise me on major policy issues for the future of the beef industry. The meat processing sector has three representatives on this Council out of the eight industry organisations represented.

Further, I believe there is a very positive contribution to be made by processors who can meet the commercial realities of the strong competitive environment provided by the meat industry, including Bundaberg Abattoir.

805. Glasshouse Mountains Quarry

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (5/9/96)—

- (1) Is he aware of proposals by a multi-national company to expand a major quarry at the Glasshouse Mountains?
- (2) What is the proximity of this quarry to national parks in the area?
- (3) What is the current size of the quarry in terms of area and extraction rate and what is the change in these to result from the expansion?
- (4) What are the assessed social and environmental impacts of this proposal on any national parks and on the environmental values of the Glasshouse Mountains area generally?
- (5) Does he accept that the Glasshouse Mountains region has a high level of cultural and natural heritage significance to the Queensland people?
- (6) What action is he taking to protect the values referred to in (4) and (5) from the threat posed by this proposal to the economic, tourism and environmental benefits of the area?
- (7) Will he intervene to stop the quarry expansion as the Glasshouse Mountains community has requested?

Mr Littleproud (24/9/96):

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Quarrying is proposed to within about 300 metres of the boundary of Coonowrin Section of Glass House Mountains National Park and to within 800 metres of the mountains in the long term. The developer has proposed to retain a vegetation buffer between the National Park boundary and the proposed expanded quarry operation.
- (3) The current size of the quarry is 12 to 14 hectares and is contained within a 16 hectares area. The current extraction rate is 400,000 to 600,000 tonnes per annum. The proposed expanded quarry would be 42 hectares within a 95 hectare land holding leaving approximately 53 hectare for buffers and associated infrastructure. The proposed quarry extension is not to increase the rate of extraction but to increase the life of the quarry from less than 20 years to more than 40 years if the present rate of extraction is maintained.
- (4) The Environmental Impact Study indicates that there will be no significant changes from the proposed expansion. The environmental impact will remain relatively constant as crushing, screening and other operations will remain on site. Areas disturbed by quarrying will be progressively rehabilitated as the expansion continues.
- (5) The Glass House Mountains region is known to have high levels of cultural and natural heritage significance to the Queensland people and in particular to Queensland Aboriginal people. In 1996 a study of the cultural heritage values of the development proposal was undertaken for the developer by a cultural heritage consultant, Dr Neale Draper. This report details some of the Aboriginal cultural and mythological values of the Glass House Mountains. Dr Draper undertook an extensive community liaison process with the Aboriginal community and especially Gubbi Gubbi, Djala and Undambi descendants.

The cultural heritage consultant's findings were that "There are no sites, objects, or places of Aboriginal or colonial heritage significance registered for the subject land." and "...while the Glass House Mountains as a whole represents an important natural and cultural heritage asset, the quarry extension proposal does not represent a direct impact on any currently defined heritage areas."

(6) Appropriate actions to protect the natural, cultural and social values of the area have been outlined in the environmental management assessment for the development proposal. The management plan and proposals put forward in the Environmental Impact Assessment are considered adequate and appropriate for the maintenance of natural and cultural values.

(7) No. At no stage have I been involved in the process. The existing approvals and planning outlined in the Environmental Impact Assessment are considered adequate and appropriate. Planning decisions are made by the Local Government Authority, in this case Caloundra City Council, and are reviewed by the Minister for Local Government and Planning.

806. Tweed River

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Environment (5/9/96)—

With reference to the recent damming report on water quality in the Tweed River and the subsequent closure of that river's once lucrative oyster industry—

- (1) Which sewerage treatment plants discharge from Queensland into the river?
- (2) What other pollution sources could have caused this problem from the Queensland side of the river?
- (3) What monitoring is conducted by Queensland authorities in the river?
- (4) What results have been obtained from this monitoring over the last six months?
- (5) What communications has he had with his New South Wales counterpart on the matter?
- (6) What joint action does he have planned to address this issue?

Mr Littleproud (24/9/96):

(1), (2), (3) and (4) Virtually the entire catchment of the Tweed River and its tributaries lies within New South Wales. As such, responsibility for managing the river rests with the New South Wales Government. The Queensland Government does not undertake any monitoring or pollution management programs with regard to the Tweed River. There are no Queensland discharges to the Tweed River.

(5) and (6) I have had no communication from my New South Wales counterpart on this matter, and I do not propose any specific joint action.

807. Aquaculture

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Environment (5/9/96)—

With reference to a recent announcement by the Minister for Primary Industries introducing 15 year licenses for Queensland aquaculture projects—

- (1) Was he consulted on this decision?
- (2) What advice did the Department of the environment supply him with on this matter?
- (3) What advice did he supply the Minister for Primary Industries with on this matter?
- (4) Will this 15 year licensing affect environmental licensing of aquaculture projects?
- (5) Is he satisfied that the requirements of the EPA will be met under this new licensing?
- (6) What constitutes "Special circumstances" which could allow shorter licensing periods?
- (7) What consultation was undertaken on this change with the environmental movement?

Mr Littleproud (24/9/96):

- (1) No. The decision is about management of the industry, not the environment.
- (2) No advice was sought.
- (3) No advice was given. However, the Department of Environment was consulted and it supported the proposal.
- (4) No.
- (5) Yes.

808. Eco-Challenge, Far-north Queensland

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry (5/9/96)—

With reference to his recently announced Eco-Challenge event planned for Far North Queensland—

- (1) What events will be conducted either partially or totally in national parks and/or world heritage areas?
- (2) Which national parks and which parts of the world heritage areas are involved?
- (3) How many anticipated competitors will take part?
- (4) What level of support services and staff will be required to monitor/stage those sections of the event?
- (5) What discussions have occurred with the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the Wet Tropics Management Authority regarding the staging of this event?
- (6) What advice was received from those organisations?
- (7) What consultation has occurred with the local environmental movement on the staging of this event?
- (8) Has he examined the track record of the foot race that used to be run between O'Reilly's and Binna Burra lodges in Green Mountains National Park in southern Queensland in planning this event?

Mr Davidson (3/10/96):

- (1) Eco-Challenge is a single event held over 9-11 days which passes through and around three

National Parks and the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area between Koombaloomba Dam and the eastern side of Bartle Frere.

(2) Herbert River National Park; Tully Gorge National Park; Bellenden Ker National Park; and the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area between Koombaloomba Dam and the eastern side of Bartle Frere.

(3) 50-75 teams of five. 250-375 competitors. Team numbers drop drastically on day two through day four.

(4) 25 check point staff; 10 mountain guides; 45 cameramen and assistants; and at the assistance points; 100-150 assistants (2 per team); 10 medical staff; 20 technicians; 20 organisers staff; 25 TV production people; 10 safety guide staff; giving a total of 265-315 staff.

(5) Full and ongoing discussions have occurred with Department of Environment—National Parks; Department of Environment—Marine Parks; Wet Tropics Management Authority; Department of Primary Industry—Natural Resources and Forestry; and Austa Electric.

(6) Generally the advice received from the above authorities was based around keeping the race to corridors already utilised by the general public or tourist operators; areas of concern were discussed and Department policy explained which affected these areas; and in keeping with Eco-Challenge policy it was agreed by all, the event should be staged both within and outside the above areas with the absolute minimal impact to the immediate environment.

The general attitude was one of support and cooperation as this one off event properly stage (as is has been over the last three years) would be seen as a positive outcome for those involved.

(7) As yet no discussions have occurred with local environmental groups but this is planned as soon as the final course outline is in place and a response from the above authorities has been received. On a time scale this should take place by mid October keeping in mind the event is not planned until August 1997.

Additional to the above, local government and local land holders over the proposed course have also been consulted and the event has received their enthusiastic support.

It is one of the challenges of the Eco-Challenge that the competitors do not know the exact course until the start of the event. It is therefore imperative that the course outline is kept "confidential", all authorities spoken with understand this and have agreed to this.

(8) There is no comparison between the Eco-challenge event and a foot race between O'Reillys and Binna Burra lodges.

The Eco-Challenge is an internationally renowned, ecologically correct wilderness expedition. Strictly low impact rules are enforced including no cooking, no washing in streams, no campfires and a total pack it in-pack it out philosophy. Human waste is carried out by teams to special sanitised receptacles. In the areas of sensitive plants, teams will be required to

disinfect their footwear prior to entering to prevent unwanted transmission of non-native plants.

The Eco-Challenge organisers include a team of environmentalists whose sole responsibility is to sweep any event area and restore it to its original state. The sweep team follows behind the last team, sweeping the entire course. In addition each check point has a trash container and each transition area has its own clean up monitor.

The underlying environmental theme extends to the television coverage of the Eco-Challenge which is not only about the event and its competitors but it also focuses on promoting environmental awareness and covers specific environmental issues and history. The whole philosophy of the Eco-Challenge is about responsible low impact existence in the wilderness environment.

809. Criminal Justice Commission Request About Ministerial Staff

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (5/9/96)—

With reference to claims that the Criminal Justice Commission recently called for copies of all curriculum vitae and job applications of staff appointed to his office since the change of Government—

- (1) Did he supply the material requested by the CJC; if not, why not?
- (2) What did he supply to the CJC?
- (3) Did other Ministers receive a similar request from the CJC?
- (4) What response did they make to the request?
- (5) What directive did he receive from the Premier's office in regard to this request?

Mr Cooper (1/10/96): The Honourable Member should be aware that the matters to which he refers are currently the subject of investigation by the Criminal Justice Commission.

It is therefore inappropriate to respond.

I would suggest that the Honourable Member resubmit his question once the matters subject to inquiry have been reported on.

810. Ambulance/Fire Facilities

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (5/9/96)—

With reference to the joint ambulance/fire facilities which were intended to be constructed under the previous Government's Policy—

- (1) How many (and at what locations) are there of these facilities?
- (2) How many (and at what locations) will be constructed in 1996-97?
- (3) When is the joint facility at Rockhampton, planned under the previous Government to be

sited on land in Yaamba Road, to be constructed?

Mr Veivers (2/10/96):

(1) There were eight (8) locations where it was identified there was the possibility to construct joint facilities. I have included for tabling a list of the locations and current status.

(2) There is no proposal to commence the construction of new joint facilities in 1996/97. As outlined in the tabled list a number of facilities have been completed and two (2) facilities will be constructed as single agency facilities during 1996/97. The major joint facility, the Greater Brisbane Communication Centre, is presently being constructed and is scheduled to be completed and operating by the end of March 1997.

(3) The joint facility at Yaamba Road, North Rockhampton was never approved as a Capital Works Project by your Government. The Queensland Fire Service and Queensland Ambulance Service submitted a long form proposal in October 1995 for consideration for the 1996/97 Capital Works Program. The Project was then placed on the Reserve List for consideration pending funding and prioritisation. The facility is still on the Reserve List but will be critically assessed for the 1997/98 Budget.

811. Princess Alexandra Hospital

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Health (5/9/96)—

- (1) Will he direct more resources to the Princess Alexandra Hospital to reduce the unnecessarily long waiting time for appointments to obtain prescriptions for spectacles, or alternatively, will he allow Brisbane patients to be examined at nearby public hospitals which are sometimes more accessible and could have shorter waiting times?
- (2) Does he intend to reduce the situation where spectacles can be denied to pensioners for long periods?

Mr Horan (2/10/96):

(1) Queensland Health has a finite budget and an allocation of resources for the provision of spectacles is usually made by each District Health Service. The spectacle appointment system enables hospitals to monitor expenditure on the provision of spectacles. Hospitals have varying lengths of wait for members of the community to gain access to prescriptions for glasses and it is possible for residents to visit different hospitals. The amount of money available in each hospital is a local decision based on the historical need in the District.

(2) Where there is a demonstrated need to be provided with glasses, the patient can be provided with spectacles on an urgent priority basis. There is no intention to deny access by pensioners to the provision of spectacles and Districts allocate resources in accordance with community needs. This is monitored annually in accordance with the budget cycle.

812. Quilpie State School

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education (5/9/96)—

With reference to the decision by the Education Department to withdraw a teacher from Quilpie State School affecting the supervision of year 11 and 12 students attending the school and given the concern of parents and the community that educational standards at Quilpie State School are declining and that year 11 and 12 students are being forced to do their School of Distance Education schooling from home—

- (1) How does he justify taking this service away from the Quilpie State School community?
- (2) Will he act to restore this teacher to the school?

Mr Quinn (2/10/96):

(1) You refer to the "supervision of year 11 and 12 students attending the school". At present some 65 periods per week, that is in excess of two full-time teachers, are devoted to 'teaching' rather than 'supervising' Year 11 and 12 students.

In written correspondence (26/06/94) from the then Minister, the Honourable Pat Comben, MLA, to the Reverend J. Skully, the Minister wrote "I have since approved Quilpie State School as a secondary department. The secondary year levels will be phased in—Year 8 beginning in 1995, Year 9 in 1996 and Year 10 in 1997. Students in Years 8, 9 and 10 will be able to study a range of subjects that are taught locally at Quilpie State School. Quilpie State School has not been approved for studies in Years 11 and 12. Students in these year levels may enrol in the Brisbane School of Distance Education and receive support and supervision from teachers at Quilpie State School."

Presently such students are receiving tuition as evidenced by the teaching returns of the school, which shows the instruction of the previous Minister, that supervision and tutorial support be provided, has been exceeded.

I question and refute your comment that "educational standards at Quilpie State School are declining". The provision of education provided in the Quilpie Secondary Department is equal to that of all secondary departments in the South-Western Region. Students wishing to proceed to Year 11 are not prevented from studying any post-compulsory subjects that are offered by the Brisbane School of Distance Education.

Further, co-curricular offerings at the Quilpie State School are extensive and include a range of sport, instrumental music, cultural pursuits (including Rock Eisteddfod, Charleville Eisteddfod), leadership and enrichment camps, and youth clubs.

Quilpie State School is a designated P-10 campus. The school is staffed to ensure these year levels are receiving maximum opportunities to achieve learning outcomes. As at the 2 August 1996 there were effectively 30 students in Years 8, 9 and 10. Such numbers are insufficient to justify the formal establishment of Years 11 and 12. Additionally, the size of any senior group would make it impossible to

encompass the innovative and responsive curriculum that is currently being offered in larger high schools.

(2) I have outlined the fact that there are insufficient numbers to give serious consideration to the establishment of senior school facilities and personnel. It is also important to note that there is no consideration being given to staffing the school so that support can be given to students who are accessing Brisbane School of Distance Education papers.

813. Lake Julius-Ernest Henry Mine Pipeline

Mr LIVINGSTONE asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (5/9/96)—

- (1) Did the Coalition, on 26 June, promise to proceed with the water pipeline from Lake Julius to the Ernest Henry Mine?
- (2) Will this initiative cost up to \$53m to introduce?
- (3) When will this promise be implemented?

Mr Perrett (18/9/96): The matter which Mr Livingstone raised comes under the portfolio of Minister for Natural Resources and should be referred to the Minister the Honourable Howard Hobbs.

814. Infrastructure Spending

Mr HAMILL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (5/9/96)—

With reference to her persistent claims that the former Labor Government failed to invest in the States infrastructure—

As the Goss Labor Government increased infrastructure spending by 25 per cent in real terms, making Queensland the State with the highest per capita spending on infrastructure, was the previous levels of the Queensland Government spending on infrastructure inadequate, or are other States making inadequate provision for infrastructure spending?

Mrs Sheldon (3/10/96): Analysis of capital expenditure between the States is best done in terms of Australian Bureau of Statistics data on the State and Local Government sector. This overcomes problems in making valid comparisons between the States, especially where the mix of functions undertaken by the two levels of Government differ markedly. In Queensland, for instance, water and sewerage functions are undertaken by Local Government Authorities whereas in other States these functions may be a State Government responsibility. On a comparable basis, the data shows that previous National/Liberal Governments have maintained capital expenditure at higher levels in real per capita (rpc) terms than the other State average in every year since 1962-63. In the ten years between 1979-80 and 1988-89 expenditure on new fixed assets averaged \$1,136 per annum (rpc). In contrast, average spending in the years 1989-90 to 1994-95 averaged \$1,063 per annum (rpc). Expenditure under Labor in 1993-94 and 1994-95 still was below the levels achieved by previous National and Liberal Governments in 1981-82 through to 1986-87.

815.Boxing Subsidy

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (5/9/96)—

With reference to the request made by the Queensland Amateur Boxing Association for an urgent subsidy to ensure that the Queensland boxing team will be adequately represented at the 1996 Australian Amateur Boxing titles to be held in Melbourne—

Will he, through his department, ensure that the subsidy is made available?

Mr Veivers (2/10/96): In response to the specific question made by Mr Hayward, I can advise as follows: I am advised all funding to this sport has been frozen following departmental investigations which revealed that assistance provided by the Department in 1993 and 1994 had not been expended in accordance with the funding guidelines under the State-wide Sports Development Program.

I am advised no formal request has been received by my Department for the specific funding of athletes to attend the 1996 Australian Amateur Boxing Titles to be held in Melbourne this year.

An inquiry about possible funding has been received via a telephone call and the Queensland Amateur Boxing Association has been requested to submit travel expenditure receipts so that consideration can be given.

816. Justice Department Staff; Alternative Dispute Resolution Program

Mr FOLEY asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (5/9/96)—

With reference to the sacking of court orderlies and other staff—

- (1) Who is to carry out the duties formerly undertaken by these orderlies?
- (2) Did he consult with the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the Chairman of the District Court about this matter prior to the announcement of the sacking of the court orderlies?
- (3) Given the Government's recent sacking of 20 prosecution staff, the dismantling of the Alternative Dispute Resolution program, and the sacking of court orderlies, what other Justice Department staff face sacking under his Government?
- (4) Will he reconsider his dismantling of the alternative Dispute Resolution Program in view of the support for the program in the recent report of the Police Service Review chaired by Sir Max Bingham QC?

Mr Beanland (1/10/96):

(1) The primary duty of court orderlies is to assist the bailiff in monitoring a jury. The extent to which any actual duties were carried out varies from court to court. In Rockhampton, for example, court orderlies have not been used for a number of years. Most of the time orderlies sat in the court with no duties or

with the only duty of calling witnesses. These tasks will now be performed by Judges' Associates or instructing solicitors as the Judge thinks appropriate. Where two juries cannot be supervised by one bailiff (in some cases the design of the Court allows this to be done) a casual bailiff or other court staff will be used.

(2) The Chief Justice, Senior Judge Administrator and Chief Judge of District Courts were made aware of the proposal before the orderlies were informed.

(3) With respect to the Honourable Member's suggestion that 20 prosecution staff were sacked, he deliberately misrepresents the position. As with all organisations, staffing levels change to meet workloads so that public monies are used prudently. The only officers of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions who have left since I have been Attorney-General have either done so voluntarily or have been employees who have been engaged on the basis of employment being non-permanent. With respect to the Honourable Member's suggestion that the Alternative Dispute Resolution program has been "dismantled", I refer him to answer number (4).

(4) The Alternative Dispute Resolution Program has not been dismantled. It has been integrated and expanded into the Court system throughout Queensland. I refer the Honourable Member to his earlier Question on Notice number 706 of 8 August 1996, where, in my answer, I proved that victim/offender conferencing under the former Labor government was an overwhelming failure at a huge cost to the people of Queensland. With respect to the report of the Police Service Review chaired by Sir Max Bingham QC, the report itself states that in a six month period only 56 cases were referred to the Alternative Dispute Resolution Division equating to 2 cases per week. The Honourable Member will undoubtedly not be proud of his former government's record in relation to victim/offender conferencing. Its approach was unplanned, uncoordinated and conceptually ineffective. This Government's approach will utilise a model which involves implementation in an effective way and including proper design and selection to achieve the Government's objectives and any recommendations of the Police Service Review. Further, these services will continue to be available through the court system throughout the whole of Queensland, unlike the policy of the former government which favoured only certain areas of Queensland.

817.Police Resources, Mount Isa

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (5/9/96)—

With reference to claims in 1995 that Mount Isa had the highest serious crime figure in the State—

- (1) What has he done to rectify this situation?
- (2) How many extra police officers has he allocated to Mount Isa district?
- (3) How can he prove that the situation has improved?

Mr Cooper (1/10/96):

(1) and (3)

A significant policing initiative to be undertaken within the Mount Isa police district was the construction of a Police Beat Shopfront facility in August 1995. This establishment is situated in Miles Street within the central business district. The shopfront is staffed by three personnel—a Senior Constable, Constable and Administration Officer. The work performed by these officers within the central business district has resulted in—

a reduction in the number of street offences occurring within the C.B.D.; and

a general perception among community members that the C.B.D. is a much safer place to visit.

The 1994/95 Police Service Annual Report, in its reference to serious offences against the person, equates 1,004 offences per 100,000 population within the Northern Police Region, of which Mount Isa is a part. The Mount Isa Police District, with its population of 33,000, had 270 reported serious offences against the person in the 1995 year.

The following table shows the 1995 and 1996 comparative figures concerning serious offences against the person. Based on current trends and projections, reported serious offences against the person, with the exception of robbery/extortion, will be reduced this calendar year, with a significant reduction in serious assaults.

Offence	1/1/95 to 31/12/95			1/1/96 to 16/9/96			Projected 1996 totals
	Reported	Cleared	% cleared	Reported	Cleared	% cleared	
Serious Assault	218	180	83	123	88	72	173
Homicide	5	5	100	0	0	-	0
Rape/Sexual Assault	40	34	85	27	19	70	38
Robbery/Extortion	7	3	43	7	4	57	9
TOTAL	270	222	82	157	111	71	220

(2) During 1995, the Queensland Police Service staffing allocation model showed the Mount Isa police district strength at 111 sworn officers. Position numbers existed for all of these positions.

The present strength within the district is 113 officers. The two extra positions were created with the introduction of the Police Beat Shopfront.

Normal transfer of staff does bring with it periodic vacancies but these positions are filled expeditiously.

The staffing levels within the Mount Isa police district are being monitored constantly. Recent applications for additional positions including—

a second District Inspector;

a third Prosecutor; and

a second District Education and Training Officer

have all been approved pending the allocation of position numbers.

818.Mr M. Daly

Mr MILLINER asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (10/9/96)—

With reference to the appointment of a Mr Malcolm Daly to head the environmental section of the Department of Mines and Energy—

(1) For what length of time has Mr Daly been engaged, on what classification and at what salary?

(2) When was he appointed?

(3) What are Mr Daly's environmental qualifications that equip him for this position?

(4) What is Mr Daly's environmental experience that qualifies him for this position?

(5) Was the position Mr Daly holds, advertised; if not, why not?

(6) Does he intend to publicly advertise this position; if so, when and where?

(7) Is this the same Mr Daly who was named in evidence before a CJC Inquiry into toxic waste disposal as being reluctant to act on complaints of pollution?

Mr Gilmore (9/10/96):

(1) Mr Daly accepted the position as Director of the Environmental Compliance Division in an acting capacity until recruitment action could be completed. The classification of the position is a Senior Executive Service (SES) 2—(low). Mr Daly has been classified at SES2—(high) since January 1992 when the Senior Executive Service was introduced. He was classified at an equivalent level prior to the establishment of the SES.

(2) Mr Daly commenced in the position on 7 May 1996.

(3) Mr Daly has a Bachelor of Science degree.

(4) Mr Daly has some 30 years experience with the minerals and energy industries and almost 20 years leading multi-disciplinary teams, including environmental specialists. His environmental experience is considerable including—

substantial responsibility for the establishment and management of environmental management regime for uranium mining in the Alligator Rivers Region of the Northern Territory (late 1970s);

As Director of Mines (1981-85), responsible for environmental management of all mines in the Northern Territory;

principal responsibility for the development and implementation of major changes in the approach to environmental management in the mining industry in Queensland (1989-1993 whilst Director of Minerals) which have led to substantial improvements;

Director of Environment in the Department of Mines and Energy between March and September 1995 under the previous Government.

(5) The position was advertised in the Queensland Government Gazette on 16 August and in news media on 17 August.

(6) Advertisements were placed in the *Courier-Mail* and *Weekend Australian*.

(7) Mr Daly was not named in the report of the CJC Inquiry referred to. In fact the Inquiry clearly indicated that there was no evidence of misconduct by any officer of DME. Mr Daly and many others were mentioned in a statement put to the inquiry by an individual. The comments about Mr Daly were unsubstantiated and clearly in error (see Answer (4), point 3).

819.State Budget Forecast

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (10/9/96)—

With reference to her claim of a \$337m underlying deficit and to last year's Budget papers which forecast an underlying surplus of \$455m—

Is she saying that the Budget forecast, calculated using uniform national accounting standards defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, is wrong and that this \$455m underlying surplus is really an underlying deficit?

Mrs Sheldon (11/10/96): The question shows a lack of understanding of the different measures of financial performance. The figure of \$455M published in last year's Budget Papers includes capital transactions and superannuation. In calculating the Government's net operating position, it is not appropriate to include either of these items.

The accrual deficit of \$337M estimated by the Commission of Audit excludes these factors and takes into account the depreciation of capital to give a measure which is similar in concept to the measure used to assess business performance. There is no doubt that if superannuation was excluded from the Government Finance Statistics data, the calculated result would be, in fact, an underlying deficit.

Superannuation provisions in the 1995-96 Budget amounted to \$683M. Excluding these alone would give an underlying deficit of \$228M.

820.Public Dental Facility, Sunshine Coast

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Health (10/9/96)—

(1) Did the Coalition, on 1 July 1995, promise to provide a public dental facility in Mooloolaba or Maroochydore?

(2) Will this initiative cost up to \$1.4m to introduce?

(3) When will this promise be implemented?

Mr Horan (9/10/96):

(1) The Maroochydore School Dental Clinic has been converted to accept adult patients and agreement has been reached with the management of the school. Some minor modifications are still to be made to allow wheelchair access.

(2) \$35,000 has been spent on the conversion.

(3) Staffing arrangements for the clinic are still being finalised. It is anticipated that adult patients will be accepted in October 1996.

821.Aquatic Centre, South Bank

Mr NUNN asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry (10/9/96)—

With reference to recent media comments by him in relation to plans to possibly construct an \$80m aquatic centre at South Bank as part of Queensland's bid to host the 2006 Commonwealth Games—

(1) Where on the South Bank site would the centre be built?

(2) As a master plan was developed for the South Bank site in the early days of the previous Government, which proposal is being dropped to accommodate this centre?

(3) As the popularity of South Bank has come mainly from its open space areas, wouldn't the best use of any available land area on the site be in expanding open space rather than erecting yet another building?

(4) What elements would be incorporated in the proposed aquatic centre?

(5) Will the public gain free access to the centre following its possible Commonwealth Games use?

Mr Davidson (10/10/96): The possible construction of an Aquatic Centre at South Bank is an issue that is subject to current discussions between the 2006 Commonwealth Games Bid Committee and the South Bank Corporation.

822.Child-Care Centre, Mackay

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (10/9/96)—

With reference to the funding approval in November 1995 by the former Labor Government for the construction of a child care centre, which was to be managed and operated by the Catholic Church, at

the corner of Bridge Road and Holland Street, Mackay—

- (1) Why has this project been delayed?
- (2) When will Executive Council approve this project?

Mr Lingard (26/9/96):

- (1) The need for expediency with construction projects of this nature must be balanced by the need to ensure that the expenditure of public monies is done in such a way that all parties involved are satisfied. In this case care had to be taken in the design phase to ensure the finished building would be cost effective and functional and also reflect best practice in the provision of child care. Given that the funds being used to construct this building are coming from the State and Commonwealth Governments there is a strong need to ensure public accountability for the expenditure of the funds.
- (2) The tender process has been assessed by the Queensland Building Services Authority. The role played by the Authority is important in ensuring that preferred tenderers for government funded capital works have the capacity to fulfil their contracts. This project will now be submitted to Executive Council for consideration.

823. Commercial Fishing Licences

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (10/9/96)—

- (1) Did the Coalition, on 2 July 1995, promise to review commercial fishing licenses and provide funding for any necessary buy backs?
- (2) Will this initiative cost up to \$5m to introduce?
- (3) When will this promise be implemented?

Mr Perrett (2/10/96):

1. Yes
2. The Coalition committed \$5 million towards a review and any necessary buyback of commercial licences. The actual cost will be determined as the review proceeds.
3. Implementation has commenced through the work of a joint industry/departmental working group. The group is developing policy, adjustment and buyback mechanisms and a process to analyse fisheries and fishing areas to determine the need for and type of licence buyback. It is important that any restructuring is in accordance with the fisheries management planning processes in place.

824. Gas Corporation Accounts, Early Payment Discount

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (10/9/96)—

With reference to the recent decision of Gas Corporation of Queensland to remove the 5 per cent early payment discount—

- (1) Does he consider this to be a defacto 5 per cent increase in gas prices?
- (2) Was he requested to approve such a rise?

(3) Does he agree that this is a de facto rise?

(4) Does he propose to take any action?

Mr Gilmore (9/10/96):

- (1) No. The scheduled tariffs for supply of gas by Gas Corporation of Queensland set out the prices charged for gas supplied to consumers. Any offer of a discount for payment within a specified period is not part of the scheduled price for supply of gas and, consequently, the removal of the discount is not an increase in the scheduled price.
- (2) No.
- (3) I have already stated that I do not consider the removal of the discount to be a defacto price rise.
- (4) No. The offer of a discount or any other incentive for early payment of accounts is at the discretion of the gas supplier concerned. While the removal of the discount is regretted, it would be inappropriate for me to seek to intervene in any decision of a gas supplier in relation to such incentives.

825. Public Housing, Acacia Ridge

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (10/9/96)—

With reference to the severe shortage of public housing in Southern Brisbane suburbs and also to the old housing stock which has been demolished to make way for new construction—

When will his department commence erecting housing on the vacant spaces now available for that purpose in Acacia Ridge?

Mr Connor (10/10/96): My Department is currently investigating preferred yields on land available in Elizabeth Street, Amherst Street and Mortimer Road, Acacia Ridge.

826. Aboriginal Heritage Museum

Mrs WOODGATE asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (10/9/96)—

- (1) Did the Coalition, on 25 June 1995, promise to provide funding for Aboriginal heritage museum work at the Queensland Museum?
- (2) Will this initiative cost up to \$1m to introduce?
- (3) When will this promise be implemented?

Mrs Sheldon (11/10/96):

(1) The Coalition Government indicated in the Arts Initiative Statement that \$1 million would be set aside in the 1995/96 financial year to address preservation of Aboriginal heritage at the Queensland Museum.

(2) It is envisaged that the total cost of this initiative would be \$1 million.

(3) In the current budget context the Coalition Government has not cancelled the initiative but has decided on a more prudent, staged introduction of the initiative when funds become available.

The Museum has appointed an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Consultative Committee to assist in development of a plan in relation to skeletal and other sensitive items being held in the State Collection. The plan was adopted by the Minister.

32 items have been returned with a further 40 items deaccessioned, involving 13 communities and individuals.

827. Timber Industry, Wide Bay Region

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (10/9/96)—

With reference to his statement in Parliament that 15 per cent retention of forests pre-1750 would dismantle the cypress pine and hardwood timber industries in Queensland and his undertaking that, if elected, his Government would have no part of that 15 per cent agreement—

Why is he and his Government now agreeing to sign this agreement that will kill the hardwood sawmilling industry in the Wide Bay Region at a cost of a thousand jobs?

Mr Perrett (2/10/96):

1. The Queensland Government is committed to maintaining an ecologically sustainable and economically viable native timber milling industry in Queensland. The Government will not act to close the hardwood milling industry in Wide Bay region.

2. The Government remains opposed to the arbitrary imposition of any "15% of pre 1750 forest distribution" rule to lock up forested areas in Queensland. No agreement to impose such a "15% of pre 1750" rule has been signed by the Government.

3. The Queensland Government has been negotiating with the Commonwealth Government, exploring the possibility of signing a Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) Scoping Agreement. These negotiations have included discussions about the criteria to be used in establishing a comprehensive, adequate and representative (CAR) nature conservation reserve system. A set of criteria known as the JANIS criteria are emerging as those most likely to be accepted nationally. These criteria refer to "15% of pre 1750 forest distribution", but not as a mandatory target. JANIS recognises flexibility in application of the criteria as a key issue, with social and economic factors being important considerations. For example, the draft JANIS criteria acknowledge that "... where socio-economic impacts are not acceptable, ... a lower level of reservation may prove adequate."

828. Railway Facilities, Townsville Region

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (10/9/96)—

With reference to his answer to Question 687 wherein he stated: "There is no timetable at this stage to relocate Townsville station to the possible site south of Ross Creek. Planning is proceeding to finalise road/rail grade separation options at Boundary Street, which can incorporate a station north of Boundary Street adjacent to the Civic Theatre. However, constructing a new station is not a high priority, particularly given the recent upgrade of the existing heritage station" and to the new rail facilities in Cairns in the North and Mackay in the South and draw an unfavourable comparison to the

third rate passenger facilities in Townsville where less than half of the platform is covered and to statistical data which shows Mackay having slightly higher and Cairns having slightly lower number of passenger movements—

(1) As the "recent upgrade" to which he refers does nothing whatsoever to upgrade platform facilities for passengers, passengers who include the aged, women struggling with luggage and children having to entrain and detrain, fully exposed to the tropical sun and at times torrential rain, does he believe this to be an acceptable standard of service approaching the 21st Century?

(2) Will he reconsider his priorities and give urgent attention to providing a new passenger facility to be located in the vicinity of the Townsville Civic Theatre?

Mr Johnson (10/10/96):

1) It is difficult to justify spending considerable public funds upgrading the Townsville station when it is most likely a new station will be built in the next five to ten years at Reid Park. In addition, Queensland Rail has a station upgrade program which prioritises stations based on utilisation. This analysis shows there are other more heavily utilised stations that are considered to be in greater need of upgrading than Townsville.

While the Government would like to be able to upgrade all stations in the network, it is necessary to ensure that, with limited funds available, they are used in the areas of greatest need, taking into account passenger utilisation as well as safety and comfort issues.

2) While I can appreciate the Honourable Member's concern for a new station to be located near the Civic Theatre, there are many priorities that must be considered with limited funds available. Queensland Rail has a long term plan to relocate the existing shunting, freight terminal and locomotive servicing facilities from the north and south yards at Townsville to Stuart, when funds become available. The Workshops will remain in the south yard due to Government commitment. The overall strategy is to streamline operations and avoid environmental problems associated with the current operations in the north and south yards. However, these events will happen over a period of years from the current to the year 2001. It is anticipated that at that time, subject to funding being available, that it would be appropriate to construct a new passenger station at a location such as Reid Park.

829. Logan Motorway

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (10/9/96)—

With reference to that section of the Logan Motorway between Beenleigh-Kingston Road and the South East Freeway/Pacific Highway—

(1) When will this section of the Logan Motorway be widened to four (4) lanes?

(2) What will be the cost?

(3) Will it involve resumptions; if so, how many?

(4) Will this widening include reconstruction of the interchange between the Logan Motorway and the South East Freeway/Pacific Highway?

(5) When will this interchange reconstruction take place?

(6) What will be the cost?

(7) Will it involve resumptions; if so, how much?

Mr Johnson (10/10/96):

(1) Present programming indicates that the widening to four lanes of the Logan Motorway, east of Wembley Road to the Pacific Highway, is due to commence by 2005. The desirability of an earlier completion, to complement the widening of the Pacific Highway, is recognised and if extra funds become available the work will be expedited.

(2 & 3) Design of the duplication, commissioned early by the Logan Motorway Company to effectively utilise material generated by the realignment of the Gateway extension near Stretton, has not reached the stage where costs and resumption requirements have been finalised.

However, I am advised that preliminary assessment of the cost of construction is of the order of \$50-\$55 million.

(4) The reconstruction of the interchange between Logan Motorway and the Pacific Highway is not included in the Logan Motorway widening. Most likely it will form a separate scheme after public comments on the proposed layouts have been received and analysed and a detailed design is commissioned and completed.

(5, 6) The cost and extent of resumptions will be determined by the detailed design.

(7) The time of construction will be dependent on the final programming of the Pacific Highway widening, both north and south of the Logan Motorway, and the availability of funds.

830. Tobacco Tax

Mrs EDMOND asked the Minister for Health (10/9/96)—

(1) Will he explain why, in his capacity as Health Minister, he was reported in the media several weeks ago as ruling out any increase in the tobacco tax but he is now supporting the increase as part of the State Budget, which represents a major breach of the Coalition promise not to raise or increase taxes?

(2) What percentage of the tobacco tax will be injected directly into health services in Queensland?

(3) What is his calculation of the total revenue per annum resulting from the tobacco tax increase which will go into the Health Budget?

(4) Will he outline all new Coalition initiatives in health advancement and health promotion programs which specifically address health problems associated with smoking. (Do not make mention of existing programs established under the previous Labor administration)?

Mr Horan (9/10/96):

(1) The Member for Mount Coot-tha may not be aware that decisions in regard to taxation are matters for Treasury and not the Health portfolio.

The decision to increase tobacco tax was made in the context of the 1996-97 budget following Federal Government financial cutbacks to this state.

(2) The Health Budget has been increased by 11.6%, an increase of \$311.7 million over the previous Budget. This increase in the Health Budget has been supported, in part, through the projected revenue arising from the tobacco tax.

(3) See answer 2.

(4) Queensland Health has been developing a Bill intended to reduce youth access to tobacco and to prohibit the marketing of tobacco products to children.

831. South East Freeway

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (10/9/96)—

With reference to the recommendation outlined in the draft Integrated Regional Transport Plan to establish a continuous dedicated busway system along the South East Freeway past the Gateway Arterial Road intersection to the Logan Hyperdome—

If this recommendation is accepted, will this busway system be in addition to the eight-laning of the South East Freeway between the Gateway Arterial Road and the Hyperdome to accommodate his high occupancy vehicle lanes?

Mr Johnson (10/10/96): The Government announced on 23 August 1996 that the eight-laning of the Pacific Highway/South-East Freeway between the Logan Motorway and the Gateway Arterial would take the form of a widened eight lane cross-section of motorway, incorporating two high occupancy vehicle lanes.

Queensland Transport, as the lead agent for the project north of the Logan Motorway, is concentrating its planning efforts on implementation of the above decision.

While recognising that the draft Integrated Regional Transport Plan does provide for a future southwards extension of a busway past the Gateway Arterial, I must point out that this document has not yet received government endorsement and is in the public arena for consultation.

At this stage, it is not possible to make any definitive statement about whether or not any future busway extension southwards of the Gateway would be in addition to or within the proposed 8 lane corridor width. This would need to be determined whenever more detailed planning for the busway extension takes place. At this stage, I believe the current proposal which provides for the inclusion of two high occupancy vehicle lanes in the 8 lane cross-section will satisfy the public transport requirements of the corridor between the Gateway and Logan for many years. I also believe the final priorities for extension of the busway network after the current project between the Gateway and the Brisbane CBD

will most likely favour work in other corridors, notably north of the Brisbane River.

832. Commission of Audit

Mr FOURAS asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (10/9/96)—

With reference to the statement issued by Dr Vince Fitzgerald on 10 July 1996 that retained earnings for public enterprises were fully incorporated in the assets and net worth as at 30 June 1995, and to the Statement of Assets and Liabilities on page 102 of Volume 1, where the item for Public Enterprise assets does appear to be a full estimate including all Operating Income for 1994-95, and I draw her attention to the Operating Statement on page 105, where the entry for public enterprise operating income in 1994-95 reads 'not available'—

How can figures which are included on one page of the report, be 'not available' for inclusion in another table only 3 pages on?

Mrs Sheldon (11/10/96): (1) This question confuses two basic concepts—stocks and flows.

The Commission of Audit's Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 30 June 1995 includes, implicitly, the accumulated stock of earnings retained by public enterprise.

The figures shown as 'not available' on page 105 of the Commission of Audit report are flows. Note 22d on page 117 explains that these relate to the retained earnings of public enterprises for 1995-96 and 1994-95. These are completely different figures to the stock of accumulated retained earnings as at 30 June 1995.

833. Royal Brisbane Hospital

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Health (10/9/96)—

(1) Will he outline the details of the Royal Brisbane Hospital Functional Plan, documenting capital works associated with the \$600m redevelopment of the hospital, including the Royal Women's Hospital capital projects announced by him during the week ending 7 September, including existing bed numbers as compared with beds agreed to by the Government?

(2) Will he briefly document information obtained regarding projected needs analysis studies held by Queensland Health in relation to bed requirements at the RBH?

(3) Will he break down costs of the RBH redevelopment program against each planned stage of redevelopment (ie stage I, II, III, IV) as separate items and give completion dates for projects included in each stage?

(4) Will he provide full costings of projects included in the Functional Plan for the hospital and show recurrent expenditure allocated to each and every capital project including equipment upgrades as well as building projects?

(5) What stage is the redevelopment at currently with respect to commencement and completion dates for all works planned and works already under way?

(6) When exactly will the \$600m redevelopment be completed?

(7) How much of the \$600m will be spent in total on the Royal Women's Hospital redevelopment and how many beds are registered to the women's presently?

Mr Horan (9/10/96): I am disappointed that you have asked a question with so many parts, which breaches the spirit of the Standing Orders and which creates an unnecessary burden on the staff of Queensland Health. However, for the benefit of the people of Chermside, I provide the following answer.

(1) Capital funds provided for the redevelopment of both Royal Brisbane and Royal Women's Hospitals on the Herston Campus amount in total (as from 1 July 1996) to \$419 million, as outlined in the 1996/97 State Budget—Capital Outlays, Budget Paper No. 3.

Major revision of the draft Functional Plan was essential to assess capital costs without compromising services for the Herston Complex. As a result of this revision and due to the adoption of other funding options pertaining to the Butterfield Street carpark, a new budget of \$419 million has now been allocated.

Bed numbers agreed to as part of the redevelopment are 790 beds—Royal Brisbane Hospital and 187 beds—Royal Women's Hospital. It was necessary to negotiate the bed numbers to enable further detailed planning to proceed.

(2) The following is an overview of methodology used by the Queensland Health Care Research Group on behalf of Queensland Health to establish acute bed numbers:

The current acute bed projection methodology takes account of:

future population changes; and

projected clinical trends for admission rates, length of stay and day procedure rates.

Projected clinical trends are based on mathematical projections of rates of change occurring over the past 10 years in Queensland. The mathematical projections for length of stay and day procedure rates have been capped at levels considered to be achievable upper limits.

The data only includes patient stays of up to 90 days. Patient stays of over 90 days have been excluded from the projections.

The data is separated into 34 Service Related Groups and day only and overnight admissions are presented separately.

The following assumptions were made when establishing bed numbers from the projected activity data.

Length of Stay for Day Only Separations

A length of stay of 1 day has been assigned to day only separations. This is considered very generous as the majority of day only patients would not stay a full day and much activity recorded as day only does not require a bed.

Bed Occupancy Levels

The following bed occupancy levels have been applied:

hospitals with >300 beds—80% occupancy*;
hospitals with 100—300 beds—75%
occupancy; and

hospitals with < 100 beds—70% occupancy.

* This occupancy level is considered generous as hospitals of this capacity typically operate at an average annual occupancy of 90% or more.

The above methodology and assumptions indicate a requirement for the following acute beds by the year 2006 -

Royal Brisbane Hospital—728 beds

Royal Women's Hospital—167 beds

Royal Children's Hospital—142 beds

(3) Defined costs for each stage of the redevelopment are yet to be confirmed within the overall project budget. Stages 1B and 1C relating to new hospital facilities and new ward accommodation are to proceed under a single contract. It is expected and programmed that a tender approval will be accepted by June 1997. The Project Definition Plan is well advanced with schematic design in progress and a number of subsidiary activities to occur prior to commencement of major building activity. A major component of the redevelopment relates to the construction of a Central Energy Unit which will replace and/or upgrade all energy distribution systems for the hospital campus. Contractors have been appointed with construction to be completed by August 1997. Supporting redevelopment is the need to provide a substantial carpark for which tenders have recently been invited.

(4) As part of the completion or finalisation of the planning process prior to commencement of a major building activity, a recurrent cost planning exercise is under way which will determine the degree of operational costs required in meeting service provision. This activity will complement programming activity and final cost analysis of each stage of redevelopment. Consultants to undertake programming were appointed on 17 September 1996 and will not complete this exercise for a few weeks.

(5) Refer to (3) above. Phase B is expected to be completed by 1999 and Phase C, depending on circumstances, is expected to be completed by 2000.

(6) Redevelopment of Royal Brisbane and Royal Women's Hospitals is expected to be fully completed by the Year 2001.

(7) Actual costs to be expended on redevelopment of the Royal Women's Hospital is somewhat difficult as the facility will be incorporated within the structure of the Royal Brisbane Hospital.

The number of beds currently provided by the Royal Women's Hospital is 210.

834. Glenmore State High School

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Education (10/9/96)—

With reference to his commitment to a \$900,000 indoor sports complex at Glenmore State High

School and his recent statements that this centre will now be built in stages—

(1) How many stages will be involved in the construction of this centre?

(2) What is the expected opening date of the fully completed centre?

(3) Is the school Parents and Citizens Association expected to contribute to the project; if so, what is the level of contribution expected from the parents and citizens?

(4) What consultation with the parents and citizens is currently being undertaken by his department?

Mr Quinn (2/10/96):

(1) The plans for construction are still under negotiation between the school community, Project Services and the Capricornia Regional Office. This negotiation presents a unique opportunity for the community to influence directly the design of the centre to ensure that it meets the future curriculum and growth needs specific to their school.

(2) The opening date of the fully completed centre will depend upon the outcome of negotiations with the school community and Project Services.

(3) The P&C Association may wish to make a contribution to facilitate the inclusion of its own priorities and plans for the complex.

(4) Officers of the Capricornia Regional Office have initiated consultation through discussions with the Honorary Secretary of the Glenmore SHS Parents and Citizens Association, the administrators of the Glenmore SHS and Glenmore SS, and the Capricornia School of Distance Education. The Association has been invited to provide a full brief of its proposal to the regional office by the end of October.

835. "No More, it's the Law" Campaign

Mrs BIRD asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry (10/9/96)—

With reference to an article on page 105 of the Sunday Mail on 23 June entitled 'No More, it's the law' which was included as part of an advertising feature on behalf of the Queensland club industry—

(1) Who paid for the article?

(2) How much did the article cost?

(3) Who wrote the article?

(4) Who provided the photograph for the article?

(5) Is the 'No More, it's the law' campaign a new guide, as stated in the article, or is it in fact a continuation of a program established by the Labor Government?

Mr Davidson (10/10/96):

(1) My Department's Liquor Licensing Division.

(2) \$2,463.

(3) My Department's Liquor Licensing Division.

(4) My Department's Liquor Licensing Division.

(5) The article refers to the launch of a component of the "No more—It's the Law" campaign, being a new

booklet, the "No More its the law—Guide to Responsible Service of Alcohol". This particular guide was first published by the Liquor Licensing Division in May, 1996 and I had the pleasure of launching it to the industry in July. The guide's major focus is as a training tool for licensees to ensure that their staff are aware of the liquor laws and the physical effects alcohol can have on patrons. It also carries hints and strategies for providing a safe drinking environment, preventing under-age drinking, establishing house policies and identifying telltale signs of intoxication.

836. Water Charges, Mackenzie River-Saraji Pipeline

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Natural Resources (10/9/96)—

(1) Is the Department of Natural Resources proposing to increase the price of water supplied to land owners via the Mackenzie River-Saraji pipeline from 27 cents per kilolitre to 42 cents per kilolitre?

(2) What impact will this increased cost have on rural producers who draw water from the pipeline and is it an attempt to stop landowners from taking advantage of the supply system and resource?

Mr Hobbs (9/10/96):

(1) The Department is not proposing to increase the price of water supplied to land owners receiving stock water from the Saraji Pipeline.

There has been some discussion locally suggesting that the present price of 27c/kilolitre will be increased to 42c/kilolitre for new applications only. This is not being progressed and the existing delivery charge of 27c/kilolitre will remain. The present charge of 27c/kilolitre will only be reviewed if cost increases are experienced in operating the service. This charge covers established annual costs of operating and maintaining the system but does not include capital costs.

(2) While the Blackwater and Gregory pipelines are fully committed, some spare capacity in the Saraji and Oaky Creek pipelines will provide opportunity for producers to increase their allocations if they require further water.

837. Caboolture Northern By-Pass

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (10/9/96)—

With reference to the decision to defer construction of the Caboolture Northern By-Pass—

Will he give an undertaking to bring forward a replacement for the Moodlu bridge, which would have been part of the by-pass construction, and which represents a significant danger spot for motorists using the Daguiar Highway?

Mr Johnson (10/10/96): No. There have been two accidents reported at the Moodlu Bridge on the highway in the past twelve years, neither of which were fatal. The bridge is narrow and should be replaced when funds are available; however, it is not regarded as a "blackspot".

The Department of Main Roads carried out a safety audit of this part of the D'Aguiar Highway earlier this year. Subsequently, warning signs for the bridge have been upgraded.

The replacement for the Moodlu Bridge will be constructed as part of the western interchange of the Caboolture Bypass. It will be in a new location and it is not practicable to construct the new bridge without the bypass which would connect to it.

The first stage of the bypass will connect from the Bruce Highway, just north of the Caboolture/Bribie Island Road interchange, to the western interchange at Moodlu. It will cost approximately \$32 million in 1996 dollars.

In the interim, the Government intends to advance preconstruction activities and, in this year's review of the Roads Implementation Program, \$500,000 will be allocated in the 1996/97 financial year and \$800,000 in the 1997/98 financial year for early hardship acquisitions of affected properties, detailed planning and design.

Timing of construction also is dependent on receiving Federal approval for funding of the Bruce Highway/Bypass interchange, which is a Federal responsibility as part of the National Highway System.

838. Education Department Restructure

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education (10/9/96)—

With reference to his "Leading Schools Program" which is part of his plan to restructure the Education Department and to embark on a major exercise to devolve bureaucratic and administrative tasks to schools and to his proposal to raise additional funds for his departmental restructure by outsourcing other head office services—

(1) How many public servants will lose their jobs when he abolishes the 11 Education Department regions, downsize school support centres to 35 and restructure the head office of his department?

(2) Will he provide details of what services will be privatised and how many additional jobs will be lost?

Mr Quinn (2/10/96): (1) & (2) The Government has not made any decision to restructure regions, downsize school support centres, or restructure head office. Therefore the question of related job losses is baseless.

839. Public Housing, Redcliffe Electorate

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (10/9/96)—

With reference to his answer to Question on Notice No. 565 relating to public housing projects in the Redcliffe Electorate—

If there has been no cessation of building projects in the Redcliffe Electorate, will he now detail such current building projects?

Mr Connor (10/10/96): My Department plans to commence construction of 17 dwellings in the Redcliffe electorate during 1996/97. Twelve of these

dwellings will be used to accommodate seniors and five persons with disabilities will be housed in the other new projects. Under the Housing Industry Trade Training scheme, local apprentices will construct a detached house in the Scarborough area.

The State's \$110.5 million community housing program, including \$93.6 million for the building of 992 additional homes, has the potential to provide additional housing.

840. "Home Bookie" Advertisement, 4TAB

Mr D'ARCY asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (10/9/96)—

With reference to an advertisement on 4TAB for a program called the "Home Bookie"—

(1) Has the program been subjected to any complaints?

(2) Has 4TAB complied with advertising regulations and do they have the necessary signed documentation that the program is not a scam?

Mr Beanland (9/10/96):

(1) No. The Office of Consumer Affairs is aware of the program, "Home Bookie", but to date no complaints have been received from members of the public. "Home Bookie" is a computerised gambling system and five complaints have previously been received against the company, Peicor Pty Ltd, which markets the system. Peicor Pty Ltd previously traded under the name Integrated Computer Solutions Pty Ltd which also had five complaints against it and before that as Silver Sun Computers Pty Ltd which was also the subject of complaints from members of the public. Neither the advertisement extensively broadcast on 4TAB nor the material provided by Peicor Pty Ltd in response to inquiries makes reference to the cost of the "Home Bookie" program but from previous experience with systems marketed by Peicor Pty Ltd, it is suspected that the cost would be about \$48,000. The contract used by Peicor Pty Ltd in previous instances only guarantees that the computer equipment is brand new and is covered by the manufacturer's warranty. No guarantee of financial returns are made and no provision for a refund for dissatisfaction with the system are included in the contract. Given the previous record of Peicor Pty Ltd, it is suspected that the "Home Bookie" program is the same system previously marketed by this company.

(2) Legislation administered by the Office of Consumer Affairs does not specifically set any guidelines for advertising on either radio or television and as such this does not come within the jurisdiction of the Office of Consumer Affairs. However, should the contents of such advertisements be misleading Consumer Affairs would consider taking action under the Fair Trading Act 1989.

841. Alternative Dispute Resolution Program

Mr WELLS asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (10/9/96)—

With reference to recommendation 161 of the Bingham Report, which recommends that external mediation, "as provided by the Alternative Dispute Resolution Division of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General be promoted in appropriate cases"—

In the light of this recommendation will he undertake to abandon his plans to cease the Alternative Dispute Resolution Division?

Mr Beanland (9/10/96): The Alternative Dispute Resolution Program has not been "ceased". It will be integrated and expanded into the Court system throughout Queensland. Victim/offender conferencing under the former Labor government was an overwhelming failure. The community would undoubtedly be startled at the level of resources and lack of action that occurred in this area under two Labor Attorneys-General. In the 1993-94 financial year, \$22 500 was allocated when the Honourable member was the Attorney-General, and for that funding only 19 conferences were convened. This amounts to an average cost of \$1184 per conference which had to be met by tax payers. In the following year, 1994-95, again during the Honourable member's term, \$43 000 was allocated to victim/offender conferencing. For this almost doubled funding provision only 18 conferences were held that year, one less than the previous year. The average cost per conference in that year was \$2389, more than double the cost in the previous year but with reduced output. In the 1995-96 financial year, under former Attorney-General Matt Foley MLA, \$133 000 was allocated. For this vastly increased amount to victim/offender conferencing, only 22 conferences were undertaken. This disgraceful output amounts to a cost of \$6 045 per conference. With respect to the report of the Police Service Review chaired by Sir Max Bingham QC, the report itself states that in a six month period only 56 cases were referred to the Alternative Dispute Resolution Division equating to 2 cases per week. Therefore, the Honourable Member will undoubtedly not be proud of his former government's record in relation to victim/offender conferencing. Its approach was unplanned, uncoordinated and conceptually ineffective. This Government's approach will utilise a model which involves implementation in an effective way and including proper design and selection to achieve the Government's objectives and any recommendations of the Police Service Review. Further, these services will continue to be available through the court system throughout the whole of Queensland.

842. Asbestosis; Workers' Compensation Act

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (10/9/96)—

(1) Is he aware that under the proposed changes to the Workers' Compensation Act, there is no provision for a care package as is currently available under Common Law?

(2) Does he intend to take into account the 24 hours a day, 7 days a week that carers for asbestosis and related disease sufferers need in order to remain at home?

(3) What provision is being made in the proposed changes to the Workers' Compensation Act for meeting the financial costs of providing life supporting oxygen to individuals suffering from asbestosis?

(4) Is he aware that the cost to purchase a new oxygen concentrator is over \$4,000 second hand between \$2,500 and \$3,000 and costs \$1.68 per day in household electricity to run?

(5) Will he consider making changes to the Act to provide for asbestosis sufferers to enter nursing homes by paying the Federal Government's \$26,000 entrance fee?

(6) Is he aware that without the care package, many sufferers of asbestosis and related diseases will be unable to pay the \$1,600 a year for private health cover?

(7) What provision is being made to ensure that sufferers are financially covered for private health insurance?

(8) Is he aware that people between the age of 34 and 54 years are the most vulnerable age group to contact asbestosis and its associated illnesses and that the gestation period is up to 50 years?

Mr Santoro (10/10/96):

(1) This is not correct. The Kennedy Report recommended that a statutory benefit of up to \$150,000 be payable to cases approved by WorkCover for gratuitous care provided to seriously injured workers. These recommendations extend the access to a carers benefit from the approximately 3.7% of injured workers who claim at common law to all seriously injured workers, regardless of whether they can prove negligence on the part of their employer.

(2) In 1995/96 42 new statutory claims for asbestosis were lodged. In the same year 7 new common law claims for asbestosis were lodged. It is clear that the introduction of a gratuitous care lump sum in the statutory compensation system should assist more workers than the current common law provision.

It is important to realise that the proposed statutory gratuitous care payments relate to gratuitous care, i.e. provided at no charge by family or friends, in the same manner as Griffiths and Kerkemeyer awards.

Payment for professional caring and nursing services is still available both under the statutory system and at common law.

The statutory gratuitous care payment, payable at the finalisation of a claim, will take these factors into account. In addition, the statutory carers allowance (Section 153 of the Workers' Compensation Act 1990) will continue to be paid for voluntary care provided to a worker during the duration of the claim where appropriate. As previously advised professional caring and nursing costs remain payable under the statutory and common law systems.

(3) Provisions in the legislation relating to the provision of medical treatment and medical aids, including the provision of oxygen, will not be changed. The Act allows for the payment of reasonable and necessary medical and rehabilitation costs.

(4) The Act allows for the payment of reasonable medical expenses and aids which would include the provision of oxygen for an injured worker where necessary. It is expected that the claim manager would also investigate alternate arrangements such as hire of such equipment.

(5) Benefits payable in relation to such claims would be decided on the individual merits of each case.

(6) As stated in (1) above, the abolition of the common law gratuitous care head of damages will be more than matched by the introduction of the statutory gratuitous care lump sum. Also, as advised in previous responses, payments for professional care will remain payable under the statutory and common law systems.

(7) The election to take out private health insurance is an individual decision and is not an issue for the workers' compensation insurance scheme of this State. This does not represent a change to the existing provisions. Once again the costs of professional medical and care services remain covered under both the statutory and common law systems.

(8) Advice from the Senior Medical Officer of the Workers' Compensation Board is that there is no relationship between age and vulnerability to contraction of asbestos related diseases. The time for these diseases to become clinically manifest depends on the time of first exposure and the dosage received. A study has set the mean age at diagnosis of mesothelioma to be 64 years, but this related to the time of initial exposure and lag time for manifestation.

The approximate lag time for the various asbestos related diseases is as follows:-

Benign asbestos pleural disease—20 years

Malignant mesothelioma—35-40 years

Symptomatic Asbestosis—10 years of moderate to severe exposure.

843. Murrumba Downs High School

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Education (10/9/96)—

When will construction of the Murrumba Downs High School commence?

Mr Quinn (2/10/96): The timing for construction of a high school at Murrumba Downs is reviewed periodically by officers of the Department of Education, in light of statewide priorities. Other priorities, such as the construction of a new state high school at Burpengary, are currently placing a higher demand on the Capital Works budget. Consequently, this project is not on the medium term planning program of the Department.

844. Appointment of Judges, Supreme and District Courts

Mr FOLEY asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice—

When will he deliver on his pre-election promise of (a) 5 extra judges in the District and Supreme Court and (b) a Supreme Court judge based in Cairns?

Mr Beanland (9/10/96): The Government has always anticipated that it might have to make up to five new judicial appointments. The *Courier-Mail* of 11 July 1995 reports that: "Mr Beanland said the Coalition would give Queensland's legal system the tools it needed to deal with the blowout in court lists and the breakdown of the legal aid system ... The five extra judges, three to the District Court and two to the Supreme Court, would only be temporary appointments to help clear the case backlog." Since taking office, I have appointed one additional Magistrate and two additional District Court judges. It should be noted that these are permanent appointments. Further judicial appointments will be made as and when the need arises.

845. Rules Beach

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (10/9/96)—

With reference to the proposed acquisition of private property at Rules Beach—

- (1) On what basis is his approval for this acquisition justified?
- (2) What is the source of funding for the acquisition and which divisional budget of his department will allocate the purchase price?
- (3) What area of "land" is being acquired?
- (4) What is the Valuer-General's unimproved capital value and total area of the Lot, part of which is being acquired?
- (5) What are the respective land areas and unimproved capital values of each Lot adjoining the Lot, part of which is to be acquired?
- (6) What are the real property descriptions of the Lot (part of which is to be acquired) and the immediately adjoining lots?
- (7) What is the amount of public funds allocated to meet the purchase price?
- (8) What associated costs other than the actual purchase price will be incurred in finalising the acquisition and what are the respective amounts of these costs?

Mr Littleproud (1/10/96):

1. The main justification for the acquisition of the area is to provide a practical land access to the mouth of Baffle Creek Conservation Park. Prior to this acquisition access to the park was only possible via boat.
2. Funding from the Conservation Division Coastal Zone special initiative is being used.
3. 3.552 hectares
4. Unimproved Capital Valuations are provided by the Department of Natural Resources. I am advised by that Department that the unimproved valuation of Lot 1 on RP 618453 is \$52 000, Lot 1 had an area of 118.4219 hectares before the acquisition.

It must be understood that an Unimproved Capital Valuation is not an indication of the Current Market Value of the land. A UCV assumes the land is in its virgin state without any clearing, fencing or other

development work, and is not comparable with a market valuation of the land in its current developed state.

5. There are 2 adjoining lots. One has an area of 12.2 hectares and a UCV of \$245 000. The other has an area of 123.572 hectares and a UCV of \$52 000.

6. Lot 1 on RP 618453 is the RPD of Rules Land prior to the acquisition. The adjoining lots are 2 on RP 618453 and 2 on RP611700.

7. \$112 000, based upon the Market Valuation provided by the Department of Natural Resources, including items of disturbance and severance. Severance is in this case a considerable component because the balance of the land loses its absolute beach frontage.

8. \$2 214 for survey, \$112 for proclamation and costs not yet incurred for gazettal of the area as Conservation Park.

846. Boondall North Railway Station

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (10/9/96)—

With reference to Boondall North Railway Station—

(1) Was a decision made or was it ever intended to upgrade this station; if so, (a) what improvements to facilities were planned for the station buildings and on the platform, (b) what was the cost of the improvements, (c) when was the project expected to commence and be completed and (d) is it intended that this upgrade will still proceed; if not, (a) on what date was the decision made to withdraw funding or not proceed with this upgrade, (b) what is the reason for this decision and (c) when will funds be allocated to enable this necessary upgrade to occur?

(2) Is he aware that station staff and patrons at this station have to use a demountable hut as the station building and as male and female toilets and that these unacceptable and temporary arrangements have been in place for several years?

Mr Johnson (10/10/96):

1) It was proposed to upgrade Boondall North station as part of Operation Facelift between June and October 1996.

Proposed improvements included a new station building, new 'pool-type' fencing along the length of the platforms and new public toilet facilities.

The proposed work was deferred to allow funding to be diverted to high priority safety issues eg: the Train Safe Program.

The estimated cost of this upgrade was \$220,000.

2) The new station would have allowed the removal of the demountable hut and temporary toilets.

847. Gold Coast Hospital

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Health (10/9/96)—

(1) Will he give details of the extremely unsafe waiting period being experienced by a woman with an operable aneurism requiring surgery at the Gold

Coast Hospital which was reported in the Gold Coast Bulletin on Monday 9 September?

(2) Does he still believe the Gold Coast Hospital is an "outstanding achiever" with respect to waiting times for elective surgery?

(3) What action has he taken to address the seriousness of this case and when can this patient expect to receive the treatment she needs?

(4) What steps has he taken since he became Health Minister to specifically address cross-border issues affecting residents on the South Coast?

(5) Specifically, will he provide details of where negotiations between Queensland and New South Wales are at under his direction?

Mr Horan (9/10/96):

(1) I am advised that the patient referred to and whose situation was reported in the Gold Coast Bulletin on Monday, 8 September 1996 does have an aneurism requiring surgery. The patient is currently in a stable condition and is receiving treatment from her General Practitioner.

The patient was placed on the waiting list on 24 May 1996 as a Category 3 patient and was upgraded to a Category 2 patient on 27 June 1996. It is the surgeon's clinical opinion that the patient requires admission within 90 days from 27 June 1996.

I certainly regret that the patient's appointment for surgery has been delayed twice by the Hospital. However, I am given to understand that this is the result of the clinical needs of other patients whose conditions required more immediate treatment. The Gold Coast Hospital gives first priority to emergency neurosurgery cases who are unstable.

(2) The Gold Coast Hospital is an "outstanding achiever" with respect to waiting times for elective surgery. This is demonstrated by the Hospital having made significant progress towards achieving the elective surgery goal of having less than 5% Category 1 long wait patients waiting by 31 December 1996.

The number of long wait Category 1 patients continues to reduce at the Gold Coast Hospital. It has reduced from 47% at 1 July to 15% at 1 August 1996 to 12% at 1 September 1996, and as of 1 October this number was zero!

By way of contrast, in November 1995 when I was the Opposition Spokesperson for Health and the Member for Currumbin's party was in power, the proportion of long wait Category 1 patients on the waiting list at the Gold Coast Hospital was 58%.

Since in the period since November 1995, the number of Category 1 long wait patients has fallen to zero, I therefore believe that the Gold Coast Hospital is an outstanding achiever.

(3) I am advised that the patient will have her operation as soon as it can be scheduled, being mindful of the competing need from emergency cases.

(4) Queensland is obligated under the current Medicare Agreement (1993-1998) to provide inpatient hospital services to interstate residents who are treated in Queensland public hospitals and vice

versa. For the 1994/95 financial year, Queensland received a net amount of approximately \$11.3 million from the New South Wales Government for the treatment of New South Wales residents in Queensland's public hospitals.

Data on admitted patients is obtained under the inpatient cross border charging arrangements. Queensland Health is currently enhancing the casemix based funding model to address the issue.

(5) Discussions are currently under way to ensure that undue pressures are not being placed on Queensland Health's facilities as a result of deliberate steps by the New South Wales Labor Government to reduce health funding in that State.

At a local level, a Cross Border Joint Planning Committee has been established between the Gold Coast Hospital and the Tweed Heads District Health Service. This Committee meets regularly to discuss areas of concern for the Gold Coast and Northern New South Wales districts, and to plan strategies to enhance the delivery of health services to the community. The Committee's report on cross border issues and its recommendations will be completed before the end of the year and forwarded to the respective District Managers.

848. Public Housing, Bundaberg

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (10/9/96)—

(1) What are the number of public housing units and dwellings built in the Bundaberg City area in the years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 and the number proposed to be built in 1996-97?

(2) What is the total number of housing stock in the Bundaberg City area?

(3) How many people are on waiting lists for each class of public housing?

(4) What is the expected waiting period for people for each class of housing?

(5) What was the expenditure on public housing for the years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 and how much has been budgeted for 1996-97?

Mr Connor (10/10/96):

1. My Department constructed 114 dwellings in the Bundaberg local authority in the past 3 years. The breakdown by years is

1993/94	29 dwellings
1994/95	49 dwellings
1995/96	36 dwellings

The large number of constructions were the result of a redevelopment strategy to increase the yield on sites owned by the Department where old houses had reached the end of their economic life.

It is proposed in 1996/97 that 9 new construction commencements plus the purchase of existing houses and construction under community housing as determined by the Community Housing Grants Board will be undertaken.

2. Departmental housing stock in the Bundaberg City area is 616 dwellings at 30 June 1996.

3. There are 624 persons on the wait list in Bundaberg local authority.

4. Expected wait times for public housing in the Bundaberg local authority are:

1 bedroom accommodation	32-40 months
2 bedroom accommodation	18-36 months
3 bedroom accommodation	8-20 months
Large dwellings	28-38 months
Senior Units	22-28 months

5. Capital expenditure on Public Housing in the Bundaberg Local Authority for the following years was:

1993/94	\$4.3 million
1994/95	\$4.2 million
1995/96	\$4.8 million

For the year 96/97 expenditure cannot be fully determined until determinations are made by the Community Housing Grants Board.

849. Southern Brisbane Bypass

Mr ELDER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (10/9/96)—

What were the details of his figures for the costs added to the Southern By-pass project by the alterations I made to the alignment in 1995?

Mr Johnson (10/10/96):

The detail of the figures for costs added to the Southern Bypass project by the alteration made by Mr Elder as Minister for Transport in 1995 are as follows:

Extra work to contract—	\$2,349,474
Relocation of previously relocated 750 millimetre diameter Brisbane City Council water main—	\$211,589
Rehabilitation works to Paratz' western severance—	\$500,000
Settlement of claim for additional wet weather risk due to extended contract period—	\$525,600
Payment of delay/disruptions costs—	\$1,633,500
Resale value forgone of Paratz' western severance—	\$2,000,000
Provision of bonus for early completion (possible acceleration cost)—	\$1,470,000
TOTAL—	\$8,690,163

The balance of the overall \$18.19 million is made up of expenditure required to usefully utilise the extra material generated by the alignment shift and thus minimise waste. This is being done by constructing embankments from imported fill for the future duplication of the Logan Motorway east of Wembley Road.

850. Australian Labor Party Election Commitments

Ms SPENCE asked the Minister for Health (10/9/96)—

With reference to the many questions which were asked prior to the Budget concerning Labor election commitments announced in 1995—

Is he able to provide a list of all 1995 Labor election commitments which have been scrapped or scaled back by the Budget?

Mr Horan (9/10/96): Only two Labor Health election commitments have been reprioritised: the Enrolled Nurse Upgrade; and the Queensland Positive Parenting Program.

The Enrolled Nurse Upgrade commitment will not receive additional funding in the 1996/97 financial year because the current Poisons Regulation 1973 which prohibits enrolled nurses administering medication is under review and a review sponsored by the Queensland Nursing Council is currently examining the scope of nursing practice. The findings and recommendations of these reviews will impact on the role of enrolled nurses by redefining the scope of enrolled nurses' practice.

Queensland Health funding for the Queensland Positive Parenting Program has been withdrawn as it is considered to be outside of the scope of the Health portfolio. This work is now being taken forward by the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care.

In relation to capital works, Townsville Spinal Rehabilitation Service has only been deferred pending the outcome of the Statewide review of rehabilitation services initiated by the previous Government and consideration of Coalition policy as part of master planning of Townsville health facilities. Acquisition of a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) machine at Nambour and an MRI at the Gold Coast Hospital have been deferred pending the outcome of a review of MRI services by the Australian Health Technology Advisory Committee to be completed in December 1996.

851. Public Sector Enterprise Bargaining

Ms BLIGH asked the Premier (10/9/96)—

With reference to the implementation and conclusion of the Public Sector Enterprise Bargaining Agreements—

(1) What, if any, discussions have occurred between the Government and Public Sector Unions regarding future wage increases?

(2) Will future public sector wage increases be based on enterprise bargaining; if not, on what basis is it intended to award future increases?

(3) When can public sector employees expect to receive an increase in their wages and how much increase can they expect?

Mr Borbidge (10/10/96):

(1) Preliminary discussions have taken place between officers of the Department of Training and Industrial Relations on behalf of the Government and the public sector unions about the future progression of enterprise bargaining in the budget dependent areas of the public sector.

(2) Yes.

(3) It is inappropriate to speculate on the timing or quantum of future wage increases.

852. Timber Industry

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (10/9/96)—

With reference to current forestry practices employed by timber workers in native forests—

(1) Do the practices currently employed conform to world's best practice and what evidence does he have to support his answer?

(2) Does he support the notion of timber certification and has his department been approached by any organisation to provide supporting evidence which would help the organisation in qualifying as an approved supplier of certified timber?

(3) What evidence exists to support the claim that current practices are both environmentally and economically sustainable?

Mr Perrett (2/10/96):

1. DPI Forestry native forest operations are considered to conform to world's best practice.

Reasons to support the claim are:

DPI Forestry has in place a clearly defined environmental policy which aims to achieve sustainable forest management.

An organisational structure is in place which can support its environmental policy.

The DPI Forestry data collection and yield calculation system has been externally audited, and is open to external scrutiny, eg. by the Department of Natural Resources.

Documented operational procedures are based on sound research carried out over many years.

Queensland is actively and expertly participating in national initiatives which aim to extend the Montreal Process criteria and indicators of sustainable development for application to the regional level.

The Codes of Practice to be implemented as part of the Comprehensive Regional Assessment process, leading to the signing of Regional Forest Agreements, are largely based on existing DPI Forestry practice.

2. The notion of timber certification is supported.

DPI Forestry is in the process of implementing an Environmental Management System towards this end.

DPI Forestry has been approached by one sawmilling company, in relation to timber harvested from native forests, for the provision of supporting evidence which may help the company to qualify as an approved supplier of certified timber.

The request has been complied with by DPI Forestry.

3. Comments under 1. above is the best evidence available to support the claim that current practices are environmentally sustainable.

Economic sustainability will be ensured in the following manner:

DPI Forestry will begin to monitor the achievement of economically sustainable forest management with Montreal Process derived indicators, applicable at the regional level, as soon as the indicators have been developed and agreed to, expected to be late this calendar year.

DPI Forestry is providing practical input into the development of Codes of Practice, thus ensuring that the Codes can be realistically implemented.

DPI Forestry will negotiate a financial return from commercial sales sufficient to ensure that the native forest zoned for production can be managed in a sound, sustainable manner, and

DPI Forestry provides support to industry development via a newly established Forest Industries Development Division.

853. Flinders Highway

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (11/9/96)—

With reference to the Flinders Highway and in particular the section around Richmond and in view of the wet season approaching—

(1) Why are there still a number of deviations on the Flinders Highway?

(2) When will such roadworks be completed?

(3) What plans are in hand for additional roadworks on that highway?

Mr Johnson (10/10/96):

(1) The Department of Main Roads has three sidetracks on the Flinders Highway between Hughenden and Cloncurry:

(a) Job 55/14C/808—this is at Walkers Creek, 45 kilometres west of Hughenden;

(b) Job 134/14D/804—a section of project under sidetrack which is three to eight kilometres west of Richmond and is the project referred to in the question; and

(c) Job 79/14D/804—this is at Nelia, 50 kilometres east of Julia Creek.

All of the projects are designed to upgrade the Flinders Highway to a modern standard capable of carrying Type II road trains.

Projects are typically 10 kilometres long, as this is a convenient length to construct in one year. The work is performed by the relevant local government, under an Agreed Price Performance Contract to provide employment for the Shire Councils.

The opportunity is being taken to rebuild culverts to a design more suited to "blacksoil" foundations. The remainder of the work involves excavating the shoulders and replacing them with wider ones. For these reasons it is necessary to build a detour to carry the traffic.

The roads are in "blacksoil" areas where good paving materials are scarce. Typically, the gravel is carried up to 50 kilometres and is expensive. It is not used in detours except where necessary, such as low spots.

An average traffic volume on the road is about 250 vehicles per day. Of these, 20 per cent are commercial.

The Department has found that sealing sidetracks would add about 10 per cent to the cost of a typical project. The natural "blacksoil" material makes a good temporary running surface when dry, but is untrafficable when wet. Roadworks are programmed to be done in the dry months of March to November, when wet weather disruptions should be at a minimum.

The deviation near Richmond, referred to by Mr McGrady, was closed twice in August, for about eight hours each time. However, the rainfall for Richmond in August was 32 millimetres, some 10 times the long-term average of three millimetres. While the closures were inconvenient for industry and the public, they were associated with an unusual event.

The Department considers that with proper maintenance and appropriate care by motorists, unsealed sidetracks on low-volume roads are an acceptable and economic dry season provision for traffic. Construction programs are managed so that alternative arrangements are available in the normal wet season period.

(2) The projects referred to are scheduled to be completed between November 1996 and July 1997. They are programmed so that traffic will be able to use the original road if it rains in the traditional wet months.

(3) The Government is committed to the upgrading of the Flinders Highway between Cloncurry and Townsville to allow Type II road trains to travel from North-West Queensland to Townsville. This is consistent with the current Roads Implementation Program approved by the previous Government. The major works will focus on the Mingela Range and the sections of the highway between Charters Towers and Pentland and Hughenden and Julia Creek.

A total expenditure of \$60 million is planned over the next five years on these works with Type II road train access to Townsville being achieved within eight years.

854. Artificial Reefs

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (11/9/96)—

(1) Did the Coalition on 2 July 1995 promise to provide assistance for the development of artificial reefs?

(2) Will this initiative cost up to \$250,000 to introduce?

(3) When will this promise be implemented?

Mr Perrett (11/10/96):

1. Yes.

2. The initiative will cost \$250,000 over three years and will be used to establish guidelines for construction, location of artificial reefs and to determine the impacts of artificial reefs on fish stocks through a trial project in Hervey Bay or Moreton Bay.

3. The initiative will be implemented in late 1996 with the employment of a fisheries biologist to be based at the Department of Primary Industries Southern Fisheries Centre.

855. Machinery of Government Committee, Ministerial Staff Selection Panel, Budget Review Committee, Membership

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Premier (11/9/96)—

(1) What is the current membership of the Machinery of Government Committee and what is the role of that committee?

(2) What is the current membership of the selection panel for Ministerial staff for each Minister's office?

(3) What is the current membership of the Budget Review Committee?

Mr Borbidge (11/10/96): This question was previously asked by the Leader of the Opposition on 15 May 1996.

(1) The Premier, Deputy Premier, the Director-General of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, the Director-General of the Office of the Public Service and the Under Treasurer are members of the Machinery of Government Committee. The role of the Machinery of Government Committee is to oversee the process of Departmental integration, to advise Cabinet on significant appointments and to manage the administrative arrangements that may have to be instituted from time to time.

(2) The procedures for the employment of Ministerial Staff are overseen by the individual Minister in conjunction with senior officers from the Premier's and Deputy Premier's Offices.

(3) The Premier, Deputy Premier, and the Minister for Economic Development and Trade are the members of the Cabinet Budget Committee.

856. National Electricity Grid

Mr MILLINER asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (11/9/96)—

With reference to comments in the Fitzgerald Audit Report, page 202, Volume II where a very strong recommendation is made for Queensland to interconnect with the National Electricity Grid—an action the Report estimates would yield cost advantages to Queensland of \$150m to \$200m per annum—

Will he now admit that his decision to scrap Eastlink, and claim interconnection is "not a priority", is a costly blunder, and that not even the Commission of Audit appointed by his Government believes that he is serious about interconnection?

Mr Gilmore (9/10/96): No, the previous Government's decision to proceed with Eastlink was wrong on both environmental and economic grounds. On environmental grounds because it traversed intensely cultivated areas on the Darling Downs and Lockyer Valley, and on economic grounds because the timing and configuration of Eastlink would have resulted in the importation of electricity from New South Wales and a loss of jobs in the Queensland electricity industry.

At the time Eastlink was cancelled, the Government reiterated its support for the development of a competitive national electricity market and Queensland's participation in that market. The

Government also committed itself to considering alternative options for interconnection with New South Wales to ensure that when interconnection does happen that it is in the best environmental and economic interests of Queensland.

On 2 August 1996, the Queensland Government gave in principle approval to interconnection with New South Wales and indicated that the preferred route would traverse Crown land and State Forests wherever possible and be located near Queensland's undeveloped coal reserves on the Darling Downs and close to the gas pipeline supplying South East Queensland.

Such a route makes environmental and economic sense because it enables the development of the vast energy resources in the Darling Downs region to meet the growing electricity needs of Queensland and Eastern Australia and minimises the impact of the line on local communities by placing the line away from the intensely cultivated agricultural land on the Darling Downs.

An additional benefit of the Government's proposed new interconnection project is that it is proposed to have an initial transfer capacity of 500 MW north and 1000 MW south. The ability to send greater amounts of power south strategically advantages the Queensland electricity industry and reinforces the opportunity to develop the energy reserves in the Darling Downs and thereby provide Eastern Australia with a source of competitively priced power for future requirements.

In principle agreement to proceed with interconnection reinforces the Queensland Government's commitment to the establishment of a competitive national electricity market.

857. Cultural Centre, Maryborough

Mr DOLLIN asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (11/9/96)—

- (1) Did the Coalition on 24 May 1995 promise to construct a cultural centre at Maryborough?
- (2) Will this initiative cost up to \$3m to introduce?
- (3) When will this promise be implemented?

Mrs Sheldon (11/10/96):

- (1) The Coalition Government recognises the importance of supporting arts in regional areas and of delivering basic infrastructure to artists in these areas. As part of this commitment, the Coalition has committed \$3 million for the development of a Cultural and Entertainment Centre at Maryborough.
- (2) Plans previously developed by the local community indicate that the total cost of a Cultural and Entertainment Centre is up to \$18 million. The Government's contribution of \$3 million will be a contribution towards the total cost.
- (3) The timeframe, which has yet to be determined, will be dependent on planning at a local level and the local communities ability to meet their share of the total project cost.

858. Koalas; Nature Conservation Act

Mr BEATTIE asked the Minister for Environment (11/9/96)—

With reference to the recent announcement by the Deputy Premier and Treasurer that the koala would be listed as vulnerable under the provisions of the Nature Conservation Act—

- (1) Was he party to the decision?
- (2) Does he agree with it?
- (3) What scientific justification does he have for this classification?
- (4) Which scientists provided him with this information?
- (5) Was the scientific advisory group that originally gave the koala the classification of common, party to this decision; if so, what was their advice?
- (6) What other Queensland species of wildlife that enjoys a similar distribution and abundance to the koala also have a vulnerable classification under the Nature Conservation Act?
- (7) Was this decision more an exercise in election promise keeping than a rational scientific assessment?

Mr Littleproud (11/10/96):

Q1—Q7:

The Deputy Premier and Treasurer has restated Coalition policy on the koala. However, this may need to be modified because of a review of options for amendment of the Nature Conservation Act.

This will provide categories of wildlife consistent with the wildlife classification system adopted by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

A reassessment of the koala's conservation status will then be made in the context of the new list of categories by the Scientific Advisory Committee advising me as Minister for Environment.

859. Sunfish

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (11/9/96)—

- (1) Did the Coalition on 2 July 1995 promise to provide funding for Sunfish for promotion of fisheries issues?
- (2) Will this initiative cost up to \$125,000 to introduce?
- (3) When will this promise be implemented?

Mr Perrett (11/10/96): Yes. The funding is for a range of projects which will contribute to public awareness and community agreement on fisheries issues.

Yes. The initiative will cost \$125,000 per year for three years.

An advance payment of \$10,000 has already been made to Sunfish for this financial year to allow the projects to begin. Performance agreements and accountability requirements are currently being developed by my Department and the remainder of this year's allocation will be provided to Sunfish as soon as these have been finalised.

860. Crocodiles, Cairns

Mrs BIRD asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry (11/9/96)—

With reference to recent media comments by former Cabinet Minister Martin Tenni, that the tourism industry in Cairns had put their own interests ahead of the safety of local residents in supporting the retention of crocodiles in local streams as a tourist attraction—

(1) Does he support Martin Tenni in his criticism; if not, does he intend to publicly reject Mr Tenni's call for all crocodiles to be removed from any built up areas in the Cairns district?

(2) Does he believe wild crocodiles are an important tourist attraction in Cairns?

(3) Does he support the present practice of removing only those crocodiles that pose a problem to residents?

(4) Has any research been undertaken to assess the role crocodiles play in peoples impression of Cairns as a tourist attraction with high natural appeal; if so, what were the results?

Mr Davidson (10/10/96):

(1) I cannot support Mr Tenni's views as crocodiles are protected under the Nature Conservation Act 1992. A Conservation Plan has been developed for the management of crocodiles and under the plan, a problem crocodile is removed from the area and placed in a zoo, a licensed crocodile farm or a remote area. The safety of human beings is the highest priority and crocodiles should be removed if they pose a threat to people or property. Mr Tenni is entitled to express his personal views on this matter, however on this occasion his views are contrary to the current Act.

(2) Crocodiles that are kept in a safe environment, such as a wilderness park, can be a popular attraction for visitors. Crocodiles in the wild can also be of interest to visitors provided reasonable safety precautions are taken.

(3) In the main, crocodiles live in their natural environment. However, when a crocodile becomes a problem it should be removed and placed in an appropriate habitat.

(4) I am not aware of any research specifically undertaken to assess the role crocodiles play in people's impression of Cairns as a tourism attraction. However, a recent branding study of Far North Queensland undertaken by the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation did ask about 'aspects which might turn people off Far North Queensland'. Crocodiles were mentioned by only 5% of the respondents to the survey.

861. State Government Buildings

Mr ROBERTS asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (11/9/96)—

With reference to the Executive Building, George Street, Brisbane, the Main Roads Building, Boundary Street, Spring Hill and the Forestry Complex in Gympie—

(1) What were the sources of finance for the construction of these buildings?

(2) What were the sources of finance for the payment of any debt on these buildings?

Mrs Sheldon (11/10/96):

(1) Funds for the total construction cost of these buildings were provided from the then State Government Insurance Office as part of its normal investment portfolio.

(2) Under the financial arrangement between the SGIO and the government, SGIO, and subsequently the Workers' Compensation Board, received lease payments on the buildings from the government.

862. Gold Coast Hospital

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Health (11/9/96)—

With reference to assertions made in Parliament by the Member for Maroochydore Miss Fiona Simpson regarding waiting times for elective surgery particularly as they apply to the Gold Coast Hospital—

(1) Is Miss Simpson correct to assert that the Gold Coast Hospital's waiting list for surgery stands at a total of 2,700 patients?

(2) Will he provide information across the three elective surgery categories 1, 2 and 3 which accounts for these 2,700 patients?

(3) If Miss Simpson is not correct in asserting that 2,700 are awaiting elective surgery, will he please set the record straight?

Mr Horan (9/10/96):

(1) As at 1 September 1996, the number of patients waiting for elective surgery at the Gold Coast Hospital totalled 2,834.

(2) Of the 2,834 patients waiting for elective surgery, 59 patients were Category 1 patients, 804 were Category 2 patients and 1,971 were Category 3 patients.

However, I am amazed that the Honourable Member for Currumbin is not too embarrassed to ask this question, given the appalling record of the Labor Party when in office in regard to waiting times for surgery, and in particular the previous long wait situation at the Gold Coast Hospital, which under the Coalition has been drastically reduced.

As you should be aware, this Government is determined to set right the mistakes of the previous Labor government and slash waiting times for elective surgery. We have set elective surgery targets for Queensland public hospitals and provided considerable resources so that hospitals can achieve these targets. These targets include reduction in numbers of Category 1 patients subjected to clinically inappropriate waiting periods to less than 5 per cent statewide by December 1996; reduction in Category 2 long wait patients to less than 5 per cent Statewide by December 1997; and reduction in Category 3 long wait patients from previous levels.

Thanks to the Coalition's strategy, Gold Coast Hospital has reduced the percentage of Category 1

patients waiting clinically inappropriate times from 58% when Labor was in power to nil as at 1 October 1996.

(3) Not applicable.

863. Fraser Island

Mr NUNN asked the Premier (11/9/96)—

With reference to recent ABC Radio comments by a spokesman for Environment Minister Littleproud in which it was stated that the \$10.6m commitment over 3 years for the management of Fraser Island made by him prior to the last State Election was now under review—

- (1) Is this commitment under review; if so, why?
- (2) If not, will he reaffirm his support for this election promise?
- (3) If he intends to honour this election promise how does he justify his Environment Minister sacking nine rangers, part of whose duties was the management of Fraser Island?
- (4) If he intends to honour this election promise what will this \$10.6m be spent on?
- (5) Will staffing levels be returned to the levels they were at the time of the change of Government in February?

Mr Borbidge (11/10/96): I believe the comment has been taken out of context or misunderstood. However:

- (1) No.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) The reduction of nine staff in the Great Sandy Region was necessary as the Growth and Development Package funding ceased on 30 June 1995. Despite this funding, this State Government inherited a legacy of Labor neglect in this and other protected areas.
- (4) Funding of \$5.366 million is provided in 1996/97 for management of the Great Sandy Region of which \$3.5 million will be spent on Fraser Island management operations and \$0.554 million on Fraser Island capital works projects.

Management operations include: staffing; provision and maintenance of recreational infrastructure; maintenance of staff accommodation, office and workshop infrastructure; road and track maintenance; natural resource management; plant and equipment replacement and maintenance; and waste management.

It is planned that funding for Fraser Island management operations in 1997/98 and 1998/99 will be maintained at the present level of \$3.5 million. The capital works projects on Fraser Island receiving funding in 1996-97 are as follows: a new viewing platform at Lake Wabby \$59,000; boardwalks and lookouts at Middle Rocks \$240,000; upgrading of the Eli Creek boardwalk \$5,000; a new toilet and redeveloped day use area at Ocean Lake \$85,000; a new road at the Moon Point barge landing site \$40,000; a new generator shed at Eurong \$45,000; and upgrading of the Waddy Point Ranger residence \$80,000.

(5) No. Staffing levels will be at a level sufficient to provide effective management.

864. Parliamentary Education Grant

Ms SPENCE asked the Minister for Education (11/9/96)—

With reference to the recent Federal Government decision to change the eligibility for the Parliamentary Education Grant—

- (1) Does he agree that the decision to make the Citizenship Visits Program available only to secondary schools seriously disadvantages Queensland school students who remain at primary school longer than in other States?
- (2) Does he agree that it is more appropriate that year 7 students receive this grant as Parliamentary Education is taught in year 7?
- (3) Does he agree that the subsidy has been of great financial help to parents of year 7 students who will be forced to forego the Canberra trip without this subsidy?
- (4) What steps has he taken to ensure that Queensland students are not discriminated against with respect to this decision?

Mr Quinn (2/10/96):

(1) The recent changes to the Citizenship Visits Program do not disadvantage specifically Queensland year 7 students. All year 7 Australian primary school students travelling 1,000 km, or more, to Canberra are now excluded.

The existing eligibility criteria provided financial assistance to final year primary school students travelling 1,000 km, or more, to visit Parliament House, Canberra. Existing eligible states and territories included Queensland, Northern Territory, South Australia and Western Australia. Ineligible states and territories under the existing criteria, (i.e. final year primary students less than 1,000 km from Canberra) include New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory.

(2) Parliamentary education remains an important and valued component of year 7 social studies, in Queensland primary schools. It is critical that our primary students understand the links between rights and responsibilities and be actively involved in making informed decisions. The annual visits to Parliament House by year 7 Queensland students provide a concrete learning experience that greatly enhances the level of political literacy among young Australians.

(3) The subsidy has been a valuable financial assistance to parents of year 7 Queensland students.

(4) The Government takes this national curriculum issue very seriously. I have already indicated that there is particular concern to ensure that Queensland students are not, in any way, disadvantaged relative to their counterparts in other States and Territories.

The Honourable the Premier has written to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the President of the Senate, to have this restriction which affects Queensland school children removed. The Department of Education contacted the

Department of Premier and Cabinet, in relation to these letters, to ensure that a strong case was presented to the Commonwealth.

865. Department of Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry Research Projects

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (11/9/96)—

With reference to research projects presently being undertaken by the Department of Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry—

Will he provide information on each project, including (a) location where project is conducted, (b) brief statement of the project's purpose, (c) date when project commenced, (d) project cost to 30 June 1996 and (e) budget for the project for 1996-97?

Mr Perrett (11/10/96): The Department of Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry is presently undertaking 561 research projects.

These are being undertaken in the following Departmental Business Groups:

Agriculture—442

Fisheries—63

Forestry—42

Drought and Rural Development—14

To provide the information requested on research projects would require 95 hours of officer and administrative staff time and would cost \$4,460.

The information is presented in the attached documentation.

866. Caloundra Hospital

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Health (11/9/96)—

(1) Did the Coalition on 1 July 1995 promise to upgrade the Caloundra Hospital to include a dedicated specialist surgeon, a unit for palliative care and specialist services and provide an additional 20 beds?

(2) Will this initiative cost up to \$2.3m to introduce?

(3) When will this promise be implemented?

Mr Horan (9/10/96):

(1) The Coalition Government announced a Sunshine Coast Strategy during the 1995 election campaign which included a number of initiatives in relation to Caloundra Hospital. However, it did not include a 'dedicated specialist surgeon' but a 'dedicated visiting specialist physician'.

(2) The cost of redeveloping Caloundra Hospital has been estimated at \$10.8 million.

(3) Caloundra Hospital is considered to be an integral part of the health services available on the Sunshine Coast. In considering the redevelopment of Caloundra Hospital, it is necessary to plan for service provision as part of a network with both Nambour and Noosa Hospitals. Detailed planning is expected to commence in the near future and will consider the appropriate range of services that should be

provided by each of these hospitals. The service profile for Caloundra Hospital will be confirmed as part of this exercise.

868. Environmental Conference, Sunshine Coast

Mr WELLS asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (11/9/96)—

With reference to the recent land clearing/remnant vegetation conference on the Sunshine Coast organised by the local Environment Council—

(1) Was she invited to open the conference and did she accept; if so, when?

(2) Why did she fail to attend?

(3) When and how did she advise of her inability to attend?

(4) Did she arrange for another Coalition member to deputise for her; if so, whom?

(5) Was the failure to attend by both her and the Minister for Local Government an indication of Coalition lack of interest in excessive land clearing on the Sunshine Coast?

(6) Is she aware that Government officials at that conference left delegates with the impression that funding for regional planning programs for South East Queensland, Wide Bay and Far North Queensland were to be the subject of funding cuts?

(7) What funding arrangements have been secured for these programs and do these represent a cut?

Mrs Sheldon (11/10/96):

(1) Following a meeting with Mr Joe Ruiz-Avila and Jill Chamberlain in her Electorate Office on 8th May, 1996, regarding deforestation. Mrs Sheldon agreed to facilitate a meeting between Sunshine Coast Mayors and representatives of the SCEC. The SCEC organised their conference of their own volition.

(2) Mrs Sheldon was unable to attend due to a severe bout of the flu as published at the time.

(3) Informed Elaine Green, a representative of the Environment Council.

(4) No.

(5) No.

(6) There were two Government officials at the conference, a deputy for the Minister for Environment and a deputy for the Minister for Local Government and Planning (LGP). The deputy for LGP was asked a question in relation to the present position and future of regional planning programs. The deputy's response to this question was that "The programs are being held in abeyance pending review."

(7) All of the regional planning programs for South East Queensland, Wide Bay and Far North Queensland which were funded in 1995-96 will continue in 1996-97 at approximately the same level of funding. These programs include the SEQ/FNQ Public Awareness Campaign, FNQ 2010 Planning Process, FNQ 2010 Hillslopes, Key Centres for SEQ and Wide Bay Growth Management.

869. Theresa Creek Dam

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Natural Resources (11/9/96)—

(1) Is he aware of reports that the dam on Theresa Creek, near Clermont, is having a significant impact on downstream underground water tables, therefore reducing availability of resource for landowners?

(2) Is an agreement by Water Resources to replenish underground supplies through regular releases from the dam now being ignored in favour of maintaining dam reserves?

Mr Hobbs (30/9/96): The Theresa Creek Dam was constructed by Blair Athol Coal and is owned and operated by the Belyando Shire Council.

The Department of Natural Resources has not received reports that the Theresa Creek Dam is having a significant impact on the downstream groundwater. There is currently no agreement in place with Belyando Shire Council to specifically replenish groundwater reserves through releases from the dam.

The recent drought and flow patterns in Theresa Creek are likely to lead to a decline in the limited groundwater resources associated with the stream.

The Council has a riparian water release policy which conformed to the requirements of Water Resources (now Department of Natural Resources) at the time of its implementation.

Advice from the Shire indicates that Council's operation of the storage is consistent with the agreed policy. The storage is currently operated on the basis that inflows which are allocated to riparian landholders are held in storage on behalf of landholders until an elected representative of those landholders approaches Council to make a release. There was a release of 553 ML planned for Monday 16 September 1996.

Should there be a need to consider variations to the existing release policy, then the issue should be raised with my Department and the Belyando Shire Council.

870. Caboolture Hospital

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Health (11/9/96)—

With reference to a visit to Caboolture in May, during which he reportedly told Caboolture Shire Councillors the second stage of the Caboolture Hospital would include 130 beds plus a range of specialist services—

Will this pledge to the people of Caboolture be met, given that one of his staffers has said that the commitment was not made in the first place?

Mr Horan (9/10/96): I refer the Member for Kallangur to Question on Notice 802 asked by his colleague, the Member for Caboolture over a month ago, in which both the situation at Caboolture Hospital and my consistent position upon bed numbers there was made clear.

871. Travel Expenses, Queensland Principal Club Chairman

Mr J. N. GOSS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (11/9/96)—

(1) How many return and single airline flights between Gladstone and Brisbane did the Queensland Principal Club meet the cost of for travel by the Chairman, Mr R Bentley, in 1994-95 and 1995-96?

(2) What was the cost of the airfares in each period?

(3) In view of the fact that Mr Bentley represents the Ipswich Turf Club on the Queensland Principal Club what is the basis on which he is paid for travel to and from Gladstone?

(4) Are guidelines laid down governing such travel by the Queensland Principal Club Chairman, and is he required to meet part of the cost of trips which include business other than that carried out in his capacity as Queensland Principal Club Chairman?

(5) If the answer to (4) is "Yes" on how many occasions in each of the past two years has he reimbursed part of the cost of airfares to or from Gladstone?

Mr Cooper (11/10/96): I am advised by the Queensland Principal Club of the following information in response to the questions asked by Mr Goss:

(1) 1994-95: 10

1995-96: 33

(2) 1994-95: \$3,456.40

1995-96: \$11,148.00

It should be noted that on a number of occasions, the Chairman's travel has been for the purpose of attending meetings at destinations beyond Brisbane. In respect of those occasions, an attributed cost of travel between Gladstone and Brisbane has been used.

(3) As a long standing and continuing member and committee member of the Ipswich Turf Club, Mr Bentley is no doubt cognisant of the interests of the Ipswich Turf Club—he is not however, in the sense that Mr Goss appears to understand it, that Club's "representative".

To clarify the structure and role of Queensland Principal Club members, I refer to the recent judgment handed down by Mr Justice Thomas in relation to applications for judicial review of a decision of the Queensland Principal Club concerning centralised handicapping. Mr Justice Thomas stated:

"The QPC is a separate entity consisting of eleven members, and its duties are Queensland-wide. The office is honorary and the tenure of the members is three years. The duties of the members of this governing board are directed to "the development and welfare of the racing industry and the protection of the public interest, in relation to the racing industry" (s.11A(1)(b)).

In a practical sense they may wish to bear in mind the welfare of their own clubs, and sometimes a member might find a conflict of duty between the welfare of his own club and the duty that he owes to the QPC. However each member of the QPC was under a duty to act in a way that would properly discharge the functions described in s.11A.

The duties of the QPC are of a public nature. Responsibilities are in turn cast upon those who accept membership of the governing body, and their duties are of a fiduciary kind. Each of the persons on such a board might owe his membership to the nomination of a particular interested group, but such a member would be derelict in his duty if he used his membership as a means to promote the particular interests of the group which chose him."

Nothing in the fact that Mr Bentley is domiciled in Gladstone is of any relevance to the nomination he received from the Ipswich Turf Club or his position as member and Chairman of the Queensland Principal Club.

(4) The Queensland Principal Club has established guidelines governing travel and other expenditure in respect of its committee members. These guidelines have been formulated having regard to Queensland Public Service standards for senior executive service officers and guidelines for other statutory bodies such as the TAB.

Importantly, the Queensland Principal Club's expenditure guidelines have been considered and approved by the Queensland Audit Office.

In accordance with these guidelines the Chairman's costs are only met where his trips are for the purpose of conducting Queensland Principal Club related business.

(5) I am advised the Queensland Principal Club is satisfied that each of the Chairman's trips in respect of which the Queensland Principal Club has met the costs of air travel has been undertaken for the purpose of conducting QPC related business.

I am also advised that all claims made by the Chairman are entirely in accordance with the Queensland Principal Club's Queensland Audit Office approved guidelines. I note finally in this respect that all the Queensland Principal Club's accounts, including such expenditure, is audited annually by the Auditor General, with absolutely no irregularities having been reported.

872. Commission of Audit

Mr BRISKEY asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (11/9/96)—

With reference to the two Operating Statements on pages 103 and 105 of Volume I of the Commission of Audit report firstly to the Statement of page 103 which provides estimates for an Operating Result—figures which have been used up and down the State to distract attention away from her own budgetary problems but the Statement of page 105 does not provide an Operating Result because an estimate for public enterprise operating income is said to be "not available"—

Now that we have determined that this estimate was in fact available, and was used only 3 pages earlier, can't the Queensland public reasonably assume that this supposedly "independent" report was deliberately nobbled to avoid the presentation of Operating Result which was not as confronting as her \$337m deficit?

Mrs Sheldon (11/10/96): See answer to Question On Notice 832.

873. Medical Tribunals; Workers' Compensation

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (11/9/96)—

(1) Are medical tribunals quasi-judiciary?

(2) Do medical tribunals make their decisions within the terms of the Workers' Compensation Act; if so, how can medical tribunals decide if an injury is an injury under the terms of the Act when the facts about the work place are not inspected by Workers' Compensation field officers and information is only taken about the work place from the employer?

(3) How many field officers does Workers' Compensation employ to inspect work sites where accidents have occurred?

(4) What is the cost of these inspections?

(5) Does every medical tribunal receive a field officers report on the work place before making decisions on injured workers; if not, why not?

Mr Santoro (10/10/96):

(1) No. Medical Assessment Tribunals (previously Medical Boards) were established specifically to remove the determination of complex medical claims from the adversarial system. Medical Assessment Tribunals (MATs) determine claims of a complex medical nature and are not considered to be quasi-judiciary. They are panels of independent medical specialists appointed on the basis of their qualifications, experience and professional standing who determine claims of a complex medical nature.

(2) Yes. The terms of reference to the MATs are as set out in part 10 of the Workers' Compensation Act 1990 and the Tribunal is limited to answering the questions as set out in that part of the Act. MATs are independent of the Workers' Compensation Board. Neither the Board nor the employer make submissions to the Tribunal hearing. MATs make determinations on the medical aspects of a claim and the work relationship of the injury. Administrative decisions in relation to such matters as to whether the applicant is a "worker" are made by the claims manager prior to reference to a MAT.

It must be noted that not all claims are referred to a MAT for determination. In 1995/96, 93,008 new claims were lodged. In the same year 345 claims were referred to the tribunals to determine whether the matters alleged in the claim constituted an "injury" within the terms of the Act.

Prior to determination, either by the claims manager or by a Tribunal, information is obtained from all relevant sources regarding the injury. This may include a statement from the injured worker providing detail on their duties, work environment, how the

injury occurred, medical treatment sought and progression of symptoms. All Tribunal referrals contain medical specialists' reports providing details of the injured worker's medical background relevant to the injury and the specialist's opinion. Statements may also be obtained from the employer, colleagues or witnesses and may involve a field officer report. A field officer report does not necessarily include details of the work environment unless relevant to the claim.

Further, the worker attends the MAT hearing and may have union or legal representation. In addition to being able to address the Tribunal, the worker may be asked to explain some detail of the injury occurrence or symptoms suffered.

(3) Statewide there are 27 field officers who undertake investigations for the Board.

(4) The cost of inspections is not readily available.

(5) Tribunal members have access to the full and complete workers' compensation file which, as explained in (2) above, would include any field officer report of the workplace and statements from the worker, colleagues, employer and medical practitioners. In addition, Tribunals have the authority to defer a determination and request further information be obtained.

874. Public Sector Wage Increases

Ms BLIGH asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (11/9/96)—

What allocation, if any, has been made in the 1996-97 Budget for wage increases for public sector employees during 1996-97?

Mrs Sheldon (11/10/96): Specific allocations have been made in the 1996-97 Budgets of individual Departments for the full year cost of wage increases approved in 1995-96. For example, an additional \$40M has been provided in the Education Budget for the cost of Enterprise Bargaining Stage 3.

Specific Departmental allocations have been made for 1996-97 wage increases and improved award conditions where the cost of these increases are known in advance. For example, \$8.738M has been provided in the Education budget to guarantee the first hour of non-contact time for preschool, primary and specialist teachers and to commence implementation of the second hour in 1997.

A central provision has been set aside to meet public sector wage increases which are awarded over 1996-97. Funds will be allocated to Departments, as necessary, over the course of the year.

It would be inappropriate to disclose the actual provision made for future wage increases. This would pre-empt the outcome of wage negotiations which are yet to take place.

875. Queensland Masters Games

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry (11/9/96)—

With reference to an application made by Rockhampton to host the 1997 Queensland Masters Games—

(1) Is Rockhampton being given due consideration to host these games?

(2) Is Rockhampton's bid likely to succeed?

(3) When will he be able to advise whether or not Rockhampton's bid is successful?

(4) Will he provide any additional information which may assist in improving Rockhampton's bid?

Mr Davidson (9/10/96): There has been no call for submissions, nor is it proposed to call submissions for the staging of a Queensland Masters Games in 1997.

From this year, the Queensland Masters Games is to be staged as a biennial event. Consequently there will be no Queensland Masters Games staged in 1997. This has been done to avoid clashing with the Australian Masters Games which are next due to be staged in 1997.

I have been informed that the Q.E.C. has not received any application from Rockhampton to host the 1997 Queensland Masters Games.

876. Victim-Offender Conferencing

Mr FOLEY asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (11/9/96)—

(1) What action has he taken to facilitate victim-offender conferencing provided for under the Juvenile Justice Act?

(2) How many mediation sessions of this kind have been organised since the passage of the Act?

Mr Beanland (11/10/96):

(1) As the Honourable member knows the Juvenile Justice Legislation Amendment Act 1996, passed in August, provided, among many other things, the framework for juvenile offenders to meet with the victims of their offence and "make right the wrong". Work is now under way within my Department to put flesh on the bones of this framework to ensure that community conferencing will work in the way it is intended. This work, to be completed within six months, entails consulting with key stakeholders, establishing a service delivery mode, developing the support infrastructure, eg. procedural manuals, recruitment and training of persons to convene conferences and establishing a referral protocol with the Queensland Police Service and Courts. It is intended that community conferencing will be trialled in a couple of locations prior to it being implemented state wide.

(2) None, as the provisions have not commenced. As indicated in my answer to the above question, work is being carried out to ensure that community conferencing is implemented effectively. The provisions in the Act for conferencing will be proclaimed when this work is completed. It is my intention that this will occur early in the new year.

877. Hospital and Medical Waste

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (11/9/96)—

With reference to the disposal of hospital and medical wastes—

- (1) What facilities are operating in South East Queensland for the disposal of contaminated hazardous wastes from hospitals?
- (2) Which of these facilities have been required to prepare an environmental impact statement upon their establishment?
- (3) If any facility has not done so, why has it not been required?
- (4) Are there any limitations on the categories of waste which each of these facilities are authorised to or capable of treating?
- (5) What measures are in place to monitor compliance with these authorisations and any attached conditions?
- (6) What assessments of NO_x and SO_x and odour emissions have been made of these facilities in the last 12 months?
- (7) Is the medical waste going to these facilities segregated?
- (8) Which of these facilities is receiving body parts, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, cytotoxic or radioactive waste?
- (9) Have any other departments placed conditions on the approval for these facilities to operate?
- (10) What measures are in place to monitor and enforce compliance with these conditions?

Mr Littleproud (1/10/96):

1. The facilities which are currently operating in South East Queensland for the treatment of biomedical waste from hospitals are Ace Waste P/L incinerator at Willawong, which operated during the term of the previous Labor Government, and Australian Waste Services P/L autoclave facility at Yatala, which began operating during the term of the previous Labor Government.
2. Ace Waste P/L was required to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in 1992 as part of its town planning consent application to Brisbane City Council. A further EIS was prepared in 1994 for an auxiliary incinerator on the site. This EIS has not been approved by Brisbane City Council and is a matter before the Courts.
Australian Waste Services P/L was not required to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement as part of its town planning consent application.
3. Australian Waste Services was not required to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement as part of the company's town planning consent application for the autoclave facility at Yatala. The requirement for an EIS is made through the Department of Local Government and Planning and this is a matter for Gold Coast City Council.
4. The autoclave facility is capable of treating the following categories of biomedical waste:

clinical waste (including sharps, excluding cytotoxics)

The incineration facility was authorised under the Environmental Impact Statement 1992 (town planning consent) to accept the following categories:

biomedical wastes
quarantine wastes
security wastes
miscellaneous wastes

Applications for environmental authorities (licences) under the Environmental Protection Act 1994 have been received by the Department. The licence conditions for both facilities will authorise what wastes can be accepted for treatment at each facility.

5. As stated above applications for licences have been received and have not yet been issued. These licences, once issued, will require regular ongoing self monitoring.

6. NO_x and SO_x emissions from the Ace Waste incinerator are monitored every six months by Ace Waste. An assessment of these results was made during the licence application process and NO_x and SO_x emissions are within recognised standards.

No monitoring of NO_x, SO_x and odour emissions has been required from Australian Waste Services' autoclave. This facility has only been in operation for approximately nine months.

Both facilities will be required, through licences issued under the Environmental Protection Act 1994 and subordinate Environmental Protection (Interim) Regulation 1995, to monitor for a number of air emission contaminants.

7. Cytotoxic waste and body parts are not part of the medical waste sent to the autoclave facility. Regular audits of waste received are carried out by the operator of this facility to ensure this is occurring. These results are faxed to the Department on a weekly basis.

The Ace Waste incinerator receives unsegregated medical waste.

8. The Ace Waste incinerator receives body parts, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, cytotoxic waste. It does not receive radioactive waste.

The Australian Waste Services autoclave receives clinical waste (including sharps) only.

9. Approvals were issued by the Health Department for the facilities' equipment. These approvals are now administered by this Department under the Environmental Protection (Interim Waste) Regulation 1996. Both facilities have town planning consent approvals. These approvals contain conditions relating to environmental management.

10. The responsibility is placed on the operator to advise of any non-compliance or that any major modification to the piece of equipment is approved.

As stated above the licences to be issued under the Environmental Protection (Interim) Regulation 1995 will require regular self monitoring as well as

Departmental audits and measures such as unannounced inspections.

878. Level Crossings

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (11/9/96)—

When will funds be available to enable the elimination of dangerous and complicated level crossings, such as the one at Boundary, Beenleigh and Orange Grove Roads and Breton and Henley Street, Coopers Plains?

Mr Johnson (10/10/96): Projects to eliminate railway level crossings have to compete with other road infrastructure projects for the limited funds available. Projects are prioritised utilising cost benefit analysis. The project to eliminate the level crossing on Boundary Road at Coopers Plains is complex because of the proximity of the major intersections with Beenleigh and Orange Grove Roads. Also, the maintenance of access to commercial premises and residential streets needs to be considered.

Brisbane City Council's estimate for construction is of the order of \$20 million. Neither Council nor the State Government have been able to fund the project at such cost. Agreement in principle between Council and Main Roads on a first stage proposal has been reached. This proposal is being considered for funding in the 1996/97 and 1997/98 financial years.

880. Sandfly Creek Aboriginal Archaeological Site

Mrs WOODGATE asked the Minister for Environment (11/9/96)—

With reference to the Sandfly Creek Aboriginal archaeological site south of Townsville—

- (1) Has the site been acquired by the Government; if not, why not?
- (2) If it has been acquired, what area was acquired and at what price?
- (3) Did the matter go to the Land Council for a final determination of the price to be paid for the land?
- (4) What was the Department of Natural Resources valuation of the land?
- (5) What valuation did the owners place on the land?
- (6) What is the present tenure of the acquired land and what is its proposed tenure?
- (7) Does the additional area of land purchased by Korea Zinc encompass any of these burial sites?
- (8) Are there any plans to allow local aboriginal people access to the area or ownership of the area?
- (9) What further archaeological studies are planned for the site?

Mr Littleproud (1/10/96):

1. The property known as "Sandfly Creek" was acquired by the Queensland Government on 22 March 1996 under the provisions of the Cultural Record (Landscapes Queensland and Queensland Estate) Act 1987 and the Acquisition of Land Act 1962.

2. The area of land acquired totalled 362.6ha. The final settlement price has not been negotiated at this date.

3. Your question refers to the Land Council however I believe you are actually referring to the Land Court. The matter has not been referred to the Land Court at this date however the former owner has been advised from the start of negotiations that this avenue is available.

4. I am not in a position to release the valuation of the land at this time because negotiations regarding the purchase price are continuing.

5. It would be inappropriate for me to make public information which is the prerogative of the owner and which is the subject of ongoing negotiations.

6. The acquired land is currently Unallocated State Land awaiting a recommendation by the Department of Environment as to the future tenure.

7. Yes. The area of sand dunes, within the land purchased by Korea Zinc, contains cultural and archaeological material of a similar type to that found on "Sandfly Creek". Negotiations are under way to have these dunes added to the Unallocated State Land which was the former "Sandfly Creek" property.

8. The future management of the land is currently being discussed with the various Aboriginal people who claim affiliation with the area.

9. No further archaeological studies are planned at this time. Future research on the site will depend on negotiations between the Aboriginal custodians and the Department of Environment.

881. Cape York Tourism Agreement

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry (11/9/96)—

With reference to the Cape York Tourism Agreement currently being put together by traditional landowners and Far North Queensland tourism bodies—

- (1) What role is he or his department playing in the ongoing development of this agreement?
- (2) What progress has been made with the agreement so far?
- (3) What problems have been encountered causing a slowdown in the development of the agreement?
- (4) What funding is he seeking in the State Budget to facilitate the early finalisation of this agreement?
- (5) What discussions has he held with his cabinet colleagues on the future of the Cape York Wilderness Zone and its attendant ECO and cultural tourism potential?
- (6) Does he agree that the wilderness zone proceeding is desirable if the Cape York Tourism Agreement is to realise its full potential?
- (7) Will he oppose any moves by the Queensland Government to dispose of any of the properties purchased by the previous Government to form the wilderness zone?

Mr Davidson (11/10/96):

(1) The Cape York Tourism Heads of Agreement is to be an articulation of protocols between the Cape York Peninsula Development Association (CYPDA), the Cape York Land Council, the Cape York Development Centre, the ATSIC Peninsula Regional Council, the Cook Shire Council and the Far North Queensland Tour Operators Association. At the CYPDA's 1995 tourism workshop in Cooktown, a resolution was passed to form a working group comprising these organisations. A second resolution sought to establish a common set of principles to enable proper land management and appropriate tourism and tourism related economic development, including joint ventures. The development of an Agreement will be an important component of the Tourism Strategy which is being developed for the region. The Cape York Peninsula Tourism Committee was subsequently formed and has been involved in developing the Agreement and the Tourism Strategy. The Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation Coordinator for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Tourism is an invited member of this committee and the regional office of my Department is also an ex officio member.

(2) Overall, progress to date has been extremely positive. Extreme care is being taken to ensure the views of all stakeholders are correctly represented. The isolation of the communities has made the process quite time consuming because of a conscious effort to elicit the opinions of all stakeholders. Three meetings have been held over the last eight months, resulting in a discussion paper followed by a draft document. I understand that the draft Tourism Strategy will be released for public comment on 31 October 1996 and the development of the Cape York Tourism Heads of Agreement will be one of the priorities to be discussed at the Cape York Tourism Workshops to be held in November at Cooktown.

(3) The Agreement has progressed relatively smoothly between all parties. I have been informed that minor delays have been encountered at some stages in the progress of the Agreement because of the isolation of some communities and because consultations have coincided with the peak tourism season making it difficult for industry stakeholders to provide a continuity of representation. Earlier this year, the FNQ Tour Operators Association felt that there had been insufficient time for consultation. The subsequent 'slowdown' in development has been a deliberate measure on the part of those developing the Agreement to reassure stakeholders that there will be a full consultation to gain the support of all stakeholders. The FNQ Tour Operators Association has now nominated two members who are prepared to be involved in any subsequent negotiations. The views of some individuals that have not been canvassed in the first instance will be sought at a later stage. This includes both residents and tourism industry operators.

(4) My Department funds the CYPDA through its Rural and Remote Area Board Initiative. I understand that to date, \$93,750 has been provided to the CYPDA for economic development projects since

July 1995. I have committed a further \$95,000 for the 1996/97 financial year. This is a maximum figure subject to budget considerations, for specific economic development projects. The CYPDA is currently investigating sources of funding for Cape York tourism events such as the Laura Dance Festival and has made initial inquiries to the Queensland Events Corporation.

(5) Discussions with my Cabinet colleagues remain Cabinet-in-Confidence.

(6), (7) With regards to the Cape York wilderness zone proposal, I believe that the tourism industry, one of the major stakeholders, was not originally consulted by the previous Government. However, any further discussions should be deferred until the release of Stage 2 of the Cape York Peninsula Land-Use Study (CYPLUS) and its recommendations. This multiple land-use study, commenced in 1990, has had approximately \$9 million invested in it. Stage One, costing approximately \$7.9 million, was a series of extensive data collection programs and interpretative studies which resulted in 48 reports. Stage Two, to cost approximately \$1.16 million, will result in a comprehensive Regional Development Strategy. Given this, it would be more appropriate to know the outcomes of this study before commenting any further.

882. Mice Plague, Darling Downs

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Natural Resources (11/9/96)—

With reference to "new" control measures used recently to control another mouse plague on the Darling Downs—

(1) What were the control measures used on this occasion, particularly, the active ingredient of any poison used?

(2) Is this poison in general use for mouse control in other parts of Australia?

(3) What results were achieved on the Darling Downs?

(4) What monitoring was conducted of adverse side affects on native wildlife?

(5) What results were achieved from this monitoring?

(6) Which scientific institution conducted the monitoring?

(7) Was a community representative from a recognised environmental group involved in this monitoring?

(8) Is he satisfied that these control measures are safe?

Mr Hobbs (9/10/96): My Department has not been involved in any baiting or "new" control of mice on the Darling Downs since the 1995 Mouse Plague.

Areas within and peripheral to the Darling Downs experienced high mouse numbers during Autumn 1996. Some landholders called for strychnine baiting to protect plantings of this year's wheat and other winter crops. Due to legislative, operational and environmental considerations it was decided not to proceed with strychnine baiting at that time.

My department will continue to collaborate with industry, interstate and Federal counterparts in the development of future control options.

I recently announced a \$750,000 commitment to an extensive research program each year for the next five years. This initiative aims to develop a) a suitable in-crop rodenticide b) long term integrated management strategies c) strategies for reducing mice numbers in buildings and other harbour areas.

883. Tannum State High School

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Education (11/9/96)—

With reference to the Tannum State High School and given that planning funds have been allocated for the school—

Will he confirm the ongoing capital works funding in the May 1997 Budget?

Mr Quinn (2/10/96): As confirmed previously in writing, and as reported in the State Budget 1996-97 (Capital Outlays: Budget Paper No. 3, p. 42), planning will continue on a new high school at Tannum Sands, for opening in 1998. The project budget stands currently at \$7.745 million, with planning funds of \$500,000 allocated in 1996-97, and the balance for construction in 1997-98.

884. Mahogany Glider Habitat

Mr BARTON asked the Premier (11/9/96)—

With reference to the ongoing destruction of the habitat of the rare mahogany glider as a result of his Government's failure to honour the Labor Government's rescue package put together at both State and Federal levels—

(1) What was the Coalition's policy prior to the July 1995 election and the Mundingburra by-election in relation to protection of this glider and its habitat?

(2) Did he give the environment movement an undertaking to honour the \$16m joint Federal/State rescue package for this glider; if so, what was the nature of this commitment?

Mr Borbidge (11/10/96):

(1) The Coalition's policy prior to the July 1995 election and the Mundingburra by-election was to protect the mahogany glider habitat. Furthermore, this commitment has been demonstrated clearly by the issuing of interim conservation orders on land supporting key habitat until acquisitions were completed where necessary. In addition, funding was provided in the 1996-97 Budget to implement the strategy.

(2) Yes, I did give an undertaking to the North Queensland Conservation Council Inc. by correspondence dated 8 November 1995 that the Federal/State conservation package announced in late 1995 had the support of the Coalition and would continue to be fully supported in the event of a change of Government. Further reference was made to this issue in correspondence to the Queensland Conservation Council dated 19 January 1996.

To date the Coalition has fully matched the financial contribution of the Federal Government. You should be aware that the previous Labor Government, while making promises regarding the conservation of the area, failed miserably by not making provision for full funding of the initiative. This has resulted in the Federal Government's level of funding to date being at only \$6 million. I am advised that ongoing discussions are occurring at officer level to clarify any misunderstanding the Federal Government may have concerning the total level of funding required for this initiative.

885. Bunda Industrial Estate, Bundaberg

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry (11/9/96)—

With reference to the fact there are few, if any, blocks of land available on the Bunda Industrial Estate in Bundaberg for industry—

(1) When will the Government provide funds for the extension of the Bunda Industrial Estate to provide industrial land in Bundaberg?

(2) Why wasn't funding provided for the extension of the Bunda Industrial Estate in 1996-97?

Mr Davidson (11/10/96): The Bunda Industrial Estate comprises 124 hectares and is a successful estate administered by my Department.

Approximately 100 hectares has been developed and fully serviced sites are still available for sale within the Estate.

My Department has recently advised the Bundaberg City Council that it is prepared to surrender approximately 10 hectares of undeveloped land to the rear of Wide Bay Brickworks to provide for the establishment, by Council, of a drainage retardation basin to overcome a recurring flooding problem within the city.

The remaining 14 hectares of undeveloped land is subject to an application to the Native Title Tribunal for the determination of Native Title over the area. Pending a decision no consideration can be given to undertaking further development within the Estate.

My Department is currently liaising with the Bundaberg City Council regarding the completion of a Development Control Plan for the city. This Plan will, in part, identify areas of undeveloped land suitable for future business and industry requirements.

886. Airconditioner Noise Limits

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Environment (11/9/96)—

With reference to a survey by Local Government Environment Health Officers in Townsville recently which revealed that 70 per cent of residential air conditioners cannot conform with the proposed noise limits, Townsville City Council and other authorities are concerned that the State Government's draft for the Environmental Protection Policy, which will provide legal guidance for Local Authorities, actually compounds the issue instead of resolving this problem by recommending even more

severe noise limitations, for instance, it is proposed that after 10 p.m. no air conditioner or other appliance will be allowed to produce more than 3 decibels above the background noise levels as this would mean virtually every air conditioner in Townsville would have to be turned off at 10 o'clock on summer nights and clearly it should not fall to councils to be forced into prosecutions for high noise levels when the standards cannot be achieved by most manufacturers particularly with the popular and less expensive RACs (room air conditioners)—

(1) Is he aware of serious anomalies in noise control regulations which a number of Local Government Authorities have inherited from State Government regulations and which are likely to become even more confusing under the State Environment Protection Policy which is presently being formulated?

(2) Is he aware his department is supporting proposed local laws which impose noise levels which cannot be met by most room air conditioners supplied by the industry?

(3) What action, if any, does he propose to bring some sanity into this intolerable situation?

Mr Littleproud (24/9/96):

1. The State Government does not impose regulations for noise control on local government. Each local government has its own responsibility for preparing suitable local laws for noise control if it wishes to make them. There is a Protocol establishing the roles and responsibilities of State and Local Government in the management of Queensland's environment in relation to the Environmental Protection Act 1994. The Protocol relates to a limited number and type of functions. The administration of the proposed noise policy is not one of those functions and further negotiations with local governments are planned in regard to the future administration of the policy.

2. I am advised by the Department that there is a number of local governments which have noise bylaws or ordinances. My Department is aware of the Townsville City Council Bylaw and it appears to be based on the Model Noise Bylaw prepared by the former Division of Noise Abatement. The model bylaw and training notes were based on Australian Standards current at the time. My Department is not aware of any proposed local laws or local law policies based on the draft Environmental Protection (Noise) Policy or on any other standard.

It is incorrect, therefore, to suggest that the industry cannot meet such noise criteria as the criteria have not been confirmed. It is also clear, however, that most domestic air conditioners can, and do, meet the requirements of the existing bylaws and the proposed noise policy.

3. The proposed noise policy is based on existing bylaws and guidelines. The criteria in the policy is more flexible than existing bylaws. This is because the policy is responsive to complaint and does not set rigid criteria that must be met by all domestic air-conditioners.

The noise levels in the policy and existing bylaws are being very carefully reviewed for their practicality

and reasonableness. It is my intention to provide a noise policy that will be fair and reasonable, yet still provide sufficient guidance to the public for compliance with the Environmental Protection Act. It is also important that the noise policy provide sufficient guidance for those persons responsible for administering the policy consistently across the State.

889. Boating and Fisheries Patrol

Mr NUNN asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (12/9/96)—

(1) Did the Coalition on 2 July 1995 promise to increase resources for the boating and fisheries patrol?

(2) Will this initiative cost up to \$5m to introduce?

(3) When will this promise be implemented?

Mr Perrett (11/10/96):

1. Yes.

2. Yes.

3. The Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol was allocated an additional \$801,000 in the 1996-97 budget as the first stage towards meeting this three year commitment.

890. Trading Hours Inquiry Costs

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (12/9/96)—

With reference to the Commission of Inquiry to determine the effects of the 1994 legislative changes to the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990—

What was the total cost of the Commission of Inquiry, including a breakdown of (a) wages and expenses paid to Sir William Knox, (b) wages and expenses paid to all other staff of the commission, (c) travel, accommodation, meals and related costs associated with the commission in any way, (d) printing and distribution costs of the report and (e) any administrative costs?

Mr Santoro (10/10/96): The Inquiry was set up by Executive Council on 16 May 1996 in pursuance of the provisions of the Commission of Inquiry Act 1950 to determine the effects of the 1994 legislative changes to the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990. The total cost to date for the Inquiry is \$157,608 and the following are the costs to date in relation to the specific questions raised.

(a) Sir William Knox was appointed Commission to head the Inquiry. His remuneration was set at \$540 per day. The Inquiry commenced on 23 May 1996 and Sir William handed his report to me on 30 August 1996. Sir William Knox received fees of \$37,530 as Commissioner and was reimbursed travel expenses for meals and out of pocket expense of \$654.80.

(b) The Commission was supported by three Departmental officers. Salaries and related costs for these officers (excluding superannuation) were \$35,811. Departmental officers were reimbursed travel expenses for meals and out of pocket expenses totalling \$1,241,60.

(c) Travel, accommodation, meals and related costs associated with the commission were:

Airfares \$8,244 for trips to Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton, Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney. Accommodation costs whilst travelling was \$2,310.85 and taxi fees 521.45. Accommodation cost for the Commission premises at Citibank was \$15,079.

(d) Printing of the report is \$5,970. Consultancy fees totalled \$45,159 for an economic impact study and a consumer study. Other administrative costs totalled \$5,085 (including \$2,170 for advertising).

891. Patient Transit Scheme

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Health (12/9/96)—

With reference to a Patient Transfer Assistance Scheme workshop which was held in Brisbane on 5 and 6 September where approximately ninety people attended, with only five of these people coming from rural areas, namely Longreach, Weipa, Thursday Island, Mornington Island and Mount Isa and to comments made by a guest speaker where it was claimed that bush people rorted the Patient Transfer System and had been doing so for the past 35 years and that people in Mount Isa had a 'hand-out' mentality and used the system for holidays and not really to seek medical attention and his statement regarding the number of patients who wished to travel to Brisbane during August and December, these times just happening to coincide with the Brisbane Royal Show and Christmas—

Is he aware that those comments were made; if so, does he agree with them; if not, what action does he propose to take to publicly reprimand the guest speaker?

Mr Horan (11/10/96): I understand 90 people were invited to attend the two day Patient Transfer Assistance Scheme workshop held on 5 and 6 September 1996, with 85 actually attending. It is not true that only five of those attending came from rural areas. Of the 90 people invited, 40 were from rural and remote Queensland. People from rural and remote areas, other than centres already mentioned, came from, Roma, Charleville, Dalby/Jandowae, Biloela, Bowen, Moranbah, Goondiwindi, Torres Strait Island, Stanthorpe and Warwick to name a few.

The purpose of the workshop was to review the management of the Scheme and not only to review the guidelines. Therefore there were also representatives from the major tertiary receiving hospitals in Queensland in attendance. Also attending were a number of private doctors, specialists and general practitioners who travel to country areas to provide services to rural people, along with representatives from the Queensland Cancer Fund and the Leukemia Foundation of Queensland. I am given to understand that the participation at the workshop was highly representative of consumers and providers involved in the Scheme.

With regard to a guest speaker making comments about a 'handout mentality' and 'rorting in country

areas', I am advised that the comments were indeed made. However, I am advised that the comments were only made to focus discussion on issues which affect the Scheme. In the open discussion section of the session, I understand that the guest speaker's comments were, quite properly, challenged by a representative from Mount Isa.

I wish to make it clear that the comments made by the guest speaker in no way reflect my own or the Government's view. These kinds of comments however point to the need for the review of the current Scheme. The previous government did not address the issues when they arose and as a result the scheme now needs immediate attention. Research undertaken as part of the review has clearly indicated that adverse perceptions of the scheme are often the reflection of a lack of clarity about entitlements and responsibilities in the present guidelines. Due to the previous government being out of touch with the community, such problems with the operation of the Scheme have generated an unnecessary level of distress for people in need of this important service. I am confident that this review which, due to the last 6 years of neglect, has aired contentious views of the Scheme's operation will produce a useful end outcome. I anticipate that through the genuine community input to the review, a better and fairer Scheme to serve the needs of rural people will result.

The Coalition government is and always will be committed to ensuring that all Queenslanders, regardless of their location in the state, get equal opportunity of access to essential medical facilities.

892. Works Department Depot

Mr BEATTIE asked the Minister for Environment (12/9/96)—

With reference to the recent partial demolition of the old Works Department Depot building at the bottom end of Alice Street as part of the Mirvac's Grosvenor development—

- (1) Was the depot on the Heritage Register?
- (2) What was the heritage significance of the building that warranted its inclusion on the Heritage Register?
- (3) On what basis did the Heritage Council decide that this significance warranted only retention of the facade of the building and parts of its sides?
- (4) Was the building listed on the National Estate?
- (5) Was the building listed with the National Trust?
- (6) What role will the remnants of the building play in the new development?

Mr Littleproud (24/9/96): Firstly, it should be noted that Heritage Council approval for the proposal was given during the term of the previous Government—on 26 June 1995.

(1) Yes. The property was included in the schedule to the interim Heritage Buildings Protection Act 1990 and transferred to the Heritage Register established under the Queensland Heritage Act 1992 by the Transitional Provisions of that Act.

(2) The heritage significance of the place is stated in the entry in the Heritage Register as: an example of

an intact 1880s industrial building with a decorative facade; as evidence of engineering and foundry works which previously were a major activity in Alice Street; its contribution to the Alice Street streetscape along with neighbouring Old Mineral House.

(3) The Mirvac Grosvenor development site included four Heritage Registered places namely the former Alice Street Works, Old Mineral House, the Smellies Building and the Port Office Hotel. A Conservation Plan was prepared for these four buildings in April 1993. A detailed examination of the former Alice Street Works as part of the Conservation Plan revealed severe structural problems with the building.

The Heritage Council concluded at its meeting on 26 June 1995 that the impact of the proposed development on the former Alice Street Works was acceptable having regard to its structural condition, and the protection afforded to the remaining Heritage Registered places on the site. The proposal retains the decorative facade and the contribution it makes to the Alice Street streetscape.

A condition on the Heritage Council approval required the former Alice Street Works to be fully recorded prior to the demolition works. This has been undertaken.

(4) The building is not entered in the Register of the National Estate.

(5) The building is listed by the National Trust of Queensland.

(6) The front 8.0 m of the building fronting Alice Street is to be conserved and incorporated in the new development as a commercial premises.

893.Deaths in Custody

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (12/9/96)—

With reference to the tragic death of 10 prisoners in custody in 1996—

(1) What steps is he taking to ascertain what has caused this tragic significant increase in the number of deaths?

(2) What steps is he taking to ensure that the Corrective Services Commission improves its procedures, to avoid further tragic deaths?

Mr Cooper (27/9/96):

(1) During 1995/96 there were 10 offender deaths. Nine of these occurred in custodial correctional centres while the other occurred in a community corrections centre. One of the deaths in the custodial correctional area resulted from natural causes. This number is not a substantial increase but is, in fact, a reduction on the number of deaths which occurred in the preceding two years. There were twelve deaths in 1994/95 and in 1993/94. Further, during 1995/96 there was a considerable increase in prisoner numbers.

Notwithstanding the number of deaths in real terms, a more revealing statistic is the death rate. This figure is calculated using the following formula: number of

deaths multiplied by 100, divided by the daily average prisoner population.

For the deaths which occurred in a custodial correctional setting, the death rate for 1995/96 is .29. This figure is substantially lower than rates for 1994/95 and 1994/93 which stand at .45 and .53 respectively.

Having regard to the figures detailed here, there has been no increase in the number of deaths in the 1995/96 period.

(2) As Minister responsible for Corrective Services, I am fully aware of and support the actions taken by the Queensland Corrective Services Commission in their endeavours to eliminate what the Honourable Member refers to as "tragic deaths".

All prisoners entering the system are screened on reception to identify at risk persons and to implement management regimes which minimise the risk of self harm, including suicide.

The Commission has had in place since May 1994, a Suicide Prevention policy and procedure and from December 1994 a complementary Buddy System of support for at risk persons. Initiatives to minimise the possibility of deaths have included the reduction of hanging points in designated cells in established prisons and the reduction of hanging points in all cells within the centre under construction at Woodford through the airconditioning of accommodation and communal areas. All secure centres have observation cells subject to continuous Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) monitoring capability. Cell call systems have been upgraded at Lotus Glen and Sir David Longland Correctional Centres. In all, in excess of \$900 000 was spent in 1995/96 in upgrading facilities to reduce the number of deaths in the correctional environment.

Suicide prevention training is a compulsory unit of the Commission's staff training program.

A further initiative was the construction and commissioning of a Crisis Support Unit at the Moreton Correctional Centre in the Wacol area. This purpose built facility has capacity for eight inmates. The primary focus of the unit is to provide a safe and secure environment for those prisoners who are identified and assessed as being acutely suicidal or who have the potential to lethally self harm, but cannot be effectively managed in their referral centre. This unit is available as a placement option for all centres for those prisoners meeting the criteria. The unit commenced operation on 15 July 1996. A similar unit is currently under construction at the Townsville Correctional Centre and is expected to be commissioned in December of this year. This unit will provide for the specialised management of up to six persons at any one time. A further Crisis Support Unit will be provided at the Woodford Correctional Centre.

The Commission has recently advertised for expressions of interest from local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations in the Brisbane/Ipswich and Townsville areas to provide a pilot Support Worker scheme to the Sir David Longland and Townsville Correctional Centres. Under this scheme, a member of the Aboriginal and

Torres Strait Islander community, through the sponsor organisation, will attend the centre each day at lock down time to mix with and provide support to prisoners at this critical time in the prison day. At risk persons identified through this process will be monitored and alternative management regimes put in place to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the individual. If the pilot proves successful this scheme will be introduced into other secure centres with significant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoner populations.

Each death in custody is subject to investigation by the Police Department, Inspectors appointed by the Commission under the Corrective Services Act and the Coroner. Any finding or recommendations arising from these investigations are thoroughly considered and appropriate action taken. All centre operations are subject to audit to ensure compliance with approved practices and procedures.

The matter of deaths in custody is taken very seriously by all involved with the provision of corrective services in this State. All possible options to prevent deaths will be investigated and trialled where considered appropriate.

895.Toxic Waste Treatment Plant

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Environment (12/9/96)—

When will he be taking action to open a new treatment plant to handle toxic liquids, the residues of which are ultimately interred at Gurulmundi, in view of the urgency of the need to close Willawong and remove a public health hazard and public nuisance?

Mr Littleproud (1/10/96): Following six years of Labor inaction on waste management, officers of the Department of Environment and myself have undertaken discussions with the private sector about their future role in hazardous waste treatment and destruction. The response to date has been very encouraging with several Queensland and interstate waste management companies expressing positive interest in building new facilities, expanding current activities or making use of their facilities interstate. Such interest, when realised, will lay the foundations for the responsible management of waste in Queensland. Indeed, a proposal is currently under assessment by the Department which may be able to treat and dispose of, in a secure manner, those residual wastes currently treated at Willawong.

As I have stated previously, I do not see a role for the State Government in owning and operating waste treatment facilities, but there is a clear role in facilitating their introduction and in ensuring their compliance with the Environmental Protection Act 1994.

896.Suicide

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (12/9/96)—

With reference to his answer to my Question on Notice No 91 in which he indicated that he was aware of studies which showed that people who attempt unsuccessfully to commit suicide are more

likely than the general population to make another attempt, and to his indication that the only attempted suicides which come to his attention are those of existing clients of his department to whom he has a legal duty of care—

Given the potential for saving lives, particularly of young people, will he give consideration to expanding his department's information base, and subsequently offering counselling to people, many of whose lives could be saved merely by such counselling?

Mr Lingard (26/9/96): For clients for whom the Department has a duty of care who have attempted suicide, all efforts are made to provide direct assistance and counselling or referrals are arranged to other specialist services. In addition, my Department also funds many community organisations, throughout Queensland, which offer assistance, information and counselling to people who are experiencing crises including attempted suicide.

Additionally, my Department is presently developing an information database which will enable these persons to be referred to the nearest appropriate service where counselling is able to be provided.

I have had discussions with the Federal Minister for Family Services Judi Moylan MP regarding special funding for Youth Suicide Programs in Queensland. These discussions are to continue and I will keep your comments in mind.

897.Railway Station, Narangba-Burpengary

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (12/9/96)—

Are there any plans in place to construct a railway station between Narangba and Burpengary?

Mr Johnson (10/10/96): At this stage, neither Queensland Rail nor the Department of Transport have any definite proposals to construct a new station between Narangba and Burpengary.

While it is acknowledged that this is a high growth area, development to date is not such that would justify the significant cost involved in providing a new station.

Recent speculation on such a proposal may have been fuelled by the fact that Queensland Rail owns land near the western end of Callaghan Road which may be used to provide a future station if and when it is deemed necessary.

898.Bundaberg Railway Station

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (12/9/96)—

(1) As Bundaberg Railway Station is in urgent need of upgrade (a) by raising the platform for passenger trains, especially when the tilt train is introduced and (b) by providing better passenger facilities, when will work be carried out on the Bundaberg Railway Station?

(2) What work will be done and what will be the approximate cost of this necessary upgrade?

Mr Johnson (10/10/96):

(1) The proposed upgrading of Bundaberg station is dependent upon the availability of suitable funding, which is yet to be allocated.

(2) The scope of work for the project will include:

- raising the platform
- refurbishment of toilet facilities
- rationalisation of surplus station buildings
- replace and/or repair platform awning, guttering and piping
- replace signage to corporate standard
- exterior painting

The objectives of this work will be to improve access for the mobility impaired, and to bring Bundaberg station, Traveltrain's third busiest station in the State, into line with other major passenger stations. When Bundaberg station is upgraded, retention of the heritage value will be paramount.

The estimated cost of the project is currently \$1.2 million to be spent over two years.

899. National Park Fees

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Environment (12/9/96)—

With reference to access to national parks charges announced in the 1996-97 Budget—

(1) What national parks are situated within a 500km radius of Rockhampton?

(2) How much will it cost individuals and families to access each of these parks?

(3) How will these fees be collected?

Mr Littleproud (3/10/96): The introduction of the ParkPass system of National Park charges has been made necessary at least partly by the Labor Government's failure to adequately fund National Park management.

(1) There are 99 national parks situated within a 500 km radius of Rockhampton. A list is attached.

(2) ParkPass fees are as follows:

Adult annual—\$20 Concession annual—\$10

Adult holiday—\$10 Concession holiday—\$5

Adult day—\$3 Concession day—\$2

Children and teenagers under 18 years old may enter parks free of charge.

(3) Fees will be collected by the following methods:

purchase of either an annual, holiday or day ParkPass in advance from any staffed Department of Environment office or sales outlet;

purchase of either an annual, holiday or day ParkPass in advance at an agency where these passes may be sold. Examples may be local retail outlets, tourist information centres or service stations.

National Parks within a 500 km radius of Rockhampton—

Cape Upstart National Park; Holbourne Island National Park; Gloucester Island National Park; Whitsunday Islands National Park; Dryander National Park; Mount Aberdeen National Park; Molle Islands National Park; Conway National Park; Lindeman Islands National Park; Smith Islands National Park; South Cumberland Islands National Park; Brampton Island National Park; Newry Islands National Park; Eungella National Park; Cape Hillsborough National Park; Bushy Island National Park; Mount Ossa National Park; Pioneer Peaks National Park; Reliance Creek National Park; Mount Martin National Park; Northumberland Islands National Park; Homevale National Park; Blackwood National Park; Cape Palmerston National Park; North East Island National Park; South Island National Park; West Hill National Park; Dipperu National Park (Scientific); Swain Reefs National Park; Wild Duck Island National Park; Mazeppa National Park; Epping Forest National Park (Scientific); Peak Range National Park; Mount O'Connell National Park; Byfield National Park; Narrien Range National Park; Keppel Bay Islands National Park; Capricorn Coast National Park; Mount Etna Caves National Park; Keppel Bay Islands National Park (Scientific); Goodedulla National Park; Mount Jim Crow National Park; Capricornia Cays National Park; Mount Archer National Park; Capricornia Cays National Park (Scientific); Taunton National Park (Scientific); Curtis Island National Park; Rundle Range National Park; Blackdown Tableland National Park; Wild Cattle Island National Park; Eurimbula National Park; Minerva Hills National Park; Snake Range National Park; Castle Tower National Park; Deepwater National Park; Kroombit Tops National Park; Mount Colosseum National Park; Carnarvon National Park; Littabella National Park; Cania Gorge National Park; Great Sandy National Park; Palmgrove National Park (Scientific); Nuga Nuga National Park; Expedition National Park; Burrum Coast National Park; Isla Gorge National Park; Precipice National Park; Fairlies Knob National Park; Mount Walsh National Park; Poona National Park; Coalstoun Lakes National Park; Auburn River National Park; Mount Bauple National Park (Scientific); Pipeclay National Park; Chesterton Range National Park; Mount Pinbarren National Park; Tregole National Park; Ferntree Creek National Park; Mapleton Falls National Park; Conondale National Park; Triunia National Park; Kondalilla National Park; Eudlo Creek National Park; Mooloolah River National Park; Bunya Mountains National Park; Dularcha National Park; Tarong National Park; Bribie Island National Park; Glasshouse Mountains National Park; The Palms National Park; Freshwater National Park; Crows Nest National Park; Erringibba National Park; D'Aguilar National Park; Ravensbourne National Park; Southwood National Park; Repulse Island National Park; Noosa National Park; Mount Coolum National Park.

900. Efficiency Dividends

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Health (12/9/96)—

With reference to the Fitzgerald Audit Report recommendations on page 59 of Volume I to impose

an efficiency dividend of one per cent on the full cost of services for all Government departments and agencies—

Does he stand by his implacable opposition to efficiency dividends when, as a Shadow Spokesman, he described them as "a despicable tax on health" or has he gained too much affection for the feel of ministerial leather?

Mr Horan (11/10/96): In Opposition as in Government, my concern is with good, accountable management. In the Health portfolio, this has meant working to get the hospitals and services right after Labor's mistakes, which has meant finding necessary funding for additional beds, services, capital works and professional salaries.

From a financial management perspective, the objective of realising efficiency dividends can be an important element of an accountable and responsible budget management process in a resource constrained environment. Efficiency dividends which are derived from budget savings that are generated through targeted productivity initiatives such as the adoption of best practice management and improved service delivery arrangements can be an incentive to productivity, depending upon the circumstances in which they are applied.

Unlike the situation that existed when I was in Opposition, the Coalition has provided for a \$312m increase in the Health budget.

901. Incident Investigation, Eumundi

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (12/9/96)—

With reference to a reported incident on the weekend of 17 and 18 August at Eumundi, where off duty members of the Queensland Police Service were reported to have been in brawls, damaged vehicles and abused a bar attendant at Joe's Waterhole Hotel—

- (1) How did he investigate this matter?
- (2) On what basis was it determined that police members of this football team were not the offenders?
- (3) Have charges been laid against any other people for offences relating to this incident?

Mr Cooper (1/10/96):

(1) On Monday 19 August 1996 2 Commissioned Officers from the Sunshine Coast went to Eumundi to carry out investigations regarding a media release on Channel 9 which alleged unruly behaviour by police members of a football team. Channel 9 reported that a number of incidents had supposedly taken place at Eumundi on Saturday and Sunday 17 and 18 August 1996 by members of a football team known as the Logan Vikings Police Rugby League Team.

Inquiries were conducted by the Commissioned Officers with all possible witnesses in the Eumundi township who had close association with the movements of police officers from this football team

and who may be able to offer assistance in relation to this alleged incident.

No evidence has come to light in the Eumundi area from any person to support the allegations made by Channel 9. An apology has since been received from the management of Channel 9 addressed to the District Officer at Logan District dispelling any suggestion of involvement of police officers in a brawl or misbehaviour at Eumundi on the weekend in question.

(2) Investigations established that a Logan Vikings Police Rugby Team stayed at the Imperial Hotel in Eumundi from about 2 pm Saturday 17 August 1996 until about 1 pm Sunday 18 August 1996.

The investigating Commissioned Officers reported that there was no evidence to suggest that any officers had been involved in unruly behaviour of any nature or had been involved in any behaviour that would bring embarrassment to the Police Service during the course of this weekend. All inquiries made in relation to this complaint indicate that the behaviour of all members of this team was nothing but exemplary whilst at Eumundi.

(3) There is no evidence to suggest that any breach of discipline or misconduct has been committed by any member of the group referred to.

There were no complaints forthcoming from any member of the public in regard to the behaviour of police officers on the weekend in question.

There is no evidence that any offences were committed by any person concerning any conduct similar to that reported by Channel 9 relating to Joe's Waterhole Hotel.

902. Redcliffe Hospital

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Health (12/9/96)—

With reference to the budget documents in which there is no designated recurrent funding for the two newly constructed operating theatres at the Redcliffe Hospital—

When is he going to fulfil his pre-1995 election promise and later verbal promise in March 1996 and provide the \$2.6m to enable these operating theatres to be utilised?

Mr Horan (11/10/96): Additional recurrent funds needed for the commissioning of new services are provided from growth funding. Specific growth fund allocations are not included in budget papers.

This Government initiated a review of growth funds to ensure they were being directed to areas of need. As a result, a further \$1.2 million of growth funds has already been set aside in 1996/97 for the Redcliffe Hospital operating theatres. This amount increases to \$1.8 million in 1997/98. An additional \$600,000 has been provided to Redcliffe Hospital specifically for additional theatre opening. We have put new money into this project where as the previous government didn't allocate any additional money to operate the theatre at Redcliffe Hospital.

As part of Stage 2 of the Redcliffe Hospital redevelopment a recurrent cost study will be

undertaken to ensure appropriate future recurrent funding is provided.

904. Slurry Pipeline, Karumba

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Economic Development and Trade and Minister Assisting the Premier (12/9/96)—

With reference to his recent Parliamentary statement on the Century Mine and particularly the comment that the water extracted from the slurry at Karumba will be used in irrigation and watering of cattle—

- (1) What volume of water will the operating pipeline be delivering to Karumba per hour?
- (2) How many, and which irrigation projects have agreed to take this water and in what quantities?
- (3) Which properties have agreed to take this water for stock watering and in what quantities?
- (4) How much of this water will these two users consume during the wet season when the rainfall in this area is often prolonged and intense?
- (5) At these times will all of the water from the slurry pipeline be discharged to the Norman River?
- (6) Which studies indicated that this volume of water coming from the pipeline combined with freshwater runoff in the wet season would have an almost undetectable effect on the salinity of the Norman River?

Mr Slack (10/10/96):

- (1) The water treatment plant at Karumba will be processing approximately 50 litres per second or 162,000 litres per hour (1600 megalitres per annum).
- (2) The Carpentaria Shire Council has indicated its desire to distribute the water for Shire purposes. Projects include the irrigation of crops, pastures, horticulture or for amenity irrigation purposes such as watering lawns, parks, sport fields and golf courses. It is expected that the extra water supply will greatly encourage agricultural production in the region. With the increase in the number of cattle expected to be exported via Karumba, the treated water will be necessary to water livestock being held in yards awaiting shipment. The water will be a valuable resource for the Karumba/Normanton area, which currently has water supply constraints.
- (3) The Carpentaria Shire Council is currently negotiating with Century Zinc Limited to take all the water produced by the treatment plant. The Carpentaria Shire Council may then on-sell the water to pastoral companies, as well as using it for its own Shire purposes.
- (4) It is not possible to indicate seasonal consumption levels at this stage. The Carpentaria Shire Council, in conjunction with Century Zinc Limited, is currently investigating the options open to it in respect of either rebuilding the dam or constructing a new reticulation system in which to store the water for use within the shire. (answer relates to (5) and (6))
- (5) The discharge of pipeline water into the Norman River is dependent upon the Carpentaria Shire Council's changes to its water plan. This is further

dependent upon the type of infrastructure that will be put in place by the Council. (this relates to concerns about decreasing salinity around the Karumba loading facility see (6))

(6) The typical salinity of the estuary in the wet season varies from 0 per cent to 3.6 per cent salt (at high tide). The typical daily tidal volume of water that moves past the Karumba loading facility is about 50 000 megalitres (one tide per day). Using this data, if the annual volume of treated water was discharged into the estuary in one day, the salinity would only decrease by 0.1 per cent (ie less than normal daily variations).

These studies were conducted by WBM Oceanics for Century Zinc Limited.

906. TAFE Training, Caboolture

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (12/9/96)—

With reference to concerns that trade training at the Caboolture Campus of the Northpoint Institute of TAFE is being wound back—

Will he give the House, and the people of Caboolture, a commitment to retain trade training in hairdressing, hospitality and horticulture currently provided at the Caboolture Campus?

Mr Santoro (10/10/96): I am aware that negotiations are currently under way between the North Point Institute and the Brisbane Institute of TAFE with a view to rationalising course offerings in the horticulture area. However, these discussions are at an early stage and will involve widespread consultation with stakeholders such as teachers, industry and the local community. Until this consultation is concluded, and the position of stakeholders is known, I am unable to give the commitment you are seeking.

The adjustment of course offerings in particular locations results from the ongoing review of the changing training requirements of local communities. It is expected, however, that the North Point Institute of TAFE will increase its student places by over 10% this financial year. A large proportion of this increase in student places will be located at the Caboolture Campus. As the Caboolture area further develops its industry base, it is essential that the Campus' training courses, which include hairdressing and hospitality, are reviewed to ensure that the training required by industry and the local community are provided through the Caboolture Campus of the North Point Institute of TAFE.

907. Banyo State High School Land

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Education (12/9/96)—

With reference to the sale of surplus land at Banyo State High School—

- (1) Which department purchased or is negotiating the purchase of the land?
- (2) What was the sale price?

(3) Will any proposed rezoning of this land be publicly advertised to enable local residents to express any concerns about the proposal?

Mr Quinn (2/10/96):

(1) The surplus portion of the school site was purchased by the Department of Public Works and Housing.

(2) The land was sold for \$675,000.

(3) When the land was sold it was zoned for school purposes. In order for any other development to take place the land must be rezoned. As any decision to apply for rezoning is a matter for the new owners, it is inappropriate for me to speculate about what use, time frame, or process, may be adopted.

908. Permit Applications, Cultural Record (Landscapes Queensland and Queensland Estate) Act

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Environment (12/9/96)—

With reference to his letter to the editor of The Australian of 10 June in which he stated that there are delays in processing permit applications under the Cultural Record (Landscapes Queensland and Queensland Estate) Act 1987—

(1) What has caused this delay in processing these applications?

(2) As these applications require ministerial approval is the delay in his office rather than the department?

(3) Have staff levels in the section of the department processing these applications dropped since the change of Government; if so, what were the previous levels and what are the present levels?

(4) Were any of these losses the result of the Government's 10 per cent head office cuts and termination of temporary employees?

(5) What funds did he seek in the State Budget to solve this delay?

Mr Littleproud (1/10/96):

(1) A short delay in processing applications for permits under the Cultural Record (Landscapes Queensland and Queensland Estate) Act 1987 occurred in the period May-July 1996 due to the introduction of improved procedures for the processing and consideration of permit applications.

(2) The delay occurred in the Department.

(3) No

(4) No

(5) The delay was eliminated by mid-July this year, apart from a few applications which did not include all the information necessary for applications to be processed and considered. No additional funding was required to eliminate the delay.

909. Privacy Legislation

Mr FOLEY asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (12/9/96)—

(1) What steps has he taken to introduce privacy legislation as promised by him prior to the 1995 election?

(2) Has he ensured that there are adequate privacy safeguards governing the data to be stored regarding firearm owners throughout Queensland?

(3) When will he establish a Privacy Commissioner in Queensland?

(4)(a) When will he introduce privacy legislation and (b) what is the estimated cost to the whole of Government of introducing and operating privacy legislation?

Mr Beanland (9/10/96):

(1) This matter is still under review. However, the Government remains committed to the introduction of privacy legislation during the course of the current Parliament.

(2) Questions concerning firearms should be directed to the Hon. Russell Cooper MLA, Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Racing.

(3) See 1.

(4) See 1.

910. Fauna Parks

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (12/9/96)—

With reference to his responsibility for standards of management and care for captive wildlife in private commercial fauna parks—

(1) How many fauna parks/sanctuaries are licensed to operate in Queensland?

(2) What are their names and locations?

(3) Under what statutory provisions are they licensed?

(4) Is there a Code of Practice in place for the conduct of these businesses and is it applied to licensed parks?

(5) Is he aware of the injuries, feed deprivation and harsh treatment of wildlife at the Illawong Fauna Sanctuary?

(6) What has caused the obvious injuries to the wallaroos at the sanctuary?

(7) Why are kangaroos subjected to feeding off the ground which is infected with faeces of hundreds of fowl and other macropods?

(8) Why are many of the confined spaces in which birds and other small animals are caged, left without water or left with water that is stagnant?

(9) Why were 4 possums left caged together with one possum lying dead on the floor of the cage?

(10) What inspection regime is in place to prevent cruelty to fauna in captivity?

(11) Why has he refused to meet with the Wildlife Education and Rescue Service of Central Queensland so that he can be appraised first hand of these and other concerns of these dedicated volunteer community wildlife carers?

Mr Littleproud (11/10/96):

(1) As at the end of August 1996, there were 50 wildlife exhibitors licensed under the provisions of the Nature Conservation Regulation 1994.

(2) If Mr Welford is serious about obtaining a list of their individual names and addresses, he can write to the Department of Environment and request them.

(3) With respect to legislation which is the responsibility of my portfolio, wildlife exhibitors are licensed under the provisions of sections 93 and 199-208 of the Nature Conservation Regulation 1994. Licensing under Local Government legislation may also be necessary.

(4) Yes, the Code of Practice of the Queensland Wildlife Parks Association, which was approved by the (then) Minister for Environment and Heritage in March 1995. By section 204(2)(b) of the Nature Conservation Regulation 1994, the holder of a Wildlife Exhibitor Licence is required to display wildlife in accordance with the provisions of this Code.

(5) I have received correspondence from a member of the public alleging substandard husbandry at the Illawong Fauna Sanctuary. An inspection of the conditions of wildlife and facilities at Illawong Fauna Sanctuary was conducted on 18/4/1996 by the Wildlife Ranger, Mackay, Department of Environment, and an independent Veterinary Surgeon.

(6) Only one wallaroo was kept on the premises. At the time of inspection the animal had a leg puncture on the lateral side of the right leg, just proximal to the hock and anterior to the Achilles tendon. This did not appear to involve the tendon itself, directly. There was no apparent discharge from the wound, which appeared to mainly involve the skin and subcutaneous tissue. The leg from mid tibia to the hock area was swollen, in comparison to the other leg. Upon approach, the wallaroo hopped away, using both legs. There were remains of purple colouring about the wound area.

The cause of this injury was unknown to the proprietor and no definitive cause could be ascertained by either the Veterinary Surgeon or the Wildlife Ranger.

(7) On 18/4/1996 the Wildlife Ranger, Mackay, informed the proprietor that this practice was a breach of the QWPA Code of Practice.

Illawong Fauna Sanctuary has since relocated from Mackay to Mirani and the proprietor is now working towards full compliance with the Code of Practice. Note that the facility is not currently approved to open to the public pending full compliance. Above ground feeders are now used.

(8) The proprietor had left minors in charge of wildlife husbandry without adequate supervision whilst he was undertaking development of his new facility at Mirani.

(9) No dead possums were observed in any cage during the inspection of the facility by the Wildlife Ranger, Mackay, and the Veterinary Surgeon on 18/4/1996.

Only two live brushtailed possums were observed on the premises at that time.

(10) Ranger staff of the Department of Environment have inspected the facility in question on approximately 5 occasions in the last 2 years.

These random inspections are conducted in order to monitor compliance with the requirements of the Nature Conservation Regulation 1994.

(11) I intend to arrange a meeting with the Wildlife Education and Rescue Service of Central Queensland when I visit Mackay.

It is understood that the proprietor of the Illawong Fauna Sanctuary has offered to meet with W.E.A.R.S.

911. Labelling of Edible Oil Products

Mr D'ARCY asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (12/9/96)—

With reference to the meaningless term "cold pressed" used on many edible oil products which have been heated in production—

Will he take the necessary steps with the Australian Ministerial Council to have labelling of supermarket products accurately reflect information useful to the consumer, for example, the more accurate labelling should state if the oil was mechanically or chemically extracted?

Mr Beanland (9/10/96): The Department of Health, Environmental Health Branch and Government Chemical Laboratory, Food Quality Section have provided advice and explanations on cold pressed oil extraction methods.

Cold pressing is a process for oil recovery which goes back into antiquity. High oil content seeds, such as sesame, peanut and the oily pulp of olives, yield free oil by the simple application of pressure. Oils of this type require no further processing.

Aside from olive oil, cold pressed oils from various sources are sold mainly through health food outlets. As cold pressing is not very efficient this method is not common practice and has now largely been replaced in most countries with advanced processing technology such as solvent oil extraction or hot pressing (expeller extraction).

Hot pressed oil extraction from peanuts involves subjecting shelled and crushed raw peanuts to open steam which heats the peanuts prior to them being placed on press cloths which are latter subjected to a hydraulically generated pressure of about 14,000 pounds per square inch. The extracted oil may contain some fatty acids which are neutralised by treatment with sodium hydroxide, after which the oil is deodorised by passing superheated steam through it at a negative (vacuum) pressure.

The term cold pressed is the terminology used for describing a process and consequently could not be termed meaningless as it provides information for the consumer.

My Department has no legislation requiring that process used for oil extraction on edible oil products be marked on the product. Advice from the Department of Health and Primary Industries indicates that there is no legislation administered by those Departments which require the oil extraction processes to be marked on the label of products.

The marking of the term cold pressed on labels of edible oil products is solely at the discretion of the

manufacturer. However, this statement must not be of a false or misleading nature. My Department's Office of Consumer Affairs administers the Fair Trading Act which prohibits a person in trade or commerce from falsely representing that the goods are of a particular standard, quality, grade, composition, style, model or have had a particular history or particular previous use. Should there be any evidence to suggest that statements such as "cold pressing" were false or misleading investigations could be undertaken under this legislation.

Labelling edible oil products with the oil extraction method such as mechanically or chemically extracted would provide consumers with additional information which they could use when considering their purchase. However, there is no legislation currently requiring this information to be marked on the product.

913. Fire Service and SES, Ipswich West Electorate

Mr LIVINGSTONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (12/9/96)—

With reference to the 1996-97 Budget for his department—

- (1) What is allocated for the fire service in the Ipswich West electorate and how does this compare with the 1995-96 Budget?
- (2) How many extra firefighters will be allocated to Ipswich fire stations?
- (3) Are there any extra or new fire appliances to be issued in Ipswich?
- (4) What new equipment will be issued to Ipswich firefighters as a result of the 1996-97 Budget?
- (5) What is the Budget for the SES in the Ipswich West electorate and how does this compare with the 1995-96 Budget?

Mr Veivers (2/10/96):

- (1) The budget allocation for the Fire Service in the Ipswich West electorate for 1996/97 is \$5.089M. The budget allocation for 1995/96 was \$4.796M. This represents an increase of \$0.293M.
- (2) There will not be any extra firefighters at Ipswich fire stations as there has been no authorised increase in the operational staffing for that district.
- (3) There will be two new fire appliances for the Ipswich District to act as replacements for existing appliances. These vehicles are a new Telescopic Aerial Pumper (TAP) and a new Firepac.
- (4) As a result of the new 1996/97 Budget, the following new equipment and facilities upgrading will occur in the Ipswich District:
 - (a) Three new Level 3 fully encapsulated gas suits for Hazard Material incidents
 - (b) Two motorised Disc Cutters for making forcible entry into buildings
 - (c) One "Hooligan" tool for every fire appliance for making forcible entry into buildings

(d) One Thermal Lance for making forcible entry into buildings

(e) Total refurbishment of the breathing apparatus room at Ipswich station

(f) Upgrading of staff facilities at Redbank Station

(g) Upgrading of station security and an enhancement of the station turnout capabilities at Ipswich Station by the fitting of automatic appliance bay doors.

(5) The Ipswich City Council receives an annual grant of \$3,300 to assist with the administration of the Ipswich State Emergency Service (SES) Unit, including the SES Groups located at Marburg, Rosewood and Redbank Plains/Goodna. This amount was paid in F/Y 1995/96 and will be again available in 1996/97.

Each year the State Government pays the registration costs for all vehicles, trailers and caravans operated by the local SES unit as well as paying the comprehensive insurance charges for the vehicles. The registration costs for the Ipswich SES for F/Y 1995/96 was \$5,570.60 with a similar amount budgeted for 1996/97.

Volunteer Local Executives receive out of pocket expenses of \$250 for the Local Controller, \$190 for the Deputy Controller and each Group Leader. Local Executives of the Ipswich SES Unit received a total of \$1,200 in 1995/96 and will receive similar expenses in 1996/97.

All members of the Ipswich SES continue to be provided with workers' compensation coverage by State Government and members are issued with protective dress and footwear.

In addition, the Ipswich City Council may apply for a wide range of subsidies including SES rescue vehicle purchase or replacement, flood rescue boat hull and motor replacement, purchase of training equipment, etc. In F/Y 1995/96, the Ipswich City Council received a total of \$19,242.00 in subsidy payments for the replacement of rescue vehicles and vehicle accessories.

Subsidy payments for F/Y 1996/97 are dependent upon the receipt of applications and State priorities.

Members of the Ipswich Unit will have access to training and exercise activities conducted at District, Regional and State level. The Unit will continue to be provided with communications development and maintenance support and issued with operational equipment on an as needs basis.

Counter-disaster operations during F/Y 1995/96 resulted in the Ipswich SES being reimbursed through the Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements to a value of \$2,486.25 for operational consumables and the Ipswich City Council \$182,452.18 for debris removal from private property.

914. Comments by Ms P. Hanson

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Economic Development and Trade and Minister Assisting the Premier (12/9/96)—

With reference to recent comments by the Federal Member for Oxley in her maiden speech to the

Federal Parliament that were so offensive to Australia's Aboriginal and Asian communities and have been rejected by any fair minded Australian—

(1) Is he aware as to whether the Member for Oxley's comments have been reported by the media in our major trading partners in Asia; if so, where and what was reported?

(2) What damage, real or potential, can such outrageous comments do to Queensland's current and future trade opportunities with this important region?

(3) What action does he intend to take to ensure that Mrs Hanson and others, who publicly state such offensive and racist views do not jeopardise Queensland's standing in the region and our own economic prosperity which is so reliant on sound relations with our Asian neighbours?

Mr Borbidge (2/10/96):

1. I have asked my Department to check with our overseas offices and from the information from those offices and our international secretariats, we are not aware of any reports.

2. I believe that our trading partners in Asia are represented by Governments that would recognise that the Member for Oxley's views do not represent the policies of the Government of Queensland and her comments would be heard in that context.

3. I am surprised that the Honourable Member should put such a question, as I can only surmise that he is implying by the question that some restriction should be put on the Member of Parliament's right to free speech in our Parliament and seeks to deny a Member of Parliament's right to represent the views of their constituents.

I am sure such a suggestion would be rejected by most Australians, especially other Members of Parliament who support the principles of democracy. The question also indicates that the Honourable Member seeks to deny Australian citizens the right of free speech.

In the best interests of trade, our economic prosperity and jobs for Queenslanders, it is my opinion that rather than reacting hysterically and resorting to personal attacks, we should work towards ensuring that there is better community understanding and tolerance of racial and cultural differences, particularly in relation to the benefits that the community can derive from cultures other than their own.

I am disappointed in the mischievous raising of this issue by the Honourable Member. He is attempting to make connections that do not exist, and by doing so is guilty of the very thing of which he accuses the Member for Oxley; that is risking offending our trading partners. He should be careful that this doubtful exercise does not rebound on him or his party and damage Queensland's proud record in trade and multiculturalism.

That record includes the active fostering of cultural and trade ties with Asian neighbours as evidenced by the Sister-State Agreements with Central Java and Shanghai; Government Trade and Investment Offices throughout the region including new Offices

planned for Shanghai and Jakarta, and the massive two-way trade between Asia and Queensland.

The Coalition Government recognises the value of our multicultural society in furthering business and trade, and is establishing closer ties with ethnic communities. My Department of Economic Development and Trade is looking to support Queensland's ethnic Chambers of Commerce through a 'Productive Diversity' program. This support will assist a range of business communities contribute more fully to the economic and export development of Queensland. As the Honourable Member might be aware, business operators from other countries have established in Queensland and have valuable world contacts which they are utilising to the benefit of Queensland trade. The Coalition Government will provide practical assistance to encourage this.

915.Apprenticeship Scheme, Gladstone

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (12/9/96)—

With reference to the renewed importance given to the apprenticeship scheme—

What action will he take to remove the problem now faced by groups such as the Gladstone Apprentice Scheme where they will now be required to find up to \$40,000 (and perhaps more) for payments to Government that they could previously pay retrospectively as no defaults occurred on these payments, however, retrospective payment allowed scheme organisers to more accurately bill employers and to be in receipt of review in order to be in a position to fulfil their obligations?

Mr Santoro (10/10/96): When the Group Apprentice Scheme began to train large numbers of apprentices, the Workers' Compensation Board agreed in 1988 to assist individual schemes with meeting their workers' compensation obligations.

To assist the Schemes with their initial funding and cashflow problems the Board agreed to accept quarterly payments in arrears without imposing interest charges. This agreement was to be reviewed on an annual basis.

The Workers' Compensation Regulation (Section 11(4)) requires that interest be charged where a policyholder pays premium by instalments. This is equitable because most policyholders pay their total premium by the due date for payment. Policyholders who pay by instalment are required to pay interest on the outstanding amount.

In June 1996, the Board advised Group Apprenticeship Schemes in writing that for premium assessed after July 1996, interest will be charged on instalment payments.

There has been no change to the Group Apprenticeship Schemes' ability to pay their premium retrospectively by instalment in the same manner as they have in the past. The only change is the application of interest charges on the instalment plan which will put the schemes on an even playing field with all other employers paying by instalment.

It has been calculated that if the Gladstone Apprenticeship Scheme applied to pay their premium by instalments on a quarterly basis for the 1996/97 year, the amount of interest payable over the year will be approximately \$3,351.

917. Eel Farms

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (12/9/96)—

With reference to plans by Cooloola Shire to set up eel farms principally for export to South East Asia—

- (1) Will seed stock for these farms come from the wild; if so, what controls and supervision will be put in place to prevent over exploitation?
- (2) Will harvesting from the wild for direct marketing be allowed; if so, what control and supervision will be put in place to prevent over exploitation?
- (3) Has an impact assessment study been conducted for this farming?
- (4) Will he ensure that wild populations of eels won't be harvested to bolster farm bred stock?
- (5) How will the department distinguish between the two?

Mr Perrett (11/10/96):

1. Seed or culture stock for all eel farms around the world comes from the wild because eels cannot as yet be bred in captivity. All eel aquaculture licence holders can apply for a Culture Stock Collection Permit to collect glass eels or elvers from specified Queensland rivers.

Culture Stock Collection Permits are issued by the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) on behalf of the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority (QFMA). Permit conditions set by QFMA, dictate how, and with what type of equipment, glass eels can be collected. Permit holders will be required to record nightly catches and report monthly to QFMA.

Interim permit conditions apply until after public consultation on the Freshwater Management Advisory Committee Discussion Paper for Freshwater Fisheries in Queensland, prepared by QFMA is finalised. The Minister for Primary Industries will be releasing the Discussion Paper for public consultation and submissions, on 15 October 1996.

Permit conditions may be changed following the Discussion Paper/Management Plan process but any changes will be made by QFMA in consultation with DPI and industry.

2. Wild harvesting of glass eels for direct marketing is not being considered. Under the interim permit conditions, eel aquaculture licence holders will be able to trade glass eels with other eel aquaculture licence holders. Export of glass eels is not, and will not be permitted. People can apply to QFMA for an eel trapping permit to catch wild eels longer than thirty centimetres only. This is a separate issue and fishery.

3. There has not been an impact assessment for eel farming in general. However each Local Shire Council may call for an Environmental Impact

Statement (EIS) for any development in its planning area, including aquaculture.

DPI as part of its New Initiative for Aquaculture has funded two full-time positions (a scientist and technician) to carry out a three year stock assessment study of wild glass eel resources in southern Queensland. The study will provide fisheries managers with information on glass eel numbers, their movements and seasonality, essential for the development of a sustainable eel aquaculture industry.

4. As mentioned previously in response to question 1, currently eels cannot be bred in captivity. Therefore an eel aquaculture industry will need to access, under Permit, glass eels from the wild as seed stock.

Trapping of wild eels over thirty centimetres in length has been authorised by QFMA, under a General Fisheries Permit, over the past twelve years. This has been related to a 'predator control program' and the Government's Recreational Fishing Enhancement Program in freshwater.

5. Wild eels and cultured eels of the same species, are from the same fisheries stock and cannot be physically distinguished.

QFMA requires eel trappers to maintain a monthly catch record. Eel aquaculturists collecting glass eels under a Culture Stock Collection Permit will also be required to record nightly glass eel catches and lodge a monthly catch return.

Trading of eels less than thirty centimetres between eel trappers or between eel trappers and eel aquaculturists is not permitted. Catch records will be carefully scrutinised.

Eels harvested from the wild in Queensland are predominantly longfin eels, *Anguilla reinhardti*. Aquacultured eels may be shortfin *Anguilla australis* or longfin as both species are found in southern Queensland. Longfin eels are found from Tasmania to Cape York. Shortfin eels are found approximately from Bundaberg south to New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania.

918. Wet Tropics Management Authority

Mr MILLINER asked the Minister for Environment (13/9/96)—

With reference to the Government's cut to the Budget of the Wet Tropics Authority and coming on top of a similar cut to the same Budget by the Federal Coalition Government—

- (1) Where does he see the authority cutting its operations and why does he see these areas of operation as being superfluous?
- (2) Is he satisfied that the authority will still be able to dispense its responsibilities to protect the World Heritage values of the rainforests?
- (3) Does he wish to see the authority continue to exist following the completion of the management plan for the area?
- (4) Would he prefer to see the wet tropics area come under Queensland Department of Environment control?

(5) Does he intend to continue the process of conversion of State forest areas in the world heritage area to national park; if not, why not?

Mr Littleproud (1/10/96):

(1) The Authority is currently developing detailed budget allocations for a broad range of projects across all Authority programs, within its total budget allocation for 1996/97. Following consideration by the Authority Board of Directors (during October) the budget will be formally submitted to the Wet Tropics Ministerial Council for approval on 30 November 1996. The budget cuts will be applied across all program areas with particular emphasis on non core activities such as corporate services, community relations and capital infrastructure developments.

(2) I am satisfied that the Authority will continue to be able to dispense its responsibilities to protect the World Heritage Area of the rainforests and will be ably supported by the on ground management expertise within the Department of the Environment.

(3) The Wet Tropics Management Authority is a statutory body and as such its functions and responsibilities are clearly delineated. There will be an announcement shortly on the appointment of a new Chairperson of the Board. I have no intention of recommending the termination of the Authority in the foreseeable future.

(4) My major concern is that the objectives under various protocols are met and that the legislative requirements are satisfied in the most effective and efficient manner. Who controls the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area is not a concern.

(5) The process of conversion of State Forest areas in the World Heritage Area to protected area tenure is under review.

920. Community Health Facilities, Redcliffe Electorate

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Health (13/9/96)—

With reference to Question on Notice No. 674 and to the third part of that question which referred to initiatives and additional funding for Community Health to the Redcliffe district to make allowances for the savings that have been delivered by the Redcliffe Hospital—

Will he be providing additional funding to community health facilities in the Redcliffe district, to allow for the short length of stay in the Redcliffe Hospital therefore placing greater strain on community health providers?

Mr Horan (11/10/96): I understand that since the inception of the current Medicare Agreement, Redcliffe Hospital has been successful in securing funding from the Commonwealth Post Acute Care Program. The program funding has enabled the hospital to purchase health services available in the community for the support of patients following early discharge from hospital. As a result of the successful introduction of this program, Redcliffe Hospital has been able to achieve relatively low average length of stays—as revealed by Dr Tony Morton in his study.

This lower average length of stay is clearly being achieved because appropriate community resources are currently available to support early discharge.

I stress that early discharge of patients is made only in circumstances where appropriate community based care is available. To this end, the Medical Superintendent of Redcliffe Hospital meets bi-monthly with the Domiciliary and Community Services to discuss issues surrounding the early discharge of patients. This communication ensures the appropriate allocation of resources so the needs and choices of our patients are met, this in turn provides a service benefiting to the whole community served by the hospital.

922. Fire Service, Rockhampton

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (13/9/96)—

With reference to staffing levels at the Rockhampton Thozet Road and Park Avenue Fire Stations—

(1) How many fire appliances are available on a 24 hour basis at each of the above stations?

(2) How many emergency tenders are available at each station on a 24 hour basis?

(3) How many of these fire appliances are available to turnout to incidents with the required 1 and 4 staffing levels?

(4) In the past 3 months how many incidents have been responded to by appliances which do not have the standard 1 and 3 crewing levels?

Mr Veivers (11/10/96):

(1) There is one fire appliance available at each of the three Rockhampton Stations. These appliances are available to respond 24 hours per day.

(2) There is one emergency tender available at the Rockhampton Station. The emergency tender covers all requirements for the Rockhampton District.

(3) The required crewing level is not 1 and 4, but the appliances are crewed with the standard crew of 1 and 3 at Rockhampton and 1 and 2 at both Thozet Road and North Rockhampton Fire Stations.

(4) In the past three months, all incidents in Rockhampton have been attended with the standard crews of 1 and 3 and 1 and 2 as detailed in response (3) above.

923. Workers Compensation Fund

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (13/9/96)—

What action does he intend to take to recover due premiums which are not being paid by many employers who refuse to accept their responsibilities to the Workers' Compensation fund?

Mr Santoro (11/10/96): In terms of the Workers' Compensation Act, employers are required to hold workers' compensation insurance to cover workers.

To ensure greater equity among employers, stiff penalties were introduced for employers found to be uninsured or to have underdeclared their wages.

These penalties were introduced from 1 July 1995, following an extensive advertising campaign and a six month moratorium on the penalties for those employers who advised the Board of their non-compliance.

Increased compliance activities were introduced at the same time and were aimed at ensuring employers were fully insured, this coincided with the application of the financial penalties. Six additional Compliance Officers were employed by the Board in regional areas in 1995/96.

As a result, a total of \$1.87 million in additional premium income was identified in 1995/96 for recovery from uninsured and underinsured employers.

The Kennedy Inquiry identified that a significant proportion of employers in some industries avoid their liability to pay workers' compensation premiums. Those employers try to circumvent the Act by classing their employees as subcontractors. To address this issue, Kennedy proposed to clarify "worker" within the legislation to mean persons working under the PAYE taxation system. Apprentices are paid within this system and will continue to be covered for workers' compensation as "workers".

The Kennedy Inquiry recommended that compliance resources be increased to ensure that equitable premium contributions are made by all employers and commitment has been given through the Budget process to increase resources for this purpose.

924. QE II Hospital

Ms SPENCE asked the Minister for Health (13/9/96)—

With reference to his statement in the House on 12 September that the QE II Hospital will shortly be up to its full capacity—

- (1) When will the QE II Hospital achieve a 160 bed capacity?
- (2) When will the 17 additional doctors, 16 allied health workers and additional 100 nurses commence work at the QE II?
- (3) Will he outline the use that will be made of the 5th floor of the QE II and the timetable for its implementation?

Mr Horan (11/10/96):

- (1) It is anticipated that the QE II Hospital will have 161 beds operating by March 1997, subject to the successful recruitment of staff.
- (2) There will be a progressive increase in medical, allied health and nursing staff to match increased activity at the QE II Hospital.
- (3) Approximately half of the floor space on the 5th floor of the QE II Hospital will be occupied by Divisional hospital and administrative staff, which will enable existing space on the ground floor (currently used for administrative staff) to be utilised for clinical services. The other half of the 5th floor will house an Aged Care Assessment Team (to be relocated from the PA Hospital where redevelopment is to occur),

and the Annerley Community Health Service (which is currently housed in substandard facilities).

926. Environment Department Privatisation

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Environment (13/9/96)—

With reference to the requirement of the Government's Budget Review Committee for each department to privatise at least one section of its operations—

- (1) Which section of the Department of Environment does he intend to offer up for privatisation?
- (2) Will he guarantee that no job losses from the department will occur as a result of this privatisation?
- (3) What department savings does he expect to make from this move?

Mr Littleproud (24/9/96): I am advised by the Honourable the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts that no such requirement has been made by the Cabinet Budget Review Committee.

Given the above, the remainder of the question is irrelevant.

927. Tyre Levy

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Environment (13/9/96)—

With reference to a growing storm of protest from the tyre industry towards his \$3 tyre levy—

- (1) How did he arrive at this figure?
- (2) Was a cost benefit analysis done on it?
- (3) What consultation occurred with the tyre industry?
- (4) Will the administration costs come from the levy?
- (5) Will the levy cover the tip disposal costs of tyres?
- (6) How much of the actual \$3 will find its way to the Department of the Environment?
- (7) How much will come from the levy to finalise the Waste Management Strategy?
- (8) How much will go towards finalisation of EPPs?
- (9) How much will go towards a waste regulation to deal with matters of litter, medical waste, landfill activities and hazardous waste?
- (10) How much will go towards identifying future landfill sites?
- (11) How much will go towards a cleaner production program?
- (12) Will farmers using off-road vehicles such as tractors be exempt from both the tyre and oil levy?

Mr Littleproud (1/10/96): There is no storm of protest, but there is legitimate concern in the community about waste following six years of Labor inaction on the issue.

- (1) The \$3 figure was derived from an assessment of the environmental costs associated with the use and disposal of tyres, and having regard to:

commercial rates charged by collectors and shredders;

information provided at meetings held with industry representatives;

typical landfill charges for the disposal of whole and shredded tyres;

typical vehicle operating costs; and

estimated administrative costs.

(2) No. However, the Department of Environment has worked in consultation for a number of years on the implementation of management systems that would provide long term management solutions for the disposal of waste tyres.

While the franchise scheme will raise an estimated \$8.0m in a full year from tyres, the financial and environmental impacts from tyre fires; the implication of tyres in the spread of mosquito borne diseases and the subsequent increase in morbidity rate; clean up costs from illegally disposed tyres; the loss of earnings as a result of fires; and the cost of the environmental management of the use and disposal of tyres, are estimated to exceed the anticipated income.

(3) The tyre industry has been consulted on a regular basis on mechanisms for the treatment and disposal of tyres leading up to the budgetary process. However, the only contact which took place during budget preparation was to determine the extent of the Queensland market.

(4) Yes.

(5) No. The franchise fee will support implementation of the Environmental Protection Act, implementation of the Queensland Waste Management Strategy and the provision of a financial assistance package for industry. Within the financial assistance package is a rebate program and part of this will provide funds to local government for tyre disposal. The extent to which the rebate will cover the disposal cost will vary because landfill charges vary from no charge to \$125 per tonne.

(6) All funds generated by the environmental franchise scheme will be allocated to the Environment Program within the Department of Environment.

(7) The Waste Management Strategy has been finalised, and \$2.5m in 1996-97 will be allocated to the Waste Management Branch for program delivery which will include phased implementation of the Strategy.

(8) An initial allocation of \$150,000 has been provided to assist in developing EPPs.

(9) An initial allocation of approximately \$550,000 has been provided to assist in developing a waste regulation.

(10) An initial allocation of around \$100,000 has been provided to assist in identifying future landfill sites.

(11) While a major thrust of the Environment Program is related to "cleaner production", some \$120,000 has been allocated specifically for cleaner production activities.

(12) No.

928. Water Supply, Bundaberg

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Economic Development and Trade and Minister Assisting the Premier (13/9/96)—

With reference to his comments in the Newsmail that the lack of water has stifled industry in Bundaberg—

Will he name the businesses and companies which have not set up in Bundaberg because they could not get water?

Mr Slack (10/10/96): The Honourable Member for Bundaberg would have only to read the extensive local media coverage of the critical shortage of water to appreciate the impact that this is having on the communities and industry of the Bundaberg region. Local Authorities in the Bundaberg region have also described the water supply shortage as "critical".

Lack of water has hampered industry development. The Honourable Member would appreciate the fact that the region's sugar and horticultural industries, for example, face significant problems as a result of water shortages.

The Queensland Government is determined to deliver a more dependable water supply to industry in the Bundaberg area through the construction of the Walla Weir. I look forward to the Commonwealth addressing its responsibilities and financially committing itself to the project.

930. National Park Fees

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Environment (13/9/96)—

With reference to his planned introduction of national park entry fees—

(1) Will parks which have been gazetted for claim or already claimed by traditional owners be exempt from this fee; if so, will this exemption apply to both European and Aboriginal visitors or only those with traditional links to the land?

(2) Will all island national parks be exempt from the fee; if not, how will the fee be collected at high visitor national park islands like Heron and Green?

(3) How will the fee be collected at parks like Noosa and Burleigh Heads?

(4) What percentage of park visitors does he believe will actually pay the entry fee on the honesty system he has put in place?

(5) What administration fee are commercial operators who sell the passes to receive for each of the levels of passes?

(6) What returns does he expect in the first, second and third years of operation?

(7) Why is he delaying the introduction of the entry fee for 6 months?

(8) Will fishermen traversing national parks to get to fishing grounds off parks like Fraser and Moreton Islands have to pay the entry fee?

Mr Littleproud (3/10/96):

(1) Increased use of National Parks has led to a need to introduce user charges. The situation was

exacerbated by inadequate funding for National Parks under the Labor Government. Many issues relating to native title legislation are still being explored. Special arrangements regarding ParkPass may be made for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in particular areas.

(2) Island National Parks are not exempt from the park entry fee. Fees will be collected by the following methods:

purchase of either an annual, holiday or day ParkPass in advance from any staffed Department of Environment office or sales outlet;

purchase of either an annual, holiday or day ParkPass in advance at an agency where these passes will be sold. Examples may be local retail outlets, tourist information centres or service stations.

(3) Fees at all Queensland parks will be collected by the following methods:

purchase of either an annual, holiday or day ParkPass in advance from any staffed Department of Environment office or sales outlet;

purchase of either an annual, holiday or day ParkPass in advance at an agency where these passes will be sold. Examples may be local retail outlets, tourist information centres or service stations.

(4) Since it is a legal requirement for park visitors to carry a valid ParkPass, all park visitors are expected to purchase one.

(5) Negotiations with commercial operators and sales outlets are not finalised. It is expected that many will stock ParkPasses as a service to their customers, in the same way that postage stamps or phonecards are carried by retailers, thus keeping administration fees to a minimum.

(6) The following gross returns are expected from the initiative:

Year 1—\$1.1 million

Year 2—\$4.5 million

Year 3—\$4.5 million

(7) Introduction of the entry fee has been set for 1 March 1997 to allow the public to become familiar with the system of pre-purchase of ParkPasses via a promotional campaign. It also allows for on-park awareness over the busy Christmas period while not adding to the financial burden associated with that time. Consultation with the tourism industry on the system's implementation can also be achieved during this period. The system will not apply to commercial operators until 1 January 1998.

(8) Fishermen traversing national parks on gazetted roads will not require a ParkPass. If the roads are not gazetted roads, they will require a ParkPass. Such roads are wholly maintained by Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service, and it is appropriate for users of the roads to contribute to the cost of maintenance.

931.National Park Fees

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Environment (13/9/96)—

With reference to charges to access national parks announced in the 1996-97 Budget—

(1) What national parks are situated within a 350km radius of Mackay?

(2) How much will it cost individuals and families to access each of these parks?

(3) How will these fees be collected?

Mr Littleproud (3/10/96): Increased use of National Parks has led to a need to introduce user charges. The situation was exacerbated by inadequate funding for National Park management under the Labor Government.

(1) There are 40 National Parks within a 350 km radius of Mackay. A list is attached.

(2) ParkPass fees are as follows:

Adult annual—\$20; Concession annual—\$10

Adult holiday—\$10; Concession holiday—\$ 5

Adult day—\$3; Concession day—\$2

Children and teenagers under 18 years old may enter parks free of charge.

(3) Fees will be collected by the following methods:

purchase of either an annual, holiday or day ParkPass in advance from any staffed Department of Environment office or sales outlet.

purchase of either an annual, holiday or day ParkPass in advance at an agency where these passes may be sold. Examples may be local retail outlets, tourist information centres or service stations.

National Parks within a 350 km radius of Mackay

Blackdown Tableland National Park; Blackwood National Park; Bowling Green Bay National Park; Brampton Island National Park; Bushy Island National Park; Byfield National Park; Cape Hillsborough National Park; Capricorn Coast National Park; Conway National Park; Curtis Island National Park; Dipperu National Park (Scientific); Dryander National Park; Epping Forest National Park (Scientific); Eungella National Park; Gloucester Island National Park; Goodedulla National Park; Holbourne Island National Park; Homevale National Park; Keppel Bay Islands National Park; Lindeman Islands National Park; Magnetic Island National Park; Mazeppa National Park; Minerva Hills National Park; Molle Islands National Park; Mount Jim Crow National Park; Narrien Range National Park; Newry Islands National Park; North East Island National Park; Northumberland Islands National Park; Peak Range National Park; Pioneer Peaks National Park; Reliance Creek National Park; Repulse Island National Park; Rundle Range National Park; Smith Islands National Park; South

Cumberland Islands National Park; Taunton National Park (Scientific); West Hill National Park; Whitsunday Islands National Park; Wild Duck Island National Park.

933. "Stoneleigh"

Mr BEATTIE asked the Minister for Environment (13/9/96)—

With reference to his recent media statements in which he stated that he first received advice from his department in August that the 130 year old cottage called "Stoneleigh" which was destroyed on the night of September 11, had heritage significance and was under threat of demolition and that he was powerless to protect the building because it was not on the Heritage Register—

(1) Why didn't he use his powers under the Queensland Heritage Act to issue a Stop Order and save the building?

(2) Is he aware of clause 58.1 of the Queensland Heritage Act which clearly states that a building only needs to have heritage significance for him to issue a Stop Order to prevent that significance being damaged?

(3) Is he aware that clause 58.1 makes no mention of a building needing to be on the Heritage Register for him to be able to issue a Stop Order?

(4) Why didn't he heed his department's advice in this regard and issue a Stop Order?

(5) Why did he deliberately mislead the media and the people of Queensland in stating that the Queensland Heritage Act was weak in this regard?

(6) Is it more a case of him having such little interest in protecting the heritage of this State, that he is totally ignorant of the legislation he is empowered to enforce?

(7) Will he now admit that he is the person responsible for the loss of "Stoneleigh", a priceless piece of Brisbane's heritage?

Mr Littleproud (1/10/96):

(1) No request was made to me either by a member of the public or the Department, or Mr Beattie the local Member for that matter, to exercise my powers under s.58.(1) of the Queensland Heritage Act 1992. The first briefing I received in relation to "Stoneleigh" was on 12 September 1996. It should be noted that the Brisbane City Council had placed a Stop Order on the building after consultation with the Department.

(2) I am aware that s.58.(1) only requires that a place be of cultural heritage significance for me to issue a "stop order".

(3) I am aware that a place does not need to be entered in the Heritage Register for me to be able to issue a "stop order" under s.58.(1) of the Act.

(4) I received no such advice from the Department on this issue until 12 September 1996, and was therefore not in a position to issue a "stop order" in relation to "Stoneleigh".

(5) I did not mislead the media or the people of Queensland, it is not misleading to say we could look at ways of strengthening the Act. If the Member had the interests of his electorate at heart, and had been genuinely interested in saving this building, he would have made representations or taken steps to have a listing considered earlier, even during the term of the Labor Government of which he was part.

(6) I am fully aware of my powers under the Queensland Heritage Act 1992 to protect the heritage of this State. I issued a "stop order" under s.58.(1) on 8 July 1996 in relation to a Heritage Registered place in Toowoomba threatened with demolition.

(7) No. However, the local Member should accept some responsibility for his lack of action.

934. Diversionary Centre, Townsville

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (13/9/96)—

With reference to the diversionary centre for people suffering alcohol abuse proposed for Townsville by the Goss Government and the 1995-96 monetary allocation set aside for the project and noting his previous statement that the monetary allocation was insufficient to allow the proposed facility to be built near Cleveland Youth Centre—

(1) Has the financial allocation been allowed to lapse or has it been carried over to 1996-97?

(2) Are there now sufficient funds available to proceed with the project by way of carry over and additional funds or by a new allocation?

(3) When does he expect planning for the facility to be finalised?

(4) When does he expect construction to commence?

(5) Does he intend to utilise the site or at least the general area previously recommended by the Ahern Government and later endorsed by the Goss Government?

(6) As a press release from the Minister for Health refers to a \$343,000 allocation for the alcohol and drug program for Townsville, is there a budgetary allocation from the Minister's Department to finance the 12-point plan previously agreed to by the Government to compliment the diversion centre; if so, how much?

(7) Is there a separate budgetary allocation for upgrading the Echlin Street facility for the frail aged?

Mr Lingard (26/9/96):

(1) The financial allocation has been carried over to 1996-97.

(2) Refer (1) above. There are sufficient funds to proceed with the project.

(3) No plans for the facility have, or can be drawn up, until all parties agree upon a suitable site. This is the

subject of ongoing local consultation between the State Government, Townsville City Council, and the indigenous community.

(4) This is dependent upon (3) above. Establishment of an interim facility at the Ki-Meta Shelter in Stanley Street opposite Hanran Park is now under way.

The Ki-Meta supported accommodation assistance program for the frail and aged is being transferred to Echlin Street under an agreement with the Directors of the Aboriginal and Islander Health Service.

(5) The initial cost associated with this site was well above \$760,000. In addition, there have been significant concerns expressed by local residents about this location. I am therefore reconsidering the suitability of this site.

(6) Part of this question should be directed to the Minister for Health.

Total funding of \$1,094,187 is available from my Department to support 6 elements of the agreed 12-point plan which have been endorsed after negotiations involving all parties in the context of recent Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission hearings.

(7) An agreement has been made with the Board of Directors of the Aboriginal and Islander Health Service to utilise and upgrade facilities at Echlin Street so they can be used for the care of the frail and aged.

A one off refurbishment grant of \$35,000 has been provided through my Department. Recurrent funding is being transferred from the previously operated Ki-Meta frail and aged care program.

936. Pesticide Levels in Oil

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Health (13/9/96)—

(1) Does the department carry out checks on cottonseed oil used in Queensland to ascertain what level of residue from pesticides is safe for public consumption?

(2) Is brominated oil allowed as an additive to fruit juices in Queensland?

Mr Horan (11/10/96):

(1) I have been advised that Queensland Health has not undertaken any survey of pesticide residue in cottonseed oil. However, Queensland Health participates in the Australian Market Basket Survey (AMBS) which examines a wide range of foods for pesticide and other contaminant levels. The 1990, 1992 and 1996 AMBS sampled vegetable oil specifically for pesticide residue. Cottonseed oil was not included in these samplings. However, sampling did include blended oils which may have incorporated cottonseed oil. I am advised that the 1990 and 1992 samplings revealed no pesticide residues in any vegetable oil. The results of the 1996 sampling survey are not yet available.

(2) Qld Health has informed me that The Australia New Zealand Food Authority's Food Standards

Code is the operating food standard for Queensland. Standard 02 of this Code—Fruit Juice and Related Products—allows for a range of substances to be added to fruit juice and related products. Brominated oil is not one of these substances.

938. Beenleigh-Redland Bay Road Interchange Closure, Loganholme

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (13/9/96)—

With reference to the closure of the Beenleigh-Redland Bay Road interchange with the Pacific Highway at Loganholme, for a 3 month period, on only seven (7) days notice, and the failure of his department to provide alternative access to the businesses in the large industrial estate based on Chetwynd Street and as this freeze on access to these businesses is already causing significant loss of business which may result in loss of jobs and the closure of some businesses—

(1) Why has temporary access to these businesses been denied?

(2) Why were they not consulted prior to this decision being made?

(3) Why were they only given seven (7) days notice of this closure?

(4) Did his department influence the decision of the contractor to reverse its decision to construct a temporary access to the Pacific Highway Service Road, after initially advising that they would, when becoming aware of the businesses plight?

(5) Why won't he support these businesses and their employees to maintain their livelihoods contrary to his public claims of concern for businesses and possible job losses as a result of freeway/Pacific Highway widening?

Mr Johnson (10/10/96):

(1) Temporary access to these business has not been denied. Properly signed alternative access via Bryants Road was in place prior to removing the "left in, left out" access to the Beenleigh—Redland Bay Road.

(2) Temporary access alterations to permit roadworks and road maintenance to be carried out occur every day of the week. It would be an unreasonable task to try to consult with every business or household when access is only being changed and not denied.

Normal practice, therefore, is to make the temporary arrangements and provide the necessary signage prior to removal of the usual access. In this instance, the normal practice was followed.

(3) Under the Conditions of Contract which apply to this project, the contractor is responsible for all public advice and consultation. While the notice of seven days given by the contractor complied with contractual obligations, it is clear that, given the scope and duration of the diversion, a greater period of notice would have been helpful. This point has been made strongly to the contractor.

(4) At no time did the contractor reverse its decision to construct a temporary access to the Pacific Highway Service Road, nor did the Department of Main Roads try to influence the contractor.

The temporary access road is on private property. Consequently, the property owner's consent must be obtained by the contractor prior to commencing construction. Negotiations with the landowner are in progress and construction will commence immediately consent is obtained by the contractor.

(5) Both Main Roads and the contractor are making every reasonable effort to minimise the impact of the roadworks construction which includes special measures as detailed above in the case of the Chetwynd Street industrial estate.

When the interchange on the Pacific Highway at the Beenleigh—Redland Bay Road is opened in a few months' time, access to the industrial estate will be greatly enhanced. Direct access to the Beenleigh—Redland Bay Road will be available from both highway carriageways, instead of only the southbound one at present, thereby providing a significant boost for business.

The problems associated with the construction works are temporary but the improved access is permanent. Therefore, it is clear that very real support is being provided for both the businesses and their employees.

939. Legal Profession Reform

Mr FOLEY asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (13/9/96)—

(1) What steps has he taken in relation to legal profession reform?

(2) Is he aware of attempts to reform the legal profession through the Council of Australian Governments?

(3) Is he concerned that his announced refusal to permit a person to be admitted as a legal practitioner, able to practise as both solicitor and barrister, may be in conflict with national competition principles and with the process of reform through the Council of Australian Governments?

(4) When will he finalise the Government's plans on legal profession reform and thereby enable the profession to plan its future with certainty?

Mr Beanland (9/10/96):

(1) I have obtained authority from Cabinet to implement changes improving the current complaints and discipline system governing solicitors. These changes will enable a wider range of matters to be investigated and dealt with, and will introduce a Legal Ombudsman who will have an independent power to bring charges against solicitors. A new disciplinary tribunal will have consumer representation, and will have wider powers than under the current arrangements, including the power to award compensation and make orders in relation to costs charged by solicitors.

I have also been involved in discussions on a national level, through the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General, in relation to the establishment of a national practising certificate scheme, the purpose of which will be to allow a lawyers entitled to practise in one state or territory to practise in another state or territory without any further admission protocol.

(2) Yes.

(3) No, I do not believe that the maintenance of the status quo in Queensland in terms of admission as a legal practitioner is in conflict with national competition principles or the process of reform through COAG.

(4) By announcing the Government's intention not to fuse the legal profession, any uncertainty as to the profession's future has been removed.

The issue of the national practising certificate scheme, which may impact on the profession, is currently before the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General, and has been the subject of discussions with the Law Council of Australia and the professional associations.

A separate issue of possible reform of business structures under which solicitors operate, has been the subject of discussion with the Queensland Law Society and will be further considered by the Government upon receipt of a further information which has been requested from the Society.

The changes to the complaints and disciplinary system for solicitors which have been approved by Cabinet will come before the Parliament before the end of this year.

940. Nundah Fire Station

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (13/9/96)—

With reference to Nundah Fire Station—

(1) What is the age of the current fire appliance?

(2) When will this appliance be replaced?

(3) What improvements are planned for this station (staffing, equipment, buildings)?

(4) Are all appliances currently staffed with the recommended safe level of one officer and three firefighters, on all shifts?

Mr Veivers (11/10/96):

(1) The current appliance was brought into commission in May 1980.

(2) The appliance is scheduled to be replaced by a new "Firepac" in December 1996. This replacement appliance will incorporate equipment not available on the existing appliance, namely, road accident rescue equipment, and a heavy duty spray and foam attachment to be used with the existing water monitor.

(3) No alterations to present staffing provisions are contemplated. Other than the innovations associated with the new "Firepac", equipment is to remain the

same. With regard to station buildings, no major refurbishment is planned; rather, the intention is to maintain the station at its current high standard.

(4) At the commencement of each holiday period, (approximately every 8 weeks), it is practice to staff each of the four shifts at the station with one officer and three firefighters. Because of leave requirements, a shift complement may reduce to a minimum of one officer and two firefighters.

941. Dakabin Railway Station

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (13/9/96)—

(1) What plans are in place for the upgrade of the Dakabin Railway Station?

(2) When will the upgrade commence?

Mr Johnson (10/10/96):

(1) Dakabin railway station was upgraded this year. The improvements involved:

provision of 7 metre high light towers with sodium vapour lights

rebitumening of the platform surface

The existing shelters will be maintained.

Queensland Rail has no program for the provision of a station building at Dakabin.

(2) These improvements were carried out earlier this year.

942. South East Freeway/Pacific Highway

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (13/9/96)—

With reference to the fact that the technical report on travel forecasts prepared by Veitch Lister Consulting for the draft Integrated Regional Transport Plan predicts that by the year 2011, traffic volumes on the outer ring road system, which includes the Pacific Highway, will be 24 per cent above its carrying capacity despite his announced widening of the highway and the upgrading of public transport infrastructure which have both been factored in and which he claims will solve South East Queensland's road network problems—

(1) Is his planned widening of the Pacific Highway/South east Freeway corridor simply a short term measure that will not even meet his 2011 time line?

(2) What effective long-term solutions does he now propose to ensure that this 24 per cent over-capacity does not eventuate?

Mr Johnson (10/10/96):

1. The travel forecasts in the Veitch Lister report were based on the assumption that past trends in travel would continue and no new transport capacity would be provided in the corridor. The forecasts gave a picture of the expected outcomes under a do-nothing scenario.

The planned upgrading of the South-East Freeway/Pacific Highway announced by the Government, not only provides additional capacity, but does it in a way that improves public transport and gives priority to vehicles with the highest occupancy. This will ensure that the demand forecasts in the Veitch Lister report suggesting that the corridor will be at capacity by 2011 do not eventuate. The upgrading to eight lanes was not factored into the demand forecasts in that report.

2. The upgraded highway, including busways and high occupancy vehicle lanes (HOV) will provide sufficient people carrying capacity to meet longer term travel needs in the corridor. The infrastructure provided will be supported by improvements to bus services and incentives to increase vehicle occupancies. This will ensure that the transport capacity lasts beyond 2011.

945. Environmental Protection Agency

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (13/9/96)—

With reference to a speech he gave to a Hervey Bay National Party breakfast on 22 August in which he stated that the number of businesses that were to be licensed under the EPA would fall from 15,000 under Labor to 7,000 under the Nationals—

(1) On what basis has he made this calculation?

(2) What justification did his committee give him for requiring 8,000 businesses to not require licensing?

(3) What criteria will be used to determine whether these 8,000 businesses are causing environmental harm?

(4) Who will make the decision whether these 8,000 businesses are not causing environmental harm?

(5) From which sectors of industry will these 8,000 businesses come?

(6) What form of registration or conditional approval will these 8,000 businesses be required to comply with?

(7) Will any charge be associated with this registration or conditional approval; if not, how will this work be funded?

(8) What level of licensing fees does he expect from licensing the 7,000 businesses?

(9) Is he satisfied that adequate funds will be in place to monitor the 7,000 licensed businesses, and enforce the EPA in regard to these promises?

(10) Does he intend to monitor the 8,000 unlicensed premises to ensure they continue to not pollute as originally assessed?

(11) What costs does he anticipate incurring by undertaking this work?

(12) Where are these funds coming from?

(13) How many staff does he intend to dedicate exclusively in 1996-97 to EPA monitoring and enforcement work?

Mr Littleproud (1/10/96):

(1) and (2) In making this estimate I have been influenced by the Recommendations of the Ministerial Advisory Committee I established earlier this year which made a strong recommendation that a number of very small businesses with insignificant environmental impacts should receive a conditional approval. They would still be regarded as environmentally relevant activities, but would not have to pay the annual licence fees as long as they complied with all other requirements of the Act and any reasonable site specific conditions set. Causing material or serious environmental harm would still be an offence, as it would be for any activity licensed or otherwise.

The Ministerial Advisory Committee did not set an exact number of environmentally relevant activities that would benefit from a conditional approval, but there was unanimous support for the recommendation.

(3) The criteria have not been finalised. I have asked the officers in the Department of Environment to implement this recommendation of the Ministerial Advisory Committee as soon as possible. The recommendation requires consultation with local government and industry. Initial discussions have occurred on the possibility of introducing conditional approvals as part of incentive licensing. A draft proposal has been prepared for Parliamentary Counsel to consider from a legislative perspective.

(4) The officers who are authorised under the Environmental Protection Act 1994 have been trained to identify material and serious environmental harm. The Department and Local Governments have authorised persons on staff.

(5) No sector of industry has been specified. The opportunity will extend to all businesses to demonstrate that they are not causing or posing a significant risk of material or serious environmental harm.

(6) The details of the requirements upon those businesses with a conditional approval have not been finalised. The information will be available to the public to ensure the process is accountable.

(7) No decision has been made on whether fees will be required for a conditional approval. Any fee would be nominal and the funding requirements would be negligible after the initial assessment is made.

(8) The revenue for the Department of Environment is not expected to be greatly affected because most of the environmentally relevant activities it administers would have few businesses that would qualify for a conditional approval.

(9) As most of the conditional approvals are likely to be administered by Local Governments, I am particularly interested to hear their reaction to a more detailed proposal. I do note that several Local Governments have passed resolutions setting fees well below the maximums set in the legislation. They would therefore appear to have some scope for negotiating appropriate fee levels.

(10) Monitoring by the Department and Local Governments will be in response to the results from the State-wide ambient monitoring program, the occurrence of environmental harm or public complaints. They will also do some monitoring of unlicensed premises as part of their overall administration of the Act.

(11) The costs of monitoring the performance of businesses with conditional approvals will be considerably less than the cost of licensing these activities especially where the general environmental duty is used to place much of the responsibility on the operator of the activity rather than on the administering authority.

(12) Funds have been provided in the 1996-97 Environmental Program Budget for such activity, with Local Government funding a matter for its own consideration.

(13) The organisation of work in the Regional Offices of the Department of Environment generally does not result in any staff being dedicated exclusively to monitoring and enforcement work. In the smaller offices, staff tend to cover all environmental functions, while in the larger offices, the individual officers tend to specialise on a number of industry sectors and cover all aspects of environmental management for those sectors. In 1996-97, the total number of inspectors and environmental officers in the Regional Offices is expected to increase to around 120, with work increasingly changing from a licensing focus to an environmental management focus.

948. Bayview Country Club Estate, Mount Cotton

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Natural Resources (13/9/96)—

(1) Is it true that the Bayview Country Club Estate at Mount Cotton will exceed the legal Deed of Agreement; if so, is the department supporting a council clearly in breach?

(2) Is the Education Department looking at a school site in Bayview next to a sewerage holding tank, a melaleuca swamp and a site which is difficult to access by public transport and is partially in the flood plain?

(3) Is the Department of Natural Resources valuing a property in Bayview Country Club which is made up of 60 hectares of rural non-urban and the remaining land parcel, according to the legal Deed of Agreement capable of only 6,000 square metre lots?

(4) Will a report, confirming that these issues are acknowledged in the valuation, be provided?

Mr Hobbs (30/9/96): The Deed of Agreement is a matter between the developer and the Redland Shire Council. The Department of Natural Resources has not been involved in any consultation between the Council and the developer in relation to the Agreement. To date, the Department's involvement is limited to a request by the developer to purchase a Reservation in Title for road purposes within part of

the area and the provision of valuation services to the Departments of Education and Environment.

The Department of Education is investigating the acquisition of a parcel of land of approximately six ha, of which about .75 ha is covered by melaleuca.

A sewerage pumping station is located opposite this site on the southern side of a proposed connector road within the estate.

The Department of Natural Resources is providing valuation services for the Departments of Education and Environment involving parts of the Bayview Estate. The assessments are being made in consultation with Redland Shire Council planners and the developers.

A full report and valuation detailing a basis and valuation rationale will be prepared as part of the Department's standard valuation practice and will address all relevant influences on property values.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**867. Public Housing, Inala Electorate**

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (11/9/96)—

With reference to the two very large vacant blocks of land situated at Biota Street, Inala and at Abelia Street, where the department has removed or demolished a number of existing dwellings to provide new pensioner accommodation, and medium density accommodation on the vacant sites—

(1) Will the new buildings be constructed; if so, when will construction commence?

(2) If not, what does the department intend to do with the vacant land?

Mr Connor (14/10/96): The Department is currently investigating the future use of the site.

879. Public Housing Rentals

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (11/9/96)—

With reference to his Ministerial Statement of 5 September where he discussed varying private sector rents between areas and as the proposed public housing scheme devised by his Federal Liberal counterpart will remove competition in the rental area by the abolition of a public housing construction program—

Will he and his Government take steps to enforce rental price controls to protect the less fortunate in our community?

Mr Connor (14/10/96): Rent controls have not been considered by this Government.

887. Rural and Regional Development Initiatives

Mr MULHERIN asked the Premier (12/9/96)—

(1) Will he provide a summary of any rural and regional development initiatives which have been implemented by his Government since taking office, that is, those initiatives attributable to the Coalition Government which have funding allocations in place and those which have been fully operationalised?

(2) Will he provide a list of all proposed new rural and regional development initiatives which he intends to implement during this term and how much he estimates each initiative will cost?

(3) Will he give a commitment to compensate regional communities for some of the services to be lost as a result of the Howard Government's decision to close down the Regional Development Division; if so, which services will he be targeting as priority areas?

Mr Borbidge (14/10/96):

(1) At the time of the Government coming to office early in 1996, many programs targeted at rural and regional Queensland were in place. One of the first priorities for the Coalition Government was to reassess existing programs and determine those areas in need of urgent review. Consequently, programs targeted at rural and regional Queensland are now refocused on addressing priority needs of

communities to maximise their opportunities for economic and social development. The response to Question 2 outlines some of the major initiatives included in the 1996/97 Budget which are targeted at rural and regional Queensland. These improved initiatives are more in tune with the Government's "back to basics" policy.

(2) This Government places a high priority on ensuring much needed services are provided to rural communities and to stimulating a rural resurgence through innovative regional development programs. The recent State Budget has been welcomed by primary producers and country business people alike. The following list from the Budget Papers gives an indication of some of the many programs and assistance packages initiated and implemented by this Government to assist in rural recovery and significantly enhance regional economic and social development:

\$41M for rail, road and water infrastructure to support development of a sugar industry on Atherton Tableland.

\$4M to upgrade and reopen Mareeba—Einasleigh railway line to promote tourism and serve rural communities.

\$1M for an Outreach Allied Health Services program to enhance health services in rural communities.

\$3.5M for North Queensland Campus of Queensland Police Academy.

\$1.8M to establish a private forestry plantation industry.

\$10.2M to drought response and post drought recovery.

\$2M to the Queensland Trade Assistance Scheme to assist small and medium sized Queensland businesses to participate in international trade.

\$2.8M for extension of the operations of Department of Economic Development and Trade to regional centres throughout Queensland.

\$1M annually to the Investment Attraction Program to seek out major new investments for Queensland.

\$5.3M for Regional Economic Development and Planning. A new Regional Development Scheme is to be prepared to integrate existing regional economic development and land use planning initiatives into one package.

The Enterprise Centre Network for regional business development is to be expanded to integrate services to facilitate employment creation.

Department of Economic Development and Trade has commissioned a report into the infrastructure requirements of Cloncurry Shire in the light of mining investment in North West Queensland.

Department of Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry has approved the appointment of a specialist to assist the deer industry to identify and solve industry development problems.

Two additional regional Development Officers at Gympie and Atherton for Farm Forestry development.

A further 3 Rural and Leadership and Business Development Programs across the State.

Office of Rural Communities will conduct Rural Enterprise Workshops in country areas to foster development of farm/home based cottage style small businesses.

Conduct a Rural Issues Research and Development Conference and associated seminars.

Conduct a Small Towns Study to determine a set of essential services necessary for social and economic development in small country towns where service gaps exist.

\$50M for a Rural and Regional Housing Assistance Program.

\$8.9M for Crisis Accommodation throughout the State.

(3) The Federal Government Regional Development Division did not provide direct services but rather provided funding for a range of development initiatives. Advice is that the Regional Development Program has been abolished in a move to eliminate duplication with State and local government programs. The Honourable Peter Costello MP, Treasurer, advises in his Meeting Our Commitments Statement that whilst the Howard Government has decided not to continue funding for regional development programs, it has still maintained a strong commitment to Regional Australia with some \$80M allocated to meet existing regional development programs in the budget. Full commitments to Regional Australia are outlined in "Rebuilding Regional Australia" statement of 20 August 1996.

State Government funding will be provided in 1996/97 for regional planning initiatives. Under the Department of Local Government and Planning incorporating Office of Rural Communities these include:

\$245,000—FNQ 2010 Regional Planning Project, a major exercise in cooperative planning between Government, key business, primary production, environmental and community groups.

\$300,000—Cape York Peninsula Land Use Study (CYPLUS), to develop a set of principles to guide future decision making on Cape York; a set of integrated strategies to address key economic, social and environmental issues; recommendations for implementation; and complete a comprehensive public consultation and participation program.

\$190,000—Townsville/Thuringowa Strategy Plan, will provide a comprehensive plan to more effectively service future urban growth and position Townsville to capitalise on future economic development opportunities.

\$5,000—Gulf Local Authorities Development Association (GLADA), continued State Government support despite Commonwealth funding withdrawal.

\$490,000—Wide Bay Burnett Regional Planning Project, the primary aim being to create a Regional Growth Management Framework which focuses on providing the region with urban and rural planning coordination at all levels; coordinated approach to regional development issues; integrated policies to support regional economic growth; development of a preferred regional infrastructure program and creating information systems to support planning and decision making.

\$240,000—SEQ 2001 Key Centres Project, to identify key growth centres for development assistance in preparing Centre Development Plans to enhance economic and employment opportunities in the region.

The Business Advisors for Rural Areas (BARA) Program. Commonwealth BARA funding has been withdrawn for 8 BARA positions in this financial year. Funding for the remaining 9 Commonwealth funded positions will continue to 30 June 1997.

As the Department of Tourism, Small Business and Industry (TSBI) along with the Office of Rural Communities consider the BARA program to be one of the most cost effective advice programs available to small business in rural and remote areas, TSBI plans to pick up the \$350,000 funding shortfall for this financial year to enable a consolidated BARA delivery program.

888. Public Housing, Maryborough

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (12/9/96)—

With reference to the former Labor Government's planned refurbishment and re-development of small units in Jupiter Street, Maryborough into larger more suitable accommodation and the construction of units on a site already cleared and ready for development on the corner of Sussex and Tooley Streets and as these new units would assist in reducing the already long waiting list for public housing in Maryborough—

Will the Coalition Government carry on the redevelopment of the units in Jupiter Street, and the construction of units on the site on the corner of Sussex and Tooley Streets as planned by the previous Labor Government?

Mr Connor (14/10/96): The project at 150 Jupiter Street Maryborough is budgeted to have an expenditure of \$250,000 towards the refurbishment of these units this financial year.

The site at Sussex and Tooley Streets Maryborough is scheduled on the 1996/97 Capital Works Program for the construction of a duplex comprising 1 x 2 bedroom dwelling and 1 x 3 bedroom dwelling.

894. Public Housing, Townsville

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (12/9/96)—

With reference to his statement that a record number of housing units will be constructed in 1996 and also

to the residential/urban renewal project presently being undertaken in the Townsville suburb of Garbutt and also proposed at Gulliver—

(1) Does he intend to continue and complete this excellent project in Townsville commenced by the Goss Government; if so, what funds are allocated to the project in the 1996-97 Budget?

(2) How many dwelling units does he expect to be completed in Garbutt in 1996-97?

Mr Connor (14/10/96):

(1) Construction of new public housing at Garbutt and Gulliver is continuing. It is proposed that in 1996/97 approximately \$2.775M will be committed to new construction.

(2) In Garbutt, 21 dwellings will be commenced during 1996/97. It is anticipated that the majority of these projects will be completed within the 1996/97 financial year.

903.Public Housing, Bulimba Electorate

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (12/9/96)—

(1) When will the construction of departmental units at 14 Lytton Road Bulimba commence?

(2) How many and what type of units will be constructed on this site?

(3) When is it anticipated that the work will be completed?

(4) If there is no plan to commence building in the foreseeable future, what plans does his department have for this site?

(5) Is he aware that adjoining Oxford Street is currently being enhanced by the Brisbane City Council under the Suburban Centre Improvement Centre Project and they wish to ensure that these proposed units are taken into account with their planning?

Mr Connor (14/10/96):

(1) The project is not currently included in the 1996-97 Capital Works Program. It will be considered on its merits for the following year.

(2) The mix of units will reflect the minimum wait times in Bulimba.

(3) The completion time will depend on the start time.

(4) The project is still under consideration.

(5) My Department is aware of the work being undertaken by the Council in Oxford Street.

905.Public Housing, Sandgate

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (12/9/96)—

Will he advise (a) the type of Public Housing to be built in 4th Avenue Sandgate, (b) the number of units to be built and (c) expected completion date of the project?

Mr Connor (14/10/96):

(1) Two bedroom public rental accommodation.

(2) The project comprises 4 attached houses.

(3) The expected completion date is 16 January 1997.

912.Public Housing, Mount Gravatt Electorate

Ms SPENCE asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (12/9/96)—

What is the location, type and cost of the new public housing to be constructed in the Mount Gravatt electorate in 1996-97?

Mr Connor (14/10/96): It is proposed that 42 dwellings be constructed in Mount Gravatt Electorate in 1996/97.

The types of dwellings are as follows:

4 attached houses

4 cluster houses

12 senior units

22 apartments

These dwellings are to be constructed at Craddock Street, Holland Park, costing an estimated \$2.7 million. Eight of these dwellings will be used to house persons with a disability.

916.QTTC; Sunlover Holidays

Mr FOURAS asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry (12/9/96)—

With reference to the growing state of confusion and uncertainty in the tourist industry resulting from extra charges, board changes and review of the operation of the QTTC and Sunlover Holidays—

How can he justify the broken promise by the Government to lift tourism funding by \$10m?

Mr Davidson (14/10/96): After years of leading the nation Queensland's tourism performance in recent years under the previous State Government has fallen behind in some key areas. This government in its first budget has committed to addressing this challenge by increasing the budget for the QTTC by \$1.9m from \$27,985,000 in 1995/96 to \$29,885,000 in 1996/97. The QEC budget has also received an increase in funding of \$714,000 to \$2,434,000.

Funding of \$3,211,000 has been provided for the establishment of the Office of Tourism and there is a total increase of over \$8m in funding for tourism in Queensland before taking into account any special funding.

In only its first budget this government has kept its commitment to fostering the growth of the tourism industry in Queensland.

919.Development, North-West Queensland

Mr McGRADY asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (13/9/96)—

With reference to the development taking place in the North West of our State and the massive financial benefits that the Queensland economy will receive—

What did her Budget do for the people and industry of the North West?

Mrs Sheldon (14/10/96): The 1996-97 Budget provides a vast range of benefits to the people and industries in the North West of Queensland. Major initiatives include:

the completion and commissioning of the North West Queensland water pipeline that will run for 113 kilometres from the Julius Dam to the Ernest Henry mine;

\$5 million for widening and rehabilitation works on the Barkly Highway between Cloncurry and the Northern Territory border;

deepening of the entrance channel to the Karumba port; and

commencement of construction of a 220 kV power line from the Mica Creek Power Station to proposed mines at Ernest Henry and Cannington.

Full details of all the initiatives and commitments contained in the 1996-97 Budget for the people and industries in North West Queensland will need to be sought from individual Ministers.

921. Woodchip Export Industry

Mr PEARCE asked the Premier (13/9/96)—

With reference to the support his Ministers for Natural Resources and Primary Industries have given Queensland Hardwood Resources application for an export license for native hardwood woodchips from Queensland—

Did he give the environment movement a commitment prior to the Mundingburra by-election that the Coalition would not support a woodchip industry based on native forests in Queensland nor would it support an export woodchip industry based on native forest; if so, does he intend to honour this commitment, overrule his two Ministers, and oppose the application by Queensland Hardwood Resources?

Mr Borbidge (14/10/96): The Honourable Ministers for Natural Resources and Primary Industries advise that they have not provided support to the application of Queensland Hardwood Resources to the Federal Government for an export license for native hardwood woodchips from Queensland.

925. State Government Land, Cannon Hill

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (13/9/96)—

(1) What plans does his department have for the site owned by his department, originally designated as a proposed school site on Richmond Road, Cannon Hill?

(2) Is this site still being considered for a joint housing development as was originally announced in 1992?

(3) Will he give an assurance that no action will be taken, including the selling off of this site, without prior consultation with myself and local residents?

Mr Connor (15/10/96):

(1) Future action in respect of the former school site at Richmond Road, Cannon Hill has not yet been determined.

(2) Future action has not been determined yet.

(3) Should the land be sold and therefore rezoned, the public, including yourself, will have the opportunity to provide input in the normal way.

929. Land Tax Assessments

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (13/9/96)—

With reference to projected Land Tax receipts for 1996-97 (\$220m), a decline of 2.8 per cent on 1995-96 receipts, which is explained in Budget Paper No 2 as "primarily due to a reduction in assessments outstanding as at the end of 1995-96"—

What was the level of outstanding assessments at the end of (a) 1990-91, (b) 1991-92, (c) 1992-93, (d) 1993-94, (e) 1994-95 and (f) 1995-96?

Mrs Sheldon (14/10/96): Details of outstanding Land Tax assessments at the end of 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 were 7,043 (15.1%), 2,222 (4.8%), and 807 (1.7%) respectively. Details of the number of outstanding Land Tax assessments prior to 1993-94 are not available.

932. Public Housing, Sandgate

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (13/9/96)—

Have tenders been called for the public housing project planned for 7th Avenue Sandgate; if so, has a successful tenderer been approved and what is the completion date for the project?

Mr Connor (15/10/96): No.

935. Public Housing, Gladstone Electorate

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (13/9/96)—

In spite of new arrangements with the Commonwealth, what plans are in place in 1996-97 for the electorate of Gladstone in relation to (a) the number of houses to be built, (b) the number of pensioner units proposed and (c) the number of flats or other housing facilities?

Mr Connor (15/10/96):

(1) The 1996/97 Capital Works Program makes provision for eight dwellings to be constructed or purchased in the Gladstone electorate. Five three-bedroom detached houses will be provided at Boyne Island/Tannum Sands and one five-bedroom detached house in Gladstone, while another two two-bedroom duplex units have been purchased at Boyne Island. Three of the detached houses for Boyne Island will be constructed by local apprentices under the Housing Industry Trade Training Scheme. The five bedroom house will be provided to house persons with a disability.

(2) There are no additional pensioner (seniors) units to be provided in the Gladstone electorate in 1996/97. Eight units from the 1995/96 program were completed in September 1996 and, with the addition of the two two-bedroom duplex units mentioned above, wait times have been reduced to between 13 and 20 months.

(3) Current wait times for other categories of housing are:

- 1 bedroom (non-seniors)—13-21 months
- 2 bedrooms—5-38 months
- 3 bedrooms—3-51 months
- 4 bedrooms—12-24 months
- greater than 4 bedrooms—14-24 months

Wait times are used to determine the allocation of Capital Works projects to particular locations. My policy has been to target households waiting 42 months or more. This criterion has been applied in determining the 1996/97 Capital Works program for the Gladstone electorate.

In addition to the above, the States \$110.5 million Community Housing Program, including \$93.6 million for the building of 992 additional homes, has the potential to provide additional housing.

937.Public Service Bill

Ms BLIGH asked the Premier (13/9/96)—

With reference to recent debate about the drafting of the Public Service Bill—

- (1) Was a consultant contracted to draft any versions, or any part of the Bill; if so, how much was paid for these consultancy services?
- (2) How many versions of this Bill were drafted by the consultant?
- (3) At what point was the Draft Bill forwarded to the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel?

Mr Borbidge (14/10/96):

- (1) A consultant was contracted to prepare a discussion draft of the Bill. The amount paid was \$9,000.
- (2) 4.
- (3) The Discussion Draft was forwarded on 16 April 1996.

943.State Purchasing Council

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (13/9/96)—

With reference to the State Purchasing Council which faced a very hostile business sector in Townsville on 12 September where tempers flared because there is no representation from Townsville on the council and because this Government is selecting large overseas companies to supply goods ahead of local suppliers—

- (1) Will he move immediately to appoint someone from Australia's largest city in the tropics to the council and thus end his perceived prejudice against Townsville?
- (2) Is he prepared to reaffirm his earlier commitment that 90 per cent of the sub-contract work on the Deeragun and Willows schools will go to local companies?

Mr Connor (15/10/96):

- (1) Representation on the State Purchasing council currently reflects the recommendations of member organisations to the Minister.

(2) We have urged contractors to use local suppliers and subcontractors wherever possible.

944.Mr A. Callaghan

Mr WELLS asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (13/9/96)—

With reference to the opinion of Mr Morris QC relating to the appointment of Mr Callaghan to the Library Board, which was dated 3 days after the Government Gazette announcing the appointment and to the fact that she has tabled this ex post facto opinion—

- (1) Did she receive advice from Crown Law prior to the appointment?
- (2) Did she receive advice from any other legal source of any kind or nature whatever; if not, why not?
- (3) If so, will she table all the advice she received including that received before the appointment, just as she has tabled the opinion she received after the appointment?

Mrs Sheldon (14/10/96): All advice I sought and received concerning the appointment of Mr Callaghan was either tabled (as acknowledged by Mr Wells) or outlined in hansard in response to an earlier Question on Notice directed to me by Mr Foley MLA.

946.Reef Tax

Mrs BIRD asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry (13/9/96)—

With reference to Federal Government's Reef Tax—

- (1) When did he first speak to Federal Ministers Hill and Moore about the implications on Queensland tourism operators?
- (2) What date did he send his letter of complaint?
- (3) What were the Ministers' responses?

Mr Davidson (14/10/96): My Ministerial staff first spoke to Ministers Hill and Moore regarding the planned increase in the Environmental Management Charge on 21 August and I wrote to those Ministers on this subject on 30 August.

The letters which I read in Parliament to Ministers Hill and Moore were sent on 30 August.

No written response has yet been received.

947.Post-Natal Clinic, Ipswich

Mr LIVINGSTONE asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (13/9/96)—

With reference to a story in the Queensland Times on 13 September in relation to the pending closure of a post-natal clinic in Ipswich and as she is the Minister responsible for women's affairs and Treasurer with the biggest slush fund in the history of Queensland (\$259m)—

Will she direct Treasury to urgently allocate funds for this very worthy cause?

Mrs Sheldon (14/10/96): Funding decisions within Queensland Health are the prerogative of my colleague, the Honourable Mike Horan, Minister for Health. However, I am pleased to inform you that the Day Stay Centre at the Ipswich Community Health Centre will continue to operate on a full-time basis. Following the receipt of a one-off grant to conduct this service as a pilot project in 1995-96, the service was evaluated and found to be effective in meeting a strong need for assistance with post-natal difficulties.

949. Kennedy Inquiry

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (8/10/96)—

- (1) Did the Kennedy Inquiry not address the total cost of workplace injuries to the Queensland community which he now concedes at \$3.5 billion per annum?
- (2) Why is the Government attacking the rights of the victims rather than the injuries themselves and the reckless employers who cause them?
- (3) Were statistics like 132 employers (out of a total of 189,000) being responsible for 30 per cent of the common law claims not disclosed by the Workers' Compensation Board until the end of the inquiry?
- (4) Did the Kennedy Inquiry not address this issue that a small number of employers are responsible for a huge proportion of claims?
- (5) Did Mr Kennedy acknowledge that the terms of reference of his inquiry were not wide enough to investigate the real cause of the problem namely why accident and injuries occur in the first place?
- (6) How many injury claims were there in Queensland in 1994-95 and 1995-96?
- (7) As to each period, what percentage of employers (compared to the total number of Queensland employers) were responsible for those claims?

Mr Santoro (16/10/96):

(1) The \$3.5 billion figure which was estimated by the Industry Commission includes not only the direct costs of workplace injury but other indirect costs such as staff replacement costs, loss of skilled staff and productivity decreases. The direct costs are met by the premiums paid by Queensland employers of approximately \$0.5 billion annually.

Mr Kennedy's recommendations to address the direct costs of workers' compensation by returning the scheme to full funding will flow on to reducing the indirect costs to the Queensland community. Insurance arrangement changes and workplace rehabilitation requirements will ensure employers, especially, become committed to reducing workplace injury and implementing appropriate risk/injury management procedures. Prevention of fraud, which was also a strong focus in the Report, will also reduce the cost of workplace injury.

(2) The burden of achieving a fully funded workers' compensation scheme is to be shared by all

stakeholders. There will be incentives for employers to reduce workplace injury. Employers whose workers are injured will be financially motivated by the introduction of new claims experience based insurance products. Legislation will also require employers to implement Workplace Rehabilitation programs to assist injured workers to return to meaningful work.

Mr Kennedy also made many references to the Division of Workplace Health and Safety and the need to dramatically strengthen emphasis on targeting, inspecting and prosecuting employers with poor safety records. This government has approved a review of the Division with Terms of Reference calling for recommendations on how to improve compliance with workplace health and safety legislation and standards.

(3) No. Statistics on all workers' compensation claims and injuries are readily available from the Board or the Government Statistician.

As you have previously been advised, the figure quoted relates to statutory claims and not common law claims. WCBQ statistics show that in 1994/95, 132 Queensland employers were responsible for approximately 30% of all statutory claims and approximately 27% of all common law claims. It must be noted that these 132 employers comprise some of the largest employers in Queensland, and contributed approximately 30% of workers' compensation premium for the corresponding period. Thus their claims performance is commensurate with their premium contributions.

(4) Mr Kennedy makes reference in the report to a number of Queensland employers who have unsatisfactory workplace health and safety records and makes recommendations for change. However, these are not the same 132 employers referred to in (3).

(5) No. Mr Kennedy said (page 3) "The Inquiry's terms of reference presented an opportunity to review the entire process from accident prevention in the workplace, through to rehabilitation and compensation of injured workers." Term of Reference 4(b) asks the Inquiry to report on whether there is adequate incentive to encourage safety in industry. Chapter 11 of Mr Kennedy's report is devoted to Workplace Health and Safety for which he recommends several changes dealing with the prevention of accidents and injury. It is anticipated that the review into workplace health and safety will address these issues in detail.

(6) There were 100,530 statutory workers' compensation claims lodged in 1994/95 and 93,008 in 1995/96.

(7) Of all employers, 11% were responsible for claims in 1994/95 and 10% in 1995/96.

950. Hospital Budgets

Mrs EDMOND asked the Minister for Health (8/10/96)—

For all key public hospitals in Brisbane and regional Queensland (a) what was the estimated budget for 1995-96, (b) the actual expenditure for 1995-96 and (c) what is the estimated budget for 1996-97?

Mr Horan (31/10/96): It is surprising that in Opposition, the Member for Mount Coot-tha seems to have become obsessed with hospital budgets and Health expenditure, as when they were in government, she and her party showed little evidence of concern for them and left the incoming government with a two year legacy of budget overruns.

In regard to the details of the question:

(a) and (b)

See attached Table for hospital budget and expenditure for 1995-96.

(c) Information on estimated hospital budgets for 1996-97 is not available until the 1996-97 budget process has been completed. Extensive processes have to be undertaken before 1996-97 hospital budgets will be able to be comparable to or be representative of final/estimated 1996-97 budgets. The following budget processes need to occur before advice can be provided on estimated 1996-97 hospital budgets:

- (i) Corporate Office updates 1996-97 interim District budgets after negotiations have been undertaken with various units of the Commonwealth Department of Health and Family Services to finalise Commonwealth Budget allocations (October);
- (ii) Throughout the year, Corporate Office assesses distribution of unallocated funds/initiatives (eg waiting list incentives) based on agreed performance targets, etc (October-June);
- (iii) Districts, using their global budgeting position, assess funds provided by Corporate Office and allocate 1996-97 interim budgets to facilities including hospitals (late September/October);
- (iv) Hospitals and other major facilities, using their global budgeting position, assess funds provided by their District and allocate budgets to divisions/cost centres (October);
- (v) Throughout the year, Districts (and facilities including hospitals via Districts) advise Corporate Office of claims on funds held by Corporate Office or funds to be obtained from Queensland Treasury (eg budget offsets), Commonwealth or other sources (October-June);
- (vi) Monthly claims are made by Districts, where appropriate, to access Hospital Access Bonus Pool funds (October-June);
- (vii) Throughout the year, Corporate Office allocates minor remaining funds, obtained during the year by Corporate Office, to Districts (October-June); and
- (viii) Year ends and 1996-97 position finalised (30 June).

As I detailed to the Estimates Committee G, 1996-97 hospital/facility budgets are not provided or maintained by Corporate Office, but by District Managers. Most District Managers, as individually detailed in the Answer to Question on Notice No 2 taken during the Estimates Committee G hearing,

have approved and distributed 1996-97 interim budgets to their hospitals/facilities. However, these 1996-97 interim budgets are far from finalised as not all the processes outlined above have been completed (i.e. current interim budgets are not reflective of final budgets).

Even when budgets are first provided by District Managers to facilities/hospitals, these 1996-97 interim budgets cannot be validly compared with the previous year's expenditure or budget because:

there has been a substantial reorganisation within Queensland Health, moving from Regions to Districts, which has lead to associated funding adjustments; and

there is approximately 100 million dollars in funding yet to be distributed by Corporate Office to Districts (eg waiting list incentives, Commonwealth funds, etc) and subsequently from Districts to hospitals/facilities.

(Note: It is not cost effective for Corporate Office to maintain lower level budgets (eg at hospital or lower level) and District Managers have the capacity to distribute funds on priorities assessed at the local level for budget base allocated funds whilst special allocations such as Mental Health funding is restricted to be spent on that purpose.)

Districts (and facilities/hospitals within Districts) are currently in the process of analysing budget details provided to them by Corporate Office. Estimated facility/hospital budgets cannot be determined until after such reviews are completed and negotiations with the Director-General on issues such as performance targets are concluded.

953.Strategic Plan, Redland Shire Council

Mr MACKENROTH asked the Minister for Local Government and Planning (8/10/96)—

With reference to the proposed new strategic plan for the Shire of Redlands—

- (1) Will she allow the council to change the zoning on certain lands within the Bayview Country Club Estate from 6000m² allotments to 600m² allotments?
- (2) Is she aware that this is in breach of the deed of agreement between the council and the developer?
- (3) Will the proposed change in this zoning be in contravention of the State planning policy for the Koala Coast?

Mrs McCauley (16/10/96):

(1) It is understood the Redland Shire Council is currently negotiating with the developer changes to the Deed of Agreement associated with the Bayview development. At this point in time there has been no application lodged with my Department for a change in the zoning of the subject land. If and when a rezoning application is lodged with my Department, I will consider the proposal in accordance with my responsibilities under the Local Government (Planning and Environment) Act 1990 prior to taking a recommendation to the Governor in Council. It would be inappropriate for me to comment on any

proposed changes to the Bayview development until a rezoning (if required) is received and assessed, amongst other things, in light of any objections received and the Council's planning scheme.

Since there is no rezoning proposal before me at this time there is no basis for me to allow or not to allow any proposed change in zoning associated with the Bayview development.

(2) As already stated, since there is no rezoning application before me which provides the basis of any change in zoning for this site, it is inappropriate for me to comment. You can be assured however, that if or when an application to change the zoning of the subject land is received, it will be assessed by officers of my Department for compliance with Council's planning scheme prior to my taking a recommendation to the Governor in Council.

(3) Bayview Country Club Estate is located within the Koala Conservation Area, identified by the State Planning Policy 1/95 (SPP1/95). As you would know, SPP1/95 contains provisions which recognise existing development commitments to ensure the policy principles are not applied retrospectively.

Notwithstanding this, should a rezoning application be received from Redland Shire Council, I will consider the proposal in accordance with the principles of the State Planning Policy and any other relevant matters prior to taking a recommendation to the Governor in Council.

954. Wooroora Dam; Koombooloomba Dam

Mr MILLINER asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (8/10/96)—

With reference to his alternative plan for the ill-conceived Tully Millstream project—

- (1) On what watercourse will the Wooroora Dam be built?
- (2) What area of land and habitat types will be inundated by the Wooroora Dam?
- (3) What will be the capacity when full?
- (4) Will an environmental impact study be undertaken for the dam?
- (5) How much of the 16 km underground pipeline to Koombooloomba Dam will traverse the Wet Tropics World Heritage area?
- (6) Will any of the power lines from the 300mw peak load power station traverse the World Heritage area; if so, have corridors yet been identified?

Mr Gilmore (1/11/96):

(1) There is no current proposal to supply an existing or future hydro electric power station in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area from a proposed Wooroora Dam. Some information on the original proposal is available from the September 1988 Environmental Audit Report prepared for the Tully Millstream Hydro Electric Scheme Feasibility Investigation. In that 1988 proposal, the Tully Millstream Project proposed to construct the Wooroora Dam on Blunder Creek approximately 0.5 km downstream of the Oaky Creek junction.

(2) In the 1988 proposal, the Wooroora Dam was planned to have a spillway level at EL 704.5 and at the full level would cover 2,400 hectares. The Audit Report indicated the proposed area of inundation comprised approximately 35% tall open forest, 50% open woodland and 15% grassland. Approximately half of the tall open forest area had been previously cleared and had regrown. All of the area had been subject to logging and is predominantly cleared grazing land.

(3) The water storage corresponding to a spillway level of EL704.5 would be 430,000 megalitres. The gross storage volume of a proposed Wooroora dam would be determined during a feasibility study.

(4) The matter of an environmental impact study would be determined by the Minister for Natural Resources as any such proposed dam construction is not within the jurisdiction of the Mines and Energy portfolio.

(5) In the 1988 proposal, the transfer of water from Wooroora Dam for hydro electric purposes was to be via an underground tunnel. Approximately 8 to 10 km of the tunnel would have passed under the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. If the Wooroora Dam was constructed and a proposal to supply water for hydro electric generation was developed, the tunnel route and length would depend on the size of the dam and the location of the power station would be subject to further investigation.

(6) If it becomes necessary to construct new powerlines through the World Heritage Area, existing cleared transmission corridors would be used.

955. Commonwealth Dental Health Program

Mr NUNN asked the Minister for Health (8/10/96)—

With reference to the cessation of the Commonwealth Dental Health Program referred to in the State Health Budget Papers—

- (1) What amount was lost from the Commonwealth?
- (2) How many staff, both part-time and full-time will be lost as a result?
- (3) What are the current waiting lists for the Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Brisbane metropolitan, Maryborough, Bundaberg, Gladstone, Rockhampton, Mackay, Townsville, Cairns and western health districts of Queensland?
- (4) When will funding allocated in this State Budget of \$10m and remaining Federal monies of \$9.9m be totally expended?

Mr Horan (31/10/96):

(1) For 1996-97, the total amount lost through cessation of the Commonwealth Dental Health Program is \$10 million.

(2) It is estimated that up to 25% of the total workforce of 1,200 could have been lost through cessation of Commonwealth Dental Health Program without supplementation. However, the State Government in the 1996/97 Budget has provided such supplementation in the amount of \$9.9million

which will preclude any staff losses in 1996/97 from lack of funding.

(3) The current waiting lists are outlined in Attachment 1.

(4) The total monies available for 1996-97 will be expended by 30 June 1997.

ATTACHMENT 1

Area	Waiting Times	
	Queensland Oral Health Services	
	Weeks	
	General Services	Prosthetic Services
Brisbane Metropolitan	41	27.5
Bundaberg/Maryborough	44	35.5
Cairns	11	16.5
Darling Downs	17	19
Gladstone/Rockhampton	68.5	59
Mackay	5.5	15.5
South Coast	64.5	71.5
Sunshine Coast	92.5	61.5
Townsville	54	35
West Moreton	32.5	11.5
Western Queensland	12	12

Note: Waiting times fluctuate markedly from Clinic to Clinic depending upon available resources. The above data represents average waiting times for the Districts.

960. Timber Industry

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Natural Resources (8/10/96)—

With reference to his recent meeting in Canberra with the Federal Minister for Primary Industries Mr Anderson and timber industry representatives to discuss the agreement with the Howard Government to lock-up 15 per cent of pre-1750 native forests—

Will he table this draft agreement as soon as possible so that the timber industry in the Wide Bay and the local communities can adequately assess its effects both on the timber industry and the local economy?

Mr Hobbs (23/10/96): The Queensland Government has been involved in negotiations with the Commonwealth at both Ministerial and officials levels regarding Queensland's participation in the Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) process. Through this process the Queensland Government is determined to ensure a adequate level of resource security for industry while addressing legitimate conservation concerns. I am confident of a satisfactory outcome from these negotiations.

The nationally agreed reserve selection criteria will form the basis of a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system as called for in the RFA process. These selection criteria have been the subject of an extremely thorough and lengthy consultation process and the criteria contain explicit recognition that a range of constraints such as social impacts may impose limits on the area guidelines contained in the report.

I expect that ANZECC and MCFFA will be asked to ratify the national reserve selection criteria in the near

future. When this occurs the report will become a public document and be generally available.

963. Government Land Use Evaluation

Mr BEATTIE asked the Minister for Economic Development and Trade and Minister Assisting the Premier (8/10/96)—

With reference to his recent speech to the Property Council of Australia on 1 October, in which he spoke of the Government having commissioned a master plan and preliminary economic land use evaluation for a number of Brisbane's prominent landmark sites—

- (1) Who conducted this evaluation and master plan preparation and at whose direction?
- (2) At what cost was this work undertaken and over what time frame?
- (3) Which of the sites are to be disposed of to the private sector?
- (4) Will the heritage-listed sites at the Roma Street parklands, the old Boggo Road Jail and the old Museum site be retained on the Heritage Register and enjoy the protection this listing affords?
- (5) Will he give an assurance that the Roma Street rail yard site will be developed as inner city parkland and not used as a major sporting venue?
- (6) Which part of the South Bank parklands is included in the planning?
- (7) Is the ongoing restoration of the Concert Hall portion of the old Museum site continuing; if so, what funding has been directed to this work in the 1996-97 budget?
- (8) Has he received any expressions of interest from the private sector to use the heritage listed section of the Boggo Road Jail site as a jail museum with a heavy emphasis on visitor interaction; if so, from whom?

Mr Slack (4/11/96):

- (1) The concept master plan and preliminary land use evaluation of the Crown sites was prepared by WT Partnership at the direction of the Co-ordinator-General.
- (2) The work was undertaken between July 1996 and October 1996 at a cost of \$95,000.
- (3) No firm decision has been made yet as to which of the Crown sites will be disposed of to the private sector.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) As pointed out by the Honourable the Premier in the Parliament on 9 October 1996, the Government supports the Roma Street rail yard site being primarily dedicated to public open space.
There is no intention on the part of the Government to have it developed as a major sporting venue.
- (6) The remaining undeveloped land at South Bank was the subject of the consultancy undertaken by WT Partnership.

(7) Yes. \$1 million has been provided in the 1996/97 budget for this purpose and \$0.475 million has been carried forward from the 1995/96 budget.

Refurbishment of the Old Museum involves primarily redevelopment of the Concert Hall and includes:

- mechanical ventilation
- construction of a stage and wings
- dressing rooms
- removal of demountable building adjacent to Concert Hall
- removal of internal partitions and ceilings which are not of heritage significance
- reinstatement of galleries in accordance with the original design
- acoustic treatment
- structural repairs and upgrading
- general refurbishment

(8) I am not aware of any expressions of interest from the private sector to use the heritage-listed section of the Boggo Road Jail site as a jail museum with a heavy emphasis on visitor interaction.

967. Boulia RAP Scheme

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (8/10/96)—

With reference to the success of the Boulia RAPS scheme which I understand won first prize in the national competition—

Why hasn't he made a formal announcement about this and paid tribute to the excellent work of that now disbanded organisation?

Mr Gilmore (1/11/96): It is the prerogative of the Commonwealth Department of Primary Industries and Energy to make the initial announcement regarding the National Energy Awards which that Department organises. Formal confirmation of the award relating to the Boulia RAPS scheme has only recently been received on 4 October. I have no hesitation in paying tribute to those involved in this work which I might say will continue despite the reorganisation of my Department due to budgetary constraints.

968. Mr K. Wolfe

Mrs WOODGATE asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (8/10/96)—

With reference to a geological conference held in Brisbane at which the person representing Queensland was Mr Kevin Wolfe, the de-facto Director-General of his department—

Will he explain why neither he, his Director-General, or his Acting Chief Geologist was not the Queensland Government's representative and why it was left to Mr Kevin Wolfe to represent the Queensland Government?

Mr Gilmore (1/11/96): The conference referred to is the one on Mesozoic Geology of the Eastern Australian Plate, hosted by the Queensland Division of the Geological Society of Australia and held from 24-26 September 1996. Arrangements were made

earlier in 1996 for the Honourable Tom Gilmore MLA to officially open the conference on Tuesday 24 September. When the date for the debate of his Department's budget estimates was scheduled for Tuesday 24 September, the Minister for Mines and Energy was no longer available to open the conference, nor were his Director-General or his Acting Director of the Geological Survey Division. Mr Kevin Wolfe, the current Director-General of the Office of Public Service, was chosen by the organising committee because he could represent the Queensland Government and had previously been Director-General of the Department of Mines.

969. Boston Consultancy Group

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (8/10/96)—

With reference to the Electricity Industry's rationalisation project—

- (1) Did the industry call tenders for this consultancy; if not, why not?
- (2) How much money is the industry paying the Boston Consultancy Group?
- (3) When will the consultancy be completed?
- (4) Will the consultant's report be publicly available to all interested parties?
- (5) Was the industry aware that the portfolio concept and, in particular, the BCG matrix is seen to have "definite limitation as a device for guiding management in establishing corporate level strategy" (chapter 8, page 176 Strategic Management Attachment B)?
- (6) If the industry was aware of these limitations, why was BCG awarded the consultancy?

Mr Gilmore (1/11/96):

- (1) Expressions of interest were sought for the consultancy which provided facilitation services for the QTSC Group's rationalisation project.
- (2) QTSC paid a fee of \$626,564 plus \$167,449 in expenses to the Boston Consultancy Group.
- (3) The facilitation services have been completed.
- (4) The examination of rationalisation options has been completed by the QTSC Group and the findings communicated to all employees.
- (5) The establishment of corporate level strategy was neither part of nor relevant to the facilitation services provided by the consultancy.
- (6) As the establishment of a corporate level strategy was of no relevance to the facilitation services provided by the consultancy, it was not a consideration in the awarding of the consultancy. The work undertaken involved assisting the Group to determine ways to improve its service and effectiveness through the synergy and economies of scale achievable from standardising and merging like commercial activities across the Group.

971. Korea Zinc

Mrs BIRD asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (8/10/96)—

What are the current arrangements with Korea Zinc for their supply of electricity?

Mr Gilmore (1/11/96): As members of the House are aware, the electricity arrangements for the Korea Zinc project represent a key component of the financial assistance package entered into between the previous Government and Korea Zinc in February this year.

Detailed arrangements for the supply of electricity to the project are currently being finalised and planning of the electricity transmission line to the site is well advanced. Because the zinc market is a highly competitive one internationally, it is not appropriate to divulge financial details of the agreements.

The Honourable member's question provides me with the opportunity to reinforce the major progress reported by my Cabinet Colleague, the Minister for Economic Development and Trade. The recent sign-off by Cabinet of the Impact Assessment Study for the project was a significant step forward in the progress of the project and sends a positive message to investors not only throughout Australia and Queensland, but also internationally.

This is particularly important to my portfolio for a number of reasons, but chiefly because the project is expected to source 80 per cent of its zinc concentrate out of North West Queensland and add value to this material in North Queensland.

Stage 1 of the project will involve an investment of \$530 million and generate nearly 600 jobs during construction and 350 jobs when the project becomes operational in 1999.

974. Townsville Show Society

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Natural Resources (8/10/96)—

- (1) Is he aware of any reason why the Townsville Show Society is not paying its creditors?
- (2) What is the society's current financial situation?
- (3) Have any requests for assistance been made to the Queensland Government?

Mr Hobbs (1/11/96):

1. As a former Minister for Lands, the Member for Thuringowa would be aware that the Townsville Show Society has had a liquidity problem for some years. My Department is assisting the Society in a number of ways to address the problem including restructuring of the Committee.

2. The Society's audited financial statement for the 12 month period ending 30 September 1996 indicates that it has a surplus of \$765 711 liabilities over assets and that it incurred an operating loss of \$100 467 during 1995/96.

3. No requests for financial assistance have been made to my Department. However a subsidy of \$48 234 for capital works has been approved under the Show Society Subsidy Scheme administered by my Colleague the Honourable Ray Connor MLA, Minister for Public Works and Housing.

976. Dental Health Services, Nudgee Electorate

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Health (8/10/96)—

With reference to dental health services available to constituents in the Nudgee Electorate and the recent decision to re-direct patients from the easily accessible Sandgate clinic to the Stafford clinic—

- (1) Is he aware of the inconvenience this decision is causing to my constituents, particularly those who do not have their own transport?
- (2) When will the Sandgate clinic be upgraded to cater for more patients?
- (3) When will the Nundah State School dental health clinic be opened to adult patients?

Mr Horan (31/10/96):

(1) Sandgate Clinic is available to any patient who requires access due to transport difficulties. Staff at Sandgate have been made aware of this access need and instances of inconvenience have been resolved with personal attention by the Principal Dentist, Sandgate.

I am advised that all staff in the North Brisbane Oral Health Service are aware of potential transport related access difficulties and strive to arrange appointments to accommodate patient's requirements.

(2) At this stage there are no plans to upgrade the Sandgate Dental Clinic by major capital works. However the feasibility of relocation of the dialysis unit which shares the building is being examined.

(3) Nundah State School Dental Clinic was upgraded with more dental units and dental chairs in the last financial year. The decision to open the Clinic to adult patients rests with the District Health Manager, who is responsible for the allocation of available funds.

977. Integrated Valuation and Sales System

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Natural Resources (8/10/96)—

With reference to the integrated valuation and sales system—

- (1) What monies have been expended for each of the past ten years developing the IVAS program?
- (2) What reasons has Treasury offered for its refusal to continue funding for this program for use on its own land tax regime?

Mr Hobbs (23/10/96):

1. There was no Treasury special funding for IVAS before 1991. Expenditure incurred from special funding provided by Treasury since 1991 is:

1991-1992—	\$206,000
1992-1993—	\$1,427,000
1993-1994—	\$5,364,000
1994-1995—	\$3,762,000
1995-1996—	\$673,000
1996-1997—	\$74,000

TOTAL—\$11,506,000

2. Treasury did not at any stage refuse to fund the IVAS project. In fact over the years, funding arrangements were revised and additional funding was provided to complete the project.

981. Health Minister, Ministerial Office

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Health (8/10/96)—

With reference to the Treasurer's indication that each Minister is responsible for answering questions regarding their own Ministerial office expenditure—

- (1) Has his Ministerial office undergone any refurbishment/office maintenance since February 1996; if so, what did this provide?
- (2) Is there any money set aside in 1996-97 for office refurbishment of his Ministerial office, how much and what will this expenditure provide for?

Mr Horan (31/10/96):

(1) The Honourable Member should be aware that this question is very similar to advance Question on Notice No. 7 asked by the Opposition during the Estimates Committee process, and which I answered previously.

On moving into the Ministerial offices vacated by the honourable member's colleague, the member for Brisbane Central, I found a condition of appalling filth and neglect. It was therefore necessary for me to expend money to have the piles of garbage removed, and to have the place generally cleaned and fumigated. Apart from this "refurbishment" I have also had a set of office curtains added to my own room, rearranged the existing movable office dividers and obtained a new shredder as the Member for Brisbane Central had worn out the old one.

(2) No.

985. "Super" Power Station

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (9/10/96)—

With reference to a recent report in *Courier-Mail* which states that a "super" power station at least the size and output of Tarong is the State Government's favoured option for the next round of base load electricity generation tenders—

- (1) Is this correct?
- (2) What is the justification for such an oversupply of electricity?
- (3) What projections is he relying on to justify his prediction that Queensland will be in a position with this power station to "sell" power to the southern States?
- (4) What will be the fuel source for this station?
- (5) Will natural gas be considered as a fuel source for this plant; if not, why not?
- (6) What is the linkage between this plant and the development of the Surat Coal Basin?
- (7) What impact will development of this plant have on the private sector's interest in building a base load station in North Queensland?
- (8) When will the next round of tenders be called?

Mr Gilmore (1/11/96):

- (1) No.
- (2) No oversupply of electricity is intended.

(3) The Queensland Transmission and Supply Corporation provides forecasts on which any requirement for new generating capacity is based. Opportunistic sales of electricity across the proposed interconnection to New South Wales can be reasonably anticipated from time to time as a result of future lower reserve plant margins in that State.

(4) The fuel source for a future base load power station will be determined by a competitive process.

(5) Natural gas will be able to compete with other fuel sources.

(6) Development of the Surat Coal Basin could be linked to a power station through the supply of coal to the power station. Once again, this would be determined by a competitive process.

(7) The location of a new base load power station in Queensland will be determined by a competitive process which takes account of a range of issues including transmission costs and losses. The next new power station in Queensland needs to be commissioned in approximately 2003 and it will be a base load plant. Commencing in that year, approximately 300 MW of new capacity will probably be required for some years and it is possible that a new power station might be commissioned at more than one location in that period.

(8) No decision has been made yet as to when a new round of tenders will be called.

988. Maconochie Lodge, Shaftesbury Campus, Deception Bay

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (9/10/96)—

With reference to the management contract between the Queensland Corrective Services Commission and the management fees paid for Maconochie Lodge, Shaftesbury Campus, Deception Bay—

- (1) What does he consider to be an adequate number of prisoners to justify the costs of operating this centre?
- (2) Does he consider that an average number of prisoners varying from 12 in 1992, rising to 20 in 1995, then declining again to 16 in 1996 justifies the management fee?
- (3) Why, considering the overcrowded situation in prisons across the State, can't the QCSC keep these centres up to full capacity?
- (4) If it is not possible to keep Maconochie Lodge operating at full capacity, why has he not terminated their contract?
- (5) As these managers fees are paid to an organisation privately controlled by a CEO of another department, has he taken any steps to avoid a conflict of interest in this matter?
- (6) Why did he move away from detailing occupancy statistics for community corrective centres in the 1995-96 Annual Report?
- (7) Further to the answer to an earlier Question on Notice to him which details occupancy at the

time of the question, will he provide further complete occupancy statistics for 1995-96 of Maconochie Lodge, Shaftesbury Campus, Deception Bay?

Mr Cooper (29/10/96):

(1) The average occupancy rate for the 1995/96 financial year was 15 prisoners. This equates to a daily unit cost of \$63.10. The average daily unit cost for community corrections centres statewide was \$64.24. Notwithstanding this comparison, the QCSC is striving for all centres to be at full capacity to return the optimum value for dollar for the Queensland taxpayer.

(2) A management strategy recently initiated has resulted in all community custody centres in South East Queensland attaining full or near full capacity, including Maconochie Lodge.

(3) The overcrowding of prisons does not necessarily mean that prisoners can be transferred immediately to the Community Custody Program to relieve such crowding. There is a time delay caused by the need for prisoners to progress through the relevant security classifications before being eligible for transfer to community custody. Additionally, supervision at the centres is strict and prisoners are returned to secure custody for serious or persistent breaches of the centre rules so as to ensure public confidence in the program. Under these circumstances, it is difficult to maintain full occupancy of community corrections centres on a daily basis.

(4) On present trends, Maconochie Lodge should operate at or close to full capacity in the future. Should this not prove to be the case, its contract may be reviewed.

(5) I refer Mr Hollis to the answer provided for Question on Notice No. 454, part 3.

(6) I was not the responsible Minister at the time when the 1994-95 Annual Report was published. The 1995-96 Annual Report will include Annual Occupancy rates for all community custody facilities.

(7) The occupancy rate of 15 provided in the previous Question on Notice was in fact a rounded down figure of the average occupancy per month for 1995/96 (15.5).

998. Comments by Ms P. Hanson

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Economic Development and Trade and Minister Assisting the Premier (9/10/96)—

With reference to his answer to Question on Notice No 914 where he stated in response to my query whether the Member for Oxley's comments have been reported by the media in our major trading partners in Asia, that "I have asked my department to check with our overseas offices and from the information I have received from those offices and our international secretariats, we are not aware of any reports" and given the report in the *Courier-Mail* on 8 October that newspapers including the Bangkok based *Asian Times*, Malaysia's *New Straits Times*, Singapore's *Straits Times* and Hong Kong's *South*

China Morning Post have all reportedly carried stories reporting Ms Hanson's anti-Asian views—

- (1) Will he again contact our overseas offices to conduct a more thorough search for reports by the media in our major trading partners and inform me where these reports were found and what was reported?
- (2) Given the statements by the Deputy Prime Minister, Tim Fischer, the President of the Grain Growers Association and the head of the Tourism Council of Australia, among others, who have all expressed concern about the possible impact of anti-Asian statements, such as those made by the Member for Oxley could have of our trade relationships with Asia, will he apologise for accusing me of mischievousness in raising this issue and alleging that I was attempting to make connections that do not exist?

Mr Slack (28/10/96):

(1) My Office and Department will continue to monitor national and international media reports for mention of a range of issues pertinent to the Government's interests including trade and investment.

(2) There is no reason for an apology.

1000. Power Supply, Daintree Region

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (9/10/96)—

With reference to his proposal to provide grid power to the residents of the Daintree—

- (1) What, if any, discussions has he had with his colleague, the Minister for Environment?
- (2) Has he been informed that his proposal will have an adverse environmental impact on world heritage values and on species listed as endangered under the Native Conservation Act 1993?
- (3) Will any proposal to extend grid electricity in this area be subject to environmental impact assessment and what, if any, assurances has he given his Ministerial colleague, Mr Littleproud on this issue?

Mr Gilmore (1/11/96): I have held discussions on the proposal to provide grid power to the residents of the Daintree with the Minister for the Environment, the Honourable B Littleproud. I also intend to hold further discussions with Mr Littleproud on the Environmental Impact Study on the proposed project.

One of the things that has to be determined before proceeding with the provision of grid power to the Daintree region is the impact grid power will have on the surrounding environment and native wildlife. It is for this reason that a complete Environmental Impact Study will be conducted on the proposed project. Comment from the Wet Tropics Management Authority will be sought at this time.

As I indicated previously, a complete Environmental Impact Study will be conducted on the project.

However, before proceeding to the Environmental Impact Study, I will be taking the proposed project to Cabinet for in principle approval for the design and proposed financial options. I have given an assurance to the Minister for the Environment that I will fully consult with him throughout the Environmental Impact Study process.

1008. Mining Inspectorate

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (9/10/96)—

With reference to his admission during the Estimates Committee hearing that he would have to take a submission to Cabinet and then wait until a mid-year Budget review before having the funds to implement the recommendations of the committee reviewing the Mining Inspectorate, established following the Warden's Report into the 1994 Moura Mine Disaster—

What is the timeframe set down by him to (a) seek Cabinet approval to implement, in full, the recommendations of the Mining Inspectorate Review Committee, (b) have approved by Treasury the expected additional \$2m required to properly fund and resource the Mining Inspectorate, (c) advertise and fill vacant and newly created positions within the restructured inspectorate, and (d) pay increased salaries and provide additional resources to allow the inspectorate to operate at a level expected by the mining industry and the Queensland public?

Mr Gilmore (1/11/96):

(a) Cabinet approval for implementation of the recommendations of the Review of the Mines and Energy Inspectorate will be sought as soon as possible after receipt of the Review Committee's Report.

(b) Funding for implementation of the Report's Recommendations will be sought through the mid-year review process. Funding submissions are due in November 1996.

(c) Advertising and filling of vacant and newly created positions will commence immediately funding approval has been given.

(d) Pay increases will be paid when the new structure is in place and inspectors are undertaking the new role. Additional resources will be provided as soon as possible through the advertising and filling of vacant and new positions.

1011. Proposed Dam, Comet River

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Natural Resources (9/10/96)—

With reference to the proposal to construct a dam on the Comet River at Rolleston—

Are there any reservations being shown about the viability of the proposal especially in the area of evaporation rates and that the dam will never reach its full capacity?

Mr Hobbs (22/10/96): My Department is examining a range of potential storage capacities at the site and will determine the supplies that could be

made available with various degrees of reliability over that range of capacities. The high rate of evaporation in the area is a major factor which will be taken into consideration, as it always is with any dam. Because of the impact of topography and evaporation, there is a maximum practical height, called the hydrologic limit, to which a dam can be built.

In the case of the Comet River dam, the hydrologic limit appears to be about 1.4 million megalitres capacity. Had a dam of this capacity been in place over the past 100 years, it would have filled fifteen times. This is a reasonable frequency of occurrence.

The final size of any proposed dam and the available supplies will be determined through analysis over the next six months. The analysis will take account of the actual location and magnitude of water demands, flows throughout the entire system, the needs of existing water users and the environment as well as normal losses from the dam through evaporation, etc. These results will assist in determining the viability of any proposal against the criteria of economics, financial performance and environmental and social impacts.

1012. Repayment of Rates, Hamilton Island Enterprises/Whitsunday Shire Council

Mrs BIRD asked the Minister for Natural Resources (9/10/96)—

- (1) Why was Whitsunday Shire Council ordered to repay rates to the Lessee of Hamilton Island?
- (2) How much will be repaid?
- (3) Who gave the order to the Whitsunday Shire Council?
- (4) Will the sublessees, that is the concessionaires, be reimbursed for rates paid by them to the lessees of Hamilton Island?

Mr Hobbs (22/10/96):

1. The Whitsunday Shire Council was not ordered to repay rates to the lessee of Hamilton Island (Hamilton Island Enterprises).

Originally Whitsunday Shire Council levied rates based upon a valuation effective from 30 June 1994. This valuation was \$23,389,500 and was calculated by adding the values of the individual subleases and the value of the balance of the land on the Island.

Following an objection to the above valuation and the appropriateness of the valuation based upon separate valuations of each sublease, the Director-General advised Hamilton Island Enterprises on 22 May 1996 that he was prepared to exercise his discretion under section 34 of the Valuation of Land Act 1944 to value the island as a whole.

New valuations were issued for NCL2803 including Road Licence 7339 and Special Lease 43971 at \$2,650,000 and \$365,000 respectively on 26 September 1996.

Whitsunday Shire Council was advised of these new valuations upon their issue.

These valuations are now the valuations under section 72(1)(b) of the Valuation of Land Act 1944 which are to be used for the rating purposes.

2. I am not in a position to answer this matter which is the responsibility of the Whitsunday Shire Council.
3. No order was given to the Whitsunday Shire Council to refund rates. The Council was advised of the issue of the new valuations.
4. I have no knowledge of the private arrangements that the sublessees have made with Hamilton Island Enterprises regarding the payment of rates.

1028. Gift Register, Department of Mines and Energy

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (10/10/96)—

Following the publication of the report of the Criminal Justice Commission on the disposal of liquid waste, officers of the Department of Mines and Energy received criticism about accepting gifts and travel and the former Minister McGrady consequently instituted a Register of Gifts and Hospitality in the Department—

As the then Director-General had to secure approval for any hospitality or such like, from the Minister, and staff had to receive approval from the officer whom they reported to (a) why has the present Director-General abandoned that principle and (b) is he prepared to reintroduce that system; if not, why not?

Mr Gilmore (1/11/96): (a) The Department maintains a Gift Register in accordance with Public Finance Standards 625 (7), and has done so since this was a requirement.

The Director-General, believes because he is the Accountable Officer, he is delegated absolute responsibility for the code of conduct to safeguard staff from being involved in a situation which could lead to or be seen to give rise to a conflict of interest.

(b) No. The Director-General believes the Code of Conduct, in accordance with the Public Sector Ethics Act, which applies to all public servants is adequate, and I agree with this position.

1030. Free Trade Zone

Mr BEATTIE asked the Minister for Economic Development and Trade and Minister Assisting the Premier (10/10/96)—

With reference to his recent speech to the Property Council of Australia during which he stated that the Government is looking to establish a "Free Trade Zone" in the Gateway Ports area of Brisbane—

- (1) What does he mean by a "Free Trade Zone"?
- (2) What concessions does he propose to make to companies joining the zone and what cost will there be to Queensland taxpayers?
- (3) Will the Federal Government be required to provide concessions for this zone; if so, what are they, and have there been any discussions with the Federal Government about a "Free Trade Zone"?
- (4) Will he quarantine the area from employment standards currently enjoyed by Australian

workers, or regulations normally applying to businesses operating in Queensland?

Mr Slack (4/11/96):

(1) In my speech to the Property Council of Australia, I was referring to some preliminary research that I have asked my Department to undertake on "Free Trade Zones" with a view to looking at the applicability of this concept to Queensland. This idea is still very much in the concept stage and the term "Free Trade Zone" was used in its generic sense as a location that has the objective of attracting investment to the State and of promoting exports from the State. As part of the research, my Department has been looking at the options that the Gateway Ports project presents for incorporating some form of trade enhancing zone.

My Department is managing the Brisbane Gateway Ports Study which is being jointly funded by the State and Commonwealth Governments, with contributions in kind from other stakeholders including the Brisbane City Council.

(2) A key objective of this study is to optimise the trade and development opportunities for the Gateway Ports area that arise from its competitive advantages, including proximity to Pacific Rim markets, the collocation of the airport and seaport, the availability of undeveloped land and the existence of good land transport connections to the hinterland. To assist in meeting this objective, a detailed study of trade and industry development opportunities and constraints is being undertaken to guide decision making on the future of the area. Concurrently, information is being sought on international experience with free trade zones with the aim of identifying any aspects of their operations which could assist the future development of the Brisbane Gateway Ports area, particularly for value-adding activities. The question of concessions will be considered in the context of the findings of these investigations.

(3) Appropriate avenues exist for consultation with the Commonwealth Government through the Steering Committee arrangements for the Brisbane Gateway Ports project.

(4) There is certainly no suggestion, nor would there be, that any entity that this Government sought to establish would operate under employment standards or business regulations that discriminated against workers. This Government will ensure that the appropriate environment is put in place to protect Queensland workers and businesses.

1031. Ross Dam

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Natural Resources (10/10/96)—

With reference to amendments to regulations effective January 1996 which effectively opened all Queensland dams and waterways for recreational use—

Is the Townsville/Thuringowa Water Board justified in restricting public use of the Ross Dam?

Mr Hobbs (23/10/96): I assume that the amendments referred to by the Honourable Member

are the Transport Operations—Marine Safety legislation which came into effect earlier this year.

If this is the case, then it should be noted that these changes only relate to the control of safety of boating operations. These changes do not of themselves "open all Queensland dams and waterways for recreational use."

Notwithstanding the issue of legislative controls, I understand that the Townsville/Thuringowa Water Board is conscious of the considerable demand in the region for recreational use of waterways and that the Board is prepared to consider the possibility of recreational use of Ross River Dam.

As part of that consideration, the Board has contributed major funds to a research program to determine whether there are significant health issues associated with recreational activity in a relatively shallow storage in a tropical environment. This project which has only been completed recently, concluded that these issues are no more significant than in other areas in Townsville.

This being the case, the Board is considering the cost of providing physical access and facilities to enable recreational use and as I understand it, a possible by-law which would enable the board to regulate activity so as to protect water quality and amenity.

1034. Electricity Reform Unit

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (10/10/96)—

With reference to the electricity reform unit and the work of that group—

- (1) What are the total costs of that unit?
- (2) What work have they done to date?
- (3) What does he expect from them?
- (4) How can he justify their existence when there have been numerous reports into the electricity industry?

Mr Gilmore (1/11/96):

1. The budget for restructuring the electricity industry including the Queensland Electricity Reform Unit (QERU) is \$2.5 million for 1996/97.

2. The current work program of QERU includes:

in conjunction with other jurisdictions and the National Grid Management Council (NGMC), finalisation of the National Electricity Code (Code), preparation of the application to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission for authorisation of the anti-competitive elements of the Code and its acceptance as an industry Access Code undertaking;

further development of Queensland's derogations to the Code and associated supporting arguments;

developing arrangements which maintain the security of supply elements of the Gladstone

Power Station contracts which were entered into at the time of sale; and

participation in other NGMC processes such as the establishment of the National Electricity Market Management Company and the National Electricity Code Administrator.

3. QERU will develop policies and implementation processes for:

interim competitive electricity market arrangements in Queensland;

Queensland's full participation in the NEM including the physical interconnection of the Queensland and New South Wales electricity grids;

necessary structural reform of the Government owned Electricity Corporations;

legislative and regulatory reforms required to complement deregulation of the industry and structural reform; and

representation by Queensland on the NGMC (and its successor) and, in conjunction with appropriate line areas, on COAG Senior Electricity Officials Working Group.

4. The Government has appointed the Queensland Electricity Industry Structure Task Force to recommend a set of structural, institutional and regulatory arrangements for the electricity supply industry that will best suit the energy needs of Queensland, while having regard to the Government's regional and economic development objectives and the need to maintain system security. The Task Force is currently finalising its report which will be tabled in Parliament once it has been considered by Cabinet. Following Government consideration, QERU will be responsible for coordinating the implementation of its recommendations. Electricity reforms involve the resolution of complex financial, legal, technical and policy issues. The establishment of QERU is essential to ensure these matters are addressed in a timely and efficient manner.

1035. Design and Construction, New Correctional Centres

Mr LIVINGSTONE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (10/10/96)—

With reference to the 10 year plan for the building of correctional facilities, and the intention to construct a new juvenile detention centre and to a leaked Treasury document which features in an article in the *Australian* newspaper of 17 September 1996, which states—

"The competitive pressure of privately operated prisons has improved the efficiency of Government prisons. However, the public sector unions are continuing to resist workplace reforms which would improve efficiency, eg 12 hour shifts.

Further, competitive pressure could be provided by contracting out the management and operation of planned new prisons and a youth detention centre"—

- (1) Will he guarantee that the QCSC will manage and operate the planned new prisons and the planned new youth detention centre; if not, will the cost savings for the QCSC secure correctional facilities and the juvenile detention centres be achieved by contracting out management and operations to the private sector?

Mr Cooper (1/11/96): In relation to the design and construction of new correctional centres (both adult and juvenile detention) this and previous Governments have always contracted these functions out to the private sector. This practice will continue.

In relation to the management and operation of new centres there are three options open to the Government. These are:

to have the QCSC manage and operate these centres;

to undertake a competitive tender arrangement where the public and private sectors compete to manage and operate these centres; and

to invite tenders for the management and operation of these centres from the private sector only. That is, exclude the QCSC from tendering. In assessing these options a number of factors, including efficiency and cost effectiveness, will be taken into account.

When the Government has made its decision I will make an announcement at the appropriate time.

1053. Social and Community Services Award

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (10/10/96)—

With reference to the recent State Budget which did not make provision for supplementation funding to cover changes to the Social and Community Services (SACS) Award and as community organisations throughout Queensland are being forced to sack staff, reduce workers hours' and/or reduce services and given that Government has been aware of these pending changes to employment conditions, and given that other service industries, such as teaching and nursing, regularly make provision for such wage adjustments—

- (1) What is he doing to support community organisations to ensure that vital services are maintained?
- (2) Will he fight for workers and services within his portfolio, or will he allow Treasurer Sheldon to continue her destructive lack of support for Queenslanders in most need of support?

Mr Lingard (1/11/96):

- (1) I am very conscious that the introduction of the SACS award with effect from 26th July 1996 has

been a matter of significant concern to many community groups. The State Government is not a party to the SACS award. It was a consent award between community services employers and the Australian Services Union (ASU). While the State Government is not a party to the SACS award, it is looking at what response it can make in relation to the financial impact of the award. There are three possibilities:

- (a) in respect of disability services which were previously Commonwealth funded but have been State-administered since 1992, we have every indication that the Commonwealth will provide funding of 75% of the increased costs of the SACS award. My department is currently negotiating with the Commonwealth to ensure that sufficient funds are transferred in this respect;
- (b) some rationalisation of services could occur which will go some of the way towards finding the necessary extra funding to meet SACS award costs. All organisations, whether in the private sector, the public sector or the community sector, have been expected to find efficiencies to meet the cost of pay rises under enterprise bargaining arrangements which have become a feature of the industrial landscape;
- (c) finally, there are those areas where the State Government has to try and find a capacity to provide assistance. The SACS award is a very complex award, and it was not possible to factor in consideration of the impact of SACS into the State Budget.

(2) I am aware that this is a very difficult and challenging time for community services in Queensland. Even though awards have been in the making for several years, the introduction of the SACS award brings with it a time of change, and change brings some difficulties for everyone. However, change also brings opportunities. I have directed my department to exercise maximum flexibility, within the bounds of good accountability, in responding to proposals from community organisations as to how they might meet their SACS award obligations.

Some of the possible options might be—

reducing hours of operation in non-critical services

utilising operating funds to pay increased salaries

amalgamating or consolidating the administration of services which are co-located or which share common target groups in particular localities

Regional Resource Officers from my department are ready to work with funded organisations to develop mutually acceptable ways of managing the implementation of the SACS award.

I will be approving the amendment of current funding guidelines to allow more flexibility, as well as pursuing options for financial supplementation.

I am very appreciative of the excellent work that is carried out by non-government groups including volunteer management committees and paid staff throughout the length and breadth of Queensland and I would want essential services preserved as far as possible.

1067. Prickly Acacia Weed; Release of Leaf-eating Beetle

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Natural Resources (11/10/96)—

With reference to a planned mass release of a leaf eating beetle (*weiseana barkeri*) as part of the battle against the rampant prickly acacia weed in Northern Australia—

- (1) When and where is this release planned?
- (2) How many release points are planned?
- (3) Has the Department of Environment been involved in this project?
- (4) What funds have been allocated for this project in the 1996-97 Budget and what funds have been expended so far on this project?
- (5) What tests have been carried out on the beetle to ensure that it is host specific?
- (6) How many and which other plant species has it been exposed to during testing?
- (7) Is he prepared to give a guarantee that these beetles will confine themselves to prickly acacia and not spread to any of Australia's other native acacia species?
- (8) Is the tropical weeds research centre at Charters Towers equipped with proper quarantine facilities capable of ensuring no early unintended escape of this beetle occurs prior to its official release?
- (9) What monitoring is planned following the release to assess the beetle's success or otherwise?
- (10) What funding has been allocated to this monitoring work in 1996-97 and how many staff will participate on a full-time basis?
- (11) Which other States are participating in this work and when are their releases planned?
- (12) Which Australian scientific authorities have participated in and approved this release?

Mr Hobbs (1/11/96): The first release is planned for mid November 1996.

Following the initial release it is estimated that at least one further release will be made each month. Number and location will depend on weather conditions.

No.

A total of \$53 300 has been allocated for this project for 1996/97, including the raising, release and monitoring of the beetle.

To date a total of \$500 000 has been spent on this project.

Initially field surveys were carried out in Kenya. At the times when *acacia nilotica* (Prickly Acacia) trees were heavily infested with this beetle no other closely related species revealed any adults or larvae of *weiseana barkeri*. Also in Kenya, preliminary testing of adult and larva feeding was carried out on eight species of *acacia* and four other closely related species. These tests showed that there was no feeding or extremely minimal feeding on any species other than *acacia nilotica*.

Following these tests a permit to import the beetle for further testing was granted by the Australian Quarantine Service. Further tests were carried out at the quarantine facilities at the Alan Fletcher Research Station in Brisbane.

Larval and adult choice feeding tests were carried out on 52 test plant species, consisting of *acacia nilotica* and 26 native species of Acacia as well as 16 species related to Acacia and nine commonly cultivated species.

These tests showed that extensive feeding occurred on *acacia nilotica* but no feeding or extremely minimal feeding occurred on the other species. *weiseana barkeri* could not complete a life cycle on species other than prickly acacia.

The list of species for host testing is agreed to on an Australia wide basis. It is coordinated by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service and the Australian Nature Conservation Agency and the relevant agencies in each State and the Commonwealth have an input into the selection of the list.

Refer to the answer to question 5 above.

There is absolutely no evidence within the extensive host testing conducted to suggest that *weiseana barkeri* is anything but host specific.

The permit to release was granted in 1994 so the beetle does not need to be maintained in quarantine.

Follow up field work will concentrate on relocating the beetle in the field. Regular monitoring, using ecological and demographic techniques, will be undertaken to determine the establishment, dispersal and impact of the beetle.

Funding is included in the answer to question four.

No other States are participating in this work because either prickly acacia is not present or the small areas which are present are under active control.

Under the Quarantine Act 1908 and the Wildlife Protection (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act 1982 the importation of any Biological Control

Agents must be approved by the Commonwealth Department of Primary Industries and Energy, through the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service and the Australian Nature Conservation Agency.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**951. Mr L. McPherson**

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (8/10/96)—

With reference to conflicting reports from him and the National Crime Authority regarding on going investigations into Gold Coast assets owned by the estate of recently deceased Sydney crime figure Len McPherson—

- (1) Who gave him the information that an investigation into McPherson's assets was presently being conducted by the NCA under a code-name of Sugar?
- (2) When did he receive this information?
- (3) Why has the NCA denied that their investigations are dealing with McPherson's assets rather they are directed at his general criminality?
- (4) How does he explain the conflict between his statements and those of the NCA?
- (5) Is there any action pending from operation Wallah that may involve McPherson's Gold Coast assets?

Mr Cooper (5/11/96):

(1) This information was provided by the Manager (Investigations) of the Brisbane office of the National Crime Authority to the Detective Inspector, Fraud and Corporate Crime Squad. That investigation was not code-named 'Sugar', but carried out under the general reference of that name.

(2) This information was provided by the Acting Commissioner of Police on 18 September 1996 in response to Question on Notice number 732.

(3) The original question specifically requested information concerning the 'ill-gotten gains' of McPherson. For this reason the answer provided specifically referred to the assets of McPherson. However, the NCA investigation was directed at McPherson's general criminality, but as with all such investigations, proceeds of crime issues follow as a natural consequence.

(4) The perceived conflict has been explained in the answer to the previous question. The important issue here is that as the NCA had charged McPherson with offences prior to his death, they are the only agency capable of pursuing any conviction based forfeiture applications.

(5) No action can be taken against McPherson's assets from Operation Wallah or any other investigation unless charges were laid prior to his death. As such only the NCA or, having regard to the nature of the charges, the Australian Taxation Office, are in a position to take action.

952. Criminal Justice Commission, Attachment of Police Officers

Mr LIVINGSTONE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (8/10/96)—

With reference to the significant number of serving police officers that are currently attached to the Criminal Justice Commission—

- (1) What is the current number?
- (2) Is it intended to leave the same full strength of police attached to the Criminal Justice Commission; if not, how many will be withdrawn?

Mr Cooper (5/11/96):

(1) 79 police officers were assigned to the Criminal Justice Commission as at 1 October 1996.

(2) There is no current proposal to vary the Criminal Justice Commission police strength.

956. Police Stations and Watch-houses

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (8/10/96)—

With reference to capital works at Queensland Police Service stations and watchhouses—

(1) Why has the Queensland Police Service abandoned plans to build (a) a \$2m replacement police station and watchhouse at Dunwich, (b) a \$3.504m replacement police station and watchhouse at Cleveland, (c) a replacement \$900,000 watchhouse at Pormpuraaw and (d) a replacement \$700,000 watchhouse at Roma?

(2) What was the greater demonstrated need for a replacement district headquarters and watchhouse at Gladstone, as opposed to the abandoned facilities at Dunwich, Cleveland, Pormpuraaw and Roma?

Mr Cooper (5/11/96):

(1) In 1995 the previous government introduced an Accelerated Capital Works Program for the purpose of stimulating the construction industry. This program sought to introduce projects that were not originally identified in the 1995/96 Capital Works Program but which could be brought forward. With the exception of Cleveland, the projects referred to were not listed in the 1995/96 Budget Papers but were identified as projects that could be brought forward. This decision was based on a financial priority as opposed to operational priorities. As such, these projects did not reflect the Queensland Police Service's highest priorities.

Nevertheless, the projects are still reflected in the Queensland Police Service's Forward Capital Works program.

Dunwich was one such project that was brought forward in the Accelerated Capital Works Program but has since been deferred in favour of projects with a higher operational priority.

Cleveland has not been abandoned and remains a priority for the Queensland Police Service. Negotiations are proceeding with Council regarding the acquisition of a suitable site. Once these issues are resolved planning will proceed for the replacement Cleveland Police Station and Watchhouse.

Investigations have been undertaken to determine whether the Pormpuraaw Watchhouse should be replaced or upgraded. It is currently an element within the Police Service's Centralised Watchhouse

Upgrade Program, which forms part of the Capital Works Program.

Plans for a new watchhouse in Roma have not been abandoned. Investigations have determined that a new watchhouse is required. The cost of this facility is such that it has been removed from the Centralised Watchhouse Upgrade Program and now appears as a line item in its own right on the Capital Works Program.

(2) A replacement district headquarters and watchhouse at Gladstone have always been identified as a higher operational priority than Dunwich. However, a number of significant issues are being addressed in a predesign study before Gladstone can be progressed. All other projects are receiving due attention as detailed above.

957. Ministers and Ministerial Staff, Government Vehicles

Mr HAMILL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (8/10/96)—

With reference to her responsibility for Ministerial office expenses—

- (1) Which members of Ministerial staff are entitled to a Government vehicle as part of their conditions of employment?
- (2) How many vehicles are allocated to Ministerial offices for the use of Ministerial staff and how are these vehicles distributed among Ministerial offices?
- (3) How many vehicles are allocated to Ministers for official and electorate use and what is the total number of such vehicles used by Cabinet Ministers?
- (4) What is the anticipated cost of sales tax for (a) Ministerial and (b) Ministerial staff vehicles in 1996-97?

Mrs Sheldon (7/11/96):

(1) Ministerial Staff in the positions of Senior Policy Adviser, Senior Media Adviser or their equivalent are entitled to a car as part of their conditions of employment.

(2) There are 41 vehicles allocated to Ministerial offices for the use of Ministerial staff and are distributed as follows :

- Office of the Premier—5
- Office of the Deputy Premier—3
- Office of the Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Racing—2
- Office of the Minister for Economic and Trade Development—2
- Office of the Minister for Sport, Recreation and Emergency Services—2
- Office of the Minister for Transport—2
- Office of the Minister for Employment, Training & Industrial Affairs—2
- Office of the Minister for Minerals and Energy—2
- Office of the Minister for Primary Industries—2

Office of the Minister for Health—3

Office of the Minister for Education—2

Office of the Minister for Environment—2

Office of the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice—2

Office of the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care—2

Office of the Minister for Public Works and Housing—2

Office of the Minister for Local Government—2

Office of the Minister for Small Business and Tourism—2

Office of the Minister for Natural Resources—2

(3) There are 18 Chauffeur driven vehicles, 5 electorate vehicles, giving a total of 23.

(4) The anticipated cost of sales tax for

- (a) Ministerial vehicles is \$42,366.00 and,
- (b) Ministerial Staff vehicles is \$46,014.00.

958. Guidelines Regarding Provision of Infrastructure by Private Sector

Mr FOURAS asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (8/10/96)—

With reference to the statement by the Under-Treasurer, Doug McTaggart of the need to further promote the opportunities for the private sector to become involved in infrastructure provision—

- (1) Why have the guidelines for private sector provision of infrastructure promised by the Under-Treasurer to be made available in August been delayed?
- (2) When will these guidelines be made available?

Mrs Sheldon (7/11/96):

(1) The objective is to provide the private sector with a clear framework for its involvement in public sector infrastructure delivery in a manner which ensures that the Government achieves the best possible outcome for the public in every instance. To achieve this outcome, the policy development process must necessarily involve:

extensive consultation within the public sector to ensure that the particular needs of the broad range of service areas within Government are fully addressed;

appropriate steps to ensure that the framework is consistent with other key policy initiatives currently under consideration by the Government, including the State Strategic Plan, the State Economic Development Strategy, the recommendations of the Commission of Audit; and

following agreement by Government agencies on the draft framework, extensive consultation with private sector stakeholders, commencing with the Infrastructure Association of Queensland members of the joint Government/private sector working group established to oversee development of the guidelines.

(2) The guidelines will be made available for wider consultation following firm agreement on their form and content by the joint Government/private sector working group.

959. State Budget, Advertisement

Mr HOLLIS asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (8/10/96)—

With reference to a budget advertisement placed by the Government in the Peninsula Post on 12 September which stated "No increase in average tax per person"—

Will she explain for the benefit of the many Redcliffe residents who have contacted me complaining of her increased and new taxes, how she arrived at the statement "No increase in average tax per person"?

Mrs Sheldon (7/11/96): Consolidated Fund collections of taxes, fees and fines are estimated to be \$4,364 million in 1996-97. Once the impacts of underlying price increases and population growth are taken into account, ie. collections are calculated on a real per capita basis, the average tax burden is estimated to be \$1,294.63 per person.

This represents no real change from the 1995-96 average, in real per capita terms, of \$1,294.64 per person.

In contrast, the average tax burden in real per capita terms increased from \$929.76 in 1989-90 to \$1,294.64 in 1995-96. That is, the average State tax bill paid by Queenslanders increased over this period by an average of 5.7% in real per capita terms each year.

961. Acacia Ridge Police Station; Mount Gravatt Police Station

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (8/10/96)—

- (1) What numbers of operational police are rostered on duty at the Mount Gravatt Police Station and the Acacia Ridge Police Station?
- (2) What were the numbers at each of these stations for each month since July 1995?
- (3) What is the current number and nature of available vehicles for each shift at each of these police stations?
- (4) What is the rank of each of the officers at these stations?
- (5) What is the current police to population ratio in the areas covered by each of these police stations and what were the ratios in July 1995?
- (6) Why has he broken his election promise by refusing to build a new police station in the Sunnybank electorate in his Government's first term of office?

Mr Cooper (5/11/96): It should be noted that Upper Mount Gravatt Police Station is a District Headquarters and that, with the exception of general duties personnel, officers from other organisations

listed below operate throughout the Upper Mount Gravatt District.

(1) The following numbers supplied are averages for any 24 hour period since July 1995.

Upper Mount. Gravatt Police Station:

General Duties

6:00 am to 2:00 pm—3

7:00 am to 3:00 pm—3

2:00 pm to 10:00 pm—5

3:00 pm to 11:00 pm—2

10:00 pm to 6:00 am—5

In addition to the above, a supervising sergeant is drawn from District resources and operates during afternoon and night shifts.

Upper Mount Gravatt Juvenile Aid Bureau

7:00 am to 3:00 pm—1

8:00 am to 4:00 pm—2

2:00 pm to 10:00 pm—2

Night work—One officer is supplied each month to perform duty with a CIB member on the regional night wireless vehicle.

South Brisbane District Traffic Branch

7:00 am to 5:00 pm—4

10:00 am to 8:00 pm—3

2:00 pm to 12:00 am—7

3:00 pm to 1:00 am—3

South Brisbane District Inquiry Office

8:00 am to 4:00 pm—3

2:00 pm to 10:00 pm—2

South Brisbane District Criminal Investigation Branch

6:00 am to 2:00 pm—2

8:00 am to 4:00 pm—6

2:00 pm to 10:00 pm—4

4:00 pm to 12:00 am—2

10:00 pm to 6:00 am—2

The shifts and staff numbers at the South Brisbane District Criminal Investigation Branch are averages over the total period. In recent months a 1800—0200 shift has been worked on Friday evenings by 2 personnel to ensure an overlapping of shifts during busy periods.

Upper Mount. Gravatt Scenes of Crime

7:00 am to 1:00 pm—1

8:00 am to 4:00 pm—2

2:00 pm to 10:00 pm—1 (the officer performing this shift remains on call until the following morning)

Metropolitan South Regional Crime Unit:

7:00 am to 1:00 pm—2

8:00 am to 4:00 pm—4

2:00 pm to 10:00 pm—2

The Metropolitan South Regional Crime Unit consists of personnel who are seconded on a six monthly basis from other establishments within the Metropolitan South Region. The unit has no allotted positions.

Acacia Ridge Police Station:

12:00 am to 8:00 am—2

8:00 am to 4:00 pm—3

4:00 pm to 10:00 pm—2

4:00 pm to 12:00 am—2

(2) Numbers of operational police have generally remained constant at all establishments listed since July 1995. From time to time numbers do, however, fluctuate due to leave, training, etc.

(3) The details of shifts, number of vehicles and outline of duties are supplied in respect of the Upper Mount Gravatt police station:

6:00 am to 2:00 pm—one police car for uniform patrol

7:00 am to 3:00 pm—one police car for uniform patrol

2:00 pm to 10:00 pm—two police cars for use by uniform patrol and supervisor

3:00 pm to 11:00 pm—one police car for uniform patrol

10:00 pm to 6:00 am—two police cars for uniform patrols

The Upper Mount Gravatt Juvenile Aid Bureau has two unmarked cars for all shifts.

South Brisbane District Traffic Branch

7:00 am to 5:00 pm—one police car and one motorcycle for patrol and radar

10:00 am to 8:00 pm—one police car and one motorcycle for patrol and radar

2:00 pm to 12:00 am—two police cars and two motorcycles for patrol and radar

3:00 pm to 1:00 am—one heavy special purpose vehicle

South Brisbane District Inquiry Office:

8:00 am to 4:00 pm—two vehicles for uniform and hospital inquiries

2:00 pm to 10:00 pm—one vehicle for uniform and hospital inquiries

South Brisbane District Criminal Investigation Branch

6:00 am to 2:00 pm—one unmarked car for CIB duties

8:00 am to 4:00 pm—two unmarked cars for CIB duties

2:00 pm to 10:00 pm—two unmarked cars for CIB duties

4:00 pm to 12:00 am—one unmarked car for CIB duties

10:00 pm to 6:00 am—one unmarked car for CIB duties

The Upper Mount Gravatt Scenes of Crime has two unmarked vehicles for all shifts.

The Metropolitan South Regional Crime Unit has two unmarked vehicles for all shifts.

The Acacia Ridge Police Station has two marked patrol cars for general duty policing.

(4) Upper Mount. Gravatt General Duties

Senior Sergeant, in charge—1

Senior Sergeant, operational—1

Sergeants, operational—10

Senior Constables, operational—7

Constables, operational—17

Upper Mount. Gravatt Juvenile Aid Bureau

Detective Senior Sergeant, in charge—1

Detective Sergeant—1

Detective/PC Senior Constables—3

Detective/PC Constables—2

South Brisbane District Traffic Branch

Senior Sergeant, in charge—1

Senior Sergeant, operational—1

Sergeants—5

Senior Constables—12

Constables—8

South Brisbane District Inquiry Office

Senior Sergeant, in charge—1

Sergeant, supervisor—1

Senior Constables—5 (includes one part-time member)

Constables—6 (includes one part-time member)

Upper Mount Gravatt CIB

Detective Senior Sergeant—1

Detective Sergeants—2

Detective/PC Senior Constables—9

PC Constables—4

Upper Mount. Gravatt Scenes of Crime Office

Sergeant, in charge—1

Senior Constables, operational—5 (includes one part-time member)

Constable—1

Metropolitan South Regional Crime Unit

Detective/PC Sergeant—1

PC Senior Constables—4

PC Constables—4

Acacia Ridge General Duties

Senior Sergeant, in charge—1

Sergeants—3

Senior Constables—7

Constables—14

(5) Upper Mount. Gravatt Division

Year	Police	Population	Ratio
July 1995	40	53,427	1:1,335.67
July 1996	39	54,395	1:1,394.74

Year	Acacia Ridge Division		
	Police	Population	Ratio
July 1995	23	46,477	1:2,020.74
July 1996	26	48,313	1:1,858.19

(6) The Government is not refusing to build a new police station in the Sunnybank electorate. The construction of a police station at Calamvale remains on the Queensland Police Service's Ten Year Capital Works Program.

962. Courts Service Strategy

Mr WELLS asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (8/10/96)—

With reference to the newsletter of the Catholic Prison Ministry Tikkun wherein it refers to being consulted by the Department of Justice regarding the Courts Service Strategy for the Courts for the next 15 years—

- (1) Was the Queensland Justices and Community Legal Officers Association consulted as part of this process; if not, why not?
- (2) Was the Justices of the Peace Council consulted in their statutory role under the Justices of the Peace and Commissioners for Declaration Act; if not, why not?
- (3) Was the Sunshine Coast Volunteer Justices of the Peace (Qualified) Group, who were until recently operating out of the Maroochydore Magistrates Court, consulted in the process; if not, why not?
- (4) What plans has the department to expand the JP Volunteers in the Magistrates Court system, including the provision of a room and facilities, similar to that provided to the Court support services?
- (5) As plans were well established to commence JP (Qual) Volunteers in all major Magistrates Courts in Queensland, including the Brisbane Magistrates Court, will he outline the future role of community JPs in the Courts Services Strategy for the next 15 years, and on what bases had this been determined?
- (6) What group of JPs or individual JPs has either he, his office or the Department of Justice consulted in this Court Services Strategy?
- (7) What advice has been given by departmental officers in relation to the services that can be provided by community JP (Quals) in the Magistrates Courts system in Queensland and what positions do these officers hold in the department?

Mr Beanland (12/11/96):

(1) No. At the time consultation was taking place with various organisations in Queensland the Queensland Justices and Community Legal Officers Association was in a difficult position as its affairs were being administered by a provisional liquidator. This was an unfortunate situation because this government seeks to work with the association. However, it was not appropriate to consult with them at a time when the

association was not in the position to reflect the views of its members.

(2) Yes. An officer from the Courts Division met with the President of the Justices of the Peace Council to discuss the strategy.

(3) Yes. A member of the JP Volunteer Group from Maroochydore, Mr Neville Jackson, was present at the meeting with the President of the JP Council.

(4) Recently I introduced into this parliament the Justices of the Peace and Commissioners for Declarations Amendment Act. The amendments to the Act are designed to maintain the status quo while the Queensland Law Reform Commission considers the present system in which Justices of the Peace operate. It would be inappropriate to generate plans to extend the JP Volunteers program until the Law Reform Commission has finished its work.

(5) Again it would be inappropriate to make such long term plans until the Queensland Law Reform Commission has reviewed the role of Justices of the Peace in Queensland.

(6) As I indicated previously the President of the Justices of the Peace Council was consulted on this matter and along with 34 different private, government, and quasi government organisations.

(7) The powers and authorities of Justices of the Peace (Qualified) have been spelt out in several issues of the Justice Papers and staff of the Justices of the Peace Branch reaffirm these powers and authorities to any enquirer. The extent to which community Justices of the Peace (Qualified) exercise their powers and authorities varies from one community to another; but there has been no direction by any Departmental officer to change the existing arrangements.

964. State High Schools, Enrolment

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Education (8/10/96)—

- (1) How many State high schools in Queensland have less than 300 students enrolled?
- (2) Where are these schools located?

Mr Quinn (6/11/96): (1) & (2) There are 21 state high schools in Queensland with less than 300 students enrolled. These schools are located throughout the Capricornia, Darling Downs, Metropolitan East, Metropolitan West, Northern, North Western, Sunshine Coast, South Western and Wide bay regions of the Department of Education.

965. Transport and Main Roads Department, Corporate Services Sections

Mr ELDER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (8/10/96)—

With reference to his claim that there were no extra costs involved in the separation of Main Roads from the Department of Transport, even for such items as the establishment of new executive offices, printing of new stationery or creation of additional positions—

What measures has he put in place to ensure that the Corporate Services Sections in both the Departments of Transport and Main Roads, which are apparently half the size of the former Queensland Transport Corporate Services Directorate, will not begin to grow back towards their original size?

Mr Johnson (7/11/96): I have been advised that there were one-off costs incurred in the establishment of the Departments of Transport and Main Roads. These costs related to the determination of the mechanics of deamalgamation, the establishment of separate departmental identities, and necessary changes to business systems.

The Corporate Services functions of the two departments have been either split or shared. The decisions made to split services have been taken because they offer a driving role for the new departments which may mean operating differently from the past. The decisions made to share services have been taken because opportunities exist to achieve greater efficiency and a reduction in costs. Therefore the comparison of the sizes of the two departments' Corporate Services functions in relation to the former Queensland Transport may be misleading.

The deamalgamation of Corporate Services was guided by a clear protocol, signed by the respective Directors-General, which stressed cooperation and commitment to ensuring the success of the deamalgamation and the future success of both departments. The focus of Corporate Services in both departments is adding value to the business units to enable them to meet their objectives. The assessment of relevance to, and best value for, business units will be monitored through the benchmarking of services in the public and private sector. Where formal service agreements are in place for shared services, the 'buyer' can exercise their authority in ensuring value for money services are received.

The recent funding constraints in themselves ensure that the departments cannot afford to expand their Corporate Services areas. Mechanisms in place to further ensure the departments Corporate Services do not inappropriately grow in size also include:

Resources employed in corporate services are managed through a separate program, with clear deliverables and funding allocations,

The benchmarking of services will be used to monitor performance and judge best value,

A process of determining fair prices for services will be used to monitor costs borne by business units, and

Program evaluation will formally examine the effectiveness and value for money issues.

966. Police Resources, Townsville

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (8/10/96)—

- (1) What is the current position regarding the Police Beat services in Townsville as according

to reports, there were highly successful trials of Police Beat services in Toowoomba and at West End and they are expected to be expanded to Townsville?

- (2) How many positions have been called for Townsville?
- (3) When are they likely to be filled?
- (4) What areas will be covered by Police Beats and how were they selected?
- (5) Over the last 12 months what have been the total number of police committed to Central Business District patrols in Townsville, particularly through the Flinders Mall Police Shopfront?
- (6) What were the total number of hours of commitment to these patrols, and how does this compare with police CBD patrols in comparable centres, such as Cairns and the Gold Coast?

Mr Cooper (5/11/96):

(1, 2, 3 & 4) As part of proposals to expand Police Beat services to other areas, three beat areas were nominated for Townsville, these being North Ward, Garbutt and Aitkenvale. These areas were chosen following a detailed analysis of calls for service within the greater Townsville area which was conducted in mid 1995. Six additional senior constable positions were advertised in the Queensland Police Gazette for the beat positions but expansion of the project was deferred following the change of Government, pending a reassessment of policing priorities. As part of that assessment, it was decided to defer further consideration of the project until 1997/98, in order to accord higher priority to other initiatives in 1996/97. These initiatives included the Police Staffing Plan which will provide increased operational policing services to the community through the provision of extra police officers and ongoing civilianisation of the service to release police for operational duties, and the establishment of the North Queensland Campus of the Queensland Police Academy which was opened on 20 October 1996 with an initial intake of 40 recruits as part of the Government's commitment to increase police strength to 2,780 by the year 2005.

(5) Since the official opening of the Flinders Mall Shopfront on 21 April 1995, two police officers have been permanently located at that establishment. These officers are responsible for the general policing of the Central Business District of Townsville with a primary focus on beat patrolling.

These officers are supplemented from time to time with other personnel for the purpose of target patrolling.

The Shopfront's strength also includes a permanent administrative officer.

(6) Both police officers in the Shopfront work a standard 40 hour week.

The establishments for all Shopfronts throughout Queensland are identical. These may be supplemented, however, at the discretion of Regional Assistant Commissioners to meet the demands of local circumstances.

970. Class Sizes

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education (8/10/96)—

With reference to information recently provided by him on class sizes in Queensland—

Will he provide a breakdown on a region by region basis of class sizes above the recommended levels as at the February effective enrolment returns in 1995-96?

Mr Quinn (6/11/96): Classes above target size—

Region	1995	1996
Sunshine Coast	206	212
Metropolitan West	339	328
Metropolitan East	367	268
Darling Downs	100	69
South Western	8	12
Wide Bay	121	124
Capricornia	110	134
Northern	128	123
North Western	29	8
Peninsula	102	76
South Coast	351	290

972. Asbestos in Government Buildings

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (8/10/96)—

With reference to problems of asbestos in Government buildings in Rockhampton—

- (1) Has there been an audit carried out of all publicly-owned buildings, especially schools, to determine the presence of asbestos and the health risk associated with its presence; if so, what is the result of this audit, i.e. is there a priority list for the treatment of this problem?
- (2) If not, when will such an audit be carried out?
- (3) Are there personnel from Q-Build trained to manage asbestos identification and removal at a regional level and are these employees currently working on an asbestos removal program?
- (4) What is the budget for asbestos removal and problem management in the Capricornia region?
- (5) What schools in Rockhampton have been identified as having asbestos problems and when will these problems be addressed?

Mr Connor (7/11/96):

- (1) Approximately fourteen (14) asbestos audits comprising of 268 publicly-owned buildings have been carried out in the local Rockhampton area. Four (4) schools have been audited in the local Rockhampton area. Results of the 14 "audits" carried out are detailed in the Building Management Plan (BMP) which is held on each site. The BMP is held by the Client Department's Nominated Officer.
- (2) Audits are progressively being carried out.
- (3) Q-Build employees working on the Asbestos Management Program have been specifically trained by experienced staff. These personnel are not

trained as asbestos removalists, they are trained to manage contractors who undertake removals.

(4) Funding for asbestos removal and problem management in the Capricornia Region is the responsibility of each department as part of the Annual Maintenance Program and is on an as needs basis.

(5) There have been no asbestos materials classified in the Immediate ("asbestos problems") category in Rockhampton schools audited. Asbestos containing materials found in schools are to be managed as recommended in the Building Management Plan.

973. Regional Libraries, Book Stock

Mr FOLEY asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (8/10/96)—

With reference to the Government's slashing of funds for purchase of book stock for regional libraries from \$2m in 1995-96 to \$1m in 1996-97—

- (1) How many books will be unable to be purchased as a result of this \$1m budget cut?
- (2) Did she consult with regional libraries and local Government authorities prior to cutting this grant for book purchase; if so, with what libraries and regional authorities did she consult and what was their feedback to her?
- (3) What possible justification could there be for this savage cut affecting regional Queenslanders?

Mrs Sheldon (7/11/96):

(1) The previous government increased baseline funding for local governments for public libraries by an additional \$2.0m as a new initiative in 1994-95. During the budget process this year, all existing initiatives were reviewed. The 1996-97 allocation of baseline funding for public libraries will be \$14.380m. This represents only a marginal reduction on previous years and not the \$1m suggested.

(2) A review of the public libraries grant scheme has already commenced. The review is examining the effectiveness of Queensland Government support for the continued development of public libraries. There is a Treasury representative on the review committee, and representatives of both local government and regional libraries. A process of regional consultation will culminate in a report for my consideration, which I shall receive early in 1997.

(3) It has been necessary for the government to bring the budget under control, and it would be unrealistic to expect the Arts portfolio to be exempt from that process.

975. Police Resources, Gold Coast

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (8/10/96)—

With reference to his statements that extra police will be forthcoming to the Gold Coast Region—

- (1) How many extra police will be allocated to the Gold Coast?

- (2) How many of these additional police will be allocated to Coolangatta?
- (3) How many extra civilian staff will be employed by the police on the Gold Coast and in Coolangatta?

Mr Cooper (5/11/96):

(1) The Gold Coast District has an authorised strength of 480 police officers. The actual strength of the District as at 1 October 1996 was 463 police officers. The next graduation of 117 officers from the Queensland Police and Emergency Services Academy will take place on 29 November 1996. A total of 13 First Year Constables will be allocated from this group to perform duties within the Gold Coast District. Allocations of First Year Constables are made on a District level only.

(2) This financial year the overall strength of the Service is to be increased by 139 police positions. While a final decision in regard to the distribution of these additional positions has not yet been made, operational policing and direct service delivery to the community remain priorities for the Service and will be considered in the determination of appropriate allocations. Accordingly, the Gold Coast District will be allocated a proportion of the total number of available positions in line with the respective operational needs of Districts across the State. The Regional Assistant Commissioners have the discretion to determine the most appropriate allocation of staff within the divisions in their regions. The impact of any increases as a result of this allocation is unlikely to be felt prior to June 1997 due to the time involved in recruiting and training additional officers.

(3) The implementation of the civilianisation program is proceeding in the 1996/97 financial year with the distribution of Communication Room Operators in Regional centres to be effected in mid April 1997. This distribution will include the placement of 8 Communications Room Operators within the Gold Coast District Communications Centre at Broadbeach and will enable the release of police officers from these support roles back to operational duties. At this time it is not proposed to place additional civilian positions within the Coolangatta division.

978. Education Department, Maintenance Allocation

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (8/10/96)—

With reference to the \$55m maintenance allocation for the Education Department, currently held and expended by Q-Build—

- (1) Will these funds be transferred to the Education Department during 1996-97?
- (2) Will individual State schools be untied from Q-Build for maintenance and building requirements during 1996-97?
- (3) What effect will any transfer of funds to education, and the untying of schools from the current requirement to use Q-Build, have on the staffing and workloads of Q-Build?

- (4) Will any other departments be untied in 1996-97?

Mr Johnson (7/11/96):

(1) Maintenance funds have been quarantined for individual Departments including the Department of Education for 1996/97.

(2) No.

(3) Not applicable.

(4) No.

979. Power Supply, Daintree Region

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (8/10/96)—

With reference to the proposal by the Minister for Mines and Energy to construct a large scale program of highly subsidised power lines through the Daintree Region of Far North Queensland—

- (1) Is he aware or has he been advised of any adverse impacts of such power lines on world heritage values or local endangered species; if so, what are those impacts?
- (2) Who will commission and who in Government will oversee the environmental impact assessment process?
- (3) What is the timetable, and what arrangements are in place for public participation for the EIS process?
- (4) What action will he take to stop this taxpayer funded destruction of the environment?

Mr Littleproud (6/11/96):

(1) The Minister for Mines and Energy has announced that he will be seeking "in principle" Cabinet approval for the proposed powerline prior to an environmental impact assessment study being undertaken.

The Wet Tropics Management Authority has provided advice to me of possible environmental impacts of extending grid electricity north of the Daintree River. However, this advice was given before the Authority was provided with any information about the proposed extension. The environmental impact assessment announced by the Minister for Mines and Energy will provide the means for identifying and addressing potential impacts.

(2) The Far North Queensland Electricity Board will be the agency responsible for overseeing the environmental impact assessment process under section 29 of the State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971. The environmental impact assessment process will be undertaken accordance with the policies and administrative arrangements put in place by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and will involve extensive consultation with advisory groups (including State, Federal and local government agencies, environment and community groups and affected property owners).

In particular, the environmental impact assessment process will require FNQEB to undertake the following processes—

prepare a detailed terms of reference in consultation with the advisory groups;

commission an independent consultant to undertake and prepare a draft environmental impact study in accordance with the terms of reference;

publicly release the draft environmental impact study report and allow advisory groups to comment on the report;

finalise the environmental impact study report based on submissions (which determines whether to proceed with the line and, if so, the preferred route); and

develop an Environmental Management Plan (covering the construction and operational requirements of the project) to minimise the environmental impacts

(3) These details will be determined and announced following consideration of the Cabinet submission to be presented by the Minister for Mines and Energy.

(4) See above.

980. Jinibara State School

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Education (8/10/96)—

With reference to the estimated 1997 student population of 400 at Jinibara State School—

- (1) When will Block D construction commence?
- (2) Will this construction be completed before school starts in 1997 to cater for anticipated school enrolment growth?
- (3) What further commitment will he make in ensuring the provision of appropriate and adequate classroom accommodation to Jinibara State School students given the demographic estimates provided?

Mr Quinn (6/11/96):

(1) Construction commenced on 24 September 1996.

(2) The contractor has programmed the work to meet the commencement of the 1997 school year, excepting certain unforeseen events such as prolonged wet weather.

(3) Demographic analysis indicates that the anticipated enrolment for the start of the 1997 school year will necessitate the provision of an additional two classrooms. Planning is now in progress to provide a relocatable classroom building in addition to the construction of the permanent block.

982. Asbestos in Schools, Mount Gravatt Electorate

Ms SPENCE asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (8/10/96)—

With reference to the asbestos removal program initiated by the previous Government—

- (1) What schools in the Mount Gravatt Electorate have been inspected for asbestos?

(2) When were the inspections carried out and what was the result of these inspections?

(3) What action is he instituting to address the findings of the inspections?

Mr Johnson (7/11/96):

(1) Five (5) audits have been completed to date.

(2) The inspections were carried out from September 1995 to June 1996. Results of "audits" carried out are detailed in the Building Management Plan (BMP) which is held on each site. The BMP is held by the Client Department's Nominated Officer.

(3) Action has or is being taken that is consistent with the results of the Building Management Plan (BMP).

983. Extended Drug Package

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (8/10/96)—

With reference to the new Extended Drug Package, formerly known as the Remote Area Drug Package, which is intended to allow selected and specially trained Queensland Ambulance Officers to use certain drugs, through consultation with a doctor, in areas where they are at least thirty minutes from medical care—

- (1) What is the current status of the Extended Drug Package in regional Queensland, in particular, Central Queensland?
- (2) How many selected and specially trained officers are there in the region, in particular, those who are IV trained?
- (3) What training programs have been put in place to ensure that rural based Queensland Ambulance officers are given every opportunity to upgrade their skills in this area?

Mr Veivers (7/11/96):

(1) The Remote Area Drug Package is a program which allows an ambulance officer in isolated locations to administer drug therapy under the instruction and direction of a medical practitioner. The Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) has approved the new Extended Drug Package in principle and has written new clinical policies to cover the administration of the drugs. A training program is currently being developed which will allow the regions to upgrade the skills of their officers.

The Remote Area Drug Package, which is the predecessor to the Extended Drug Package, will remain operational until the introduction of the new program.

(2) The Central Region of the QAS has sixty (60) officers trained in the provision of IV fluid resuscitation. These officers operate under the medical direction of their local medical practitioner who is responsible for the program. These officers are deployed at selected rural stations in the Central Region.

(3) The provision of the Extended Drug Package is dependent on the support of the local medical practitioner. The medical practitioner plays a critical

role in training the officers and thereafter acts as one of a number of contact medical practitioners for the ambulance officers to obtain approval before the administration of any additional drugs. Where the program has the support of the local medical practitioner, the QAS will ensure all officers in rural locations will be given every opportunity to participate in the program.

984. Complaints of Domestic Violence Against Police Officers

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (8/10/96)—

With reference to a recent case where a New South Wales policeman murdered his wife in Bald Hills, Queensland and with respect to the Queensland Police Service—

- (1) Does the Police Service maintain records of the number of complaints regarding domestic violence made against Queensland Police Officers; if so, how many police officers have been involved in domestic violence in their own domestic situations?
- (2) Do these police have special training and undergo specific domestic violence programs?
- (3) Are police, who have a history of personal domestic violence allowed to respond to domestic violence situations; if so, why?
- (4) Has the Queensland Police Service considered implementing the Duluth (USA) model or the very successful model of handling domestic violence in Aruncy, Massachusetts, USA where there has been no domestic violence murders in over 9 years?

Mr Cooper (5/11/96):

(1) The Queensland Police Service maintains a Complaint Management System database which identifies all complaints made against Queensland police officers. The system does not, however, differentiate between complaints made against Queensland police officers who are perpetrators of domestic violence and complaints made against police officers responding to incidents of domestic violence.

All Domestic Violence Orders issued against police officers are brought to the attention of Assistant Commissioners and disciplinary action is taken against the officers where justified. Officers who are respondent spouses in Domestic Violence Orders are not permitted to possess either privately owned or Service weapons.

The Assistant Commissioners maintain records of those officers who are named as respondent spouses in Domestic Violence Orders, however, these records are not kept in a form which allows ready statistical retrieval.

(2) There are no mandatory domestic violence programs in place for Queensland police officers who are perpetrators of domestic violence. Queensland police officers and their spouses may receive counselling from Human Services Officers

and can be referred to external domestic violence programs.

(3) A police officer who is named as a respondent spouse in a Domestic Violence Order is not permitted to possess weapons. In many cases this results in the officer being redeployed from operational duties. Officers who are respondent spouses and continue in operational roles may be directed to attend domestic violence incidents. The Queensland Police Service expects its officers to act professionally at all times without regard to their personal situations. Officers who allow their personal circumstances to interfere with their professionalism may be subject to disciplinary sanctions.

(4) The Queensland Police Service has, for some time, been involved in the development of a response to domestic violence which draws from successful overseas models including the Duluth and Quincy models. The essential element in these models is the provision of a coordinated, multi-agency response to domestic violence.

Strategies to improve liaison and cooperation between the courts system, domestic violence support and referral service and the Queensland Police Service are included in the Queensland Police Service Domestic Violence Strategic Plan.

The Queensland Police Service is already participating in coordinated responses to domestic violence, including a pilot project in Townsville. Negotiations with other government departments, the Brisbane City Council and community groups are taking place to establish a similar approach to domestic violence in the greater Brisbane area.

Other elements of the Duluth and Quincy models have been considered and adapted to the legal framework which applies to Queensland. Of most relevance to the Queensland Police Service is the 'pro-arrest' policy frequently adopted in United States' jurisdictions. While the Duluth model highlights the desirability of arresting a domestic violence perpetrator, Queensland law does not permit the arrest of perpetrators as a routine measure. However, it is Queensland Police Service policy that where sufficient evidence of a criminal offence is available against a perpetrator of domestic violence that criminal proceedings are taken against that person and this may involve the arrest of the perpetrator.

986. Woolcock Street Roadworks Project, Townsville

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (9/10/96)—

- (1) Will he indicate what timeframe is planned for the Woolcock Street roadworks project in Townsville, specifically when will tenders be called in view of announcements that work is supposed to start in December?
- (2) Will he also advise on programming for the completion of the northern approaches works, which are to link the Woolcock Street project via Ingham Road and Duckworth Street?

- (3) More importantly, will these timeframes conform with those announced by the previous State and Federal Governments?
- (4) Will he give an undertaking regarding the missing link on Woolcock Street from Dalrymple Road through to Duckworth Street as this will be a State Government responsibility and requires a firm commitment as a follow-on to complete this important network?

Mr Johnson (7/11/96):

(1) The Federal Government announced funding approval of \$21.49 million for the Woolcock Street and Duckworth Street projects in Townsville.

I have recently confirmed State Government funding for this Townsville roads package, and I understand the funding contribution from the Townsville City Council is in the final stages of an agreement.

Tenders for the bridgeworks and associated precast concrete bridge components were called on 28 September 1996. Subject to the normal tender assessment processes, the concrete products manufacturing will commence in December 1996, and works under the bridgeworks contract will start in January 1997.

(2) This total Townsville roads package will be delivered under a number of separate contracts.

Dates for Calling Tenders

- a. Bridges over Louise Creek and the rail spur—Sept. 1996 (called)
- b. Drainage works in Duckworth Street—Oct. 1996
- c. Woolcock Street (Duckworth Street—Bohle)—Nov. 1996
- d. Duckworth Street (Dalrymple Road—Ingham Road)—Nov. 1996
- e. Woolcock Street (Duckworth Street—Hugh Street)—June 1997
- f. Ingham Road (Mather Street—Bohle)—Nov. 1997
- g. Shaw Road (Bruce Highway—Hind Road)—Nov. 1997

(3) Following the recent funding approvals by the Federal and State Governments, these projects are programmed for completion by December 1998, in accordance with the commitments of the previous Federal and State Governments.

(4) The extension of Woolcock Street between Dalrymple Road and Duckworth Street will be constructed to a four-lane divided road and will be funded by the State Government, with a contribution from Townsville City Council. As indicated above, tenders for these works are expected to be called in June 1997 and construction is scheduled to commence in October 1997 at an estimated cost of \$7.8 million.

987. Winton-Hughenden Rail Line

Mr ELDER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (9/10/96)—

- (1) How regularly are services operating on the Winton to Hughenden line and what are the levels of patronage for those services?
- (2) What level of community service obligations is involved in supporting any services on the Winton to Hughenden line and what are the maintenance costs associated with that line?

Mr Johnson (7/11/96):

(1) A scheduled service is provided from Hughenden to Winton and return once a week. The normal loading on this train is approximately 200t trailing load, whereas a full train could haul around 800t trailing load.

Livestock trains are provided on an as-required basis and 12 extra trains were run up and down during the period 1 January to 10 October 1996.

(2) The CSO requirement to support the services between Winton and Hughenden on this line section for the 1994-95 financial year was \$1.34 million.

At this stage, minimal maintenance is being undertaken on the line section, and for the line to remain open, the following costs will need to be incurred:

Up front: \$3.0 million

On going: \$2.1 million per annum (CSO payment)

989. Transport Minister; Election Promise to Jilalan Railway Workers

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (9/10/96)—

With reference to the combined railway union meeting held at the Sarina Bowls Clubs on 24 March 1995 at which he, then the Coalition's Shadow Minister for Transport, promised running crews at Jilalan that if the Coalition won Government he would guarantee them an 8-hour shift—

Will he honour his election promise?

Mr Johnson (7/11/96): Since that meeting at the Sarina Bowls Club, Queensland Rail and unions have been involved in continuous negotiations on a Traincrew Agreement. These negotiations involved state and local union officials and key QR managers.

The Agreement embraces a range of productivity initiatives, in return for substantial remuneration incentives. This Agreement will enable Queensland Rail to meet the challenges of the future. Part of the Agreement involves working shift up to 11 hours for Two Driver Operations, and 8 hours 45 minutes for Driver Only Operations, and when a Driver is rostered with a Driver's Assistant.

The package was taken to all traincrew employees across the State. These employees voted overwhelmingly, by secret ballot, to accept the proposal. Given this situation and the financial benefits accruing to Traincrew from this Agreement, it is unlikely that Traincrew at Jilalan or other depots would wish to revert to 8 hour shifts, and the subsequent loss of income and other improved conditions.

990. Undurba Preschool, Speech Therapy Services

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Education (9/10/96)—

When will speech therapy services for Undurba Pre School students commence?

Mr Quinn (6/11/96): During 1995 Undurba State School was serviced by a therapist for one full day per week over the whole year. When Jinibara State School was opened in 1996 all schools in the Pine Rivers area were made aware that they would be required to forego some service to enable the servicing of the new school, as there was no additional time available. The situation was brought to the attention of the appropriate principals' cluster on 5 December 1995. Consequently, at the beginning of 1996 it was decided that Undurba State School would drop from one full day (8:30am to 4:30pm), to six hours (8:30am to 2:30pm).

Schools in the Pine Rivers area are involved in prioritising the speech pathology needs of students. The speech and language pathologists respond to these needs. This is a necessary process as therapists in the Sunshine Coast Region have carried caseloads of over 300 clients. This figure is outside the acceptable limit and is simply not manageable. The prioritisation is undertaken by the key contact people in the school with support from the therapists. Priorities for the schools are clarified at the beginning of each term.

The principal of the school made a decision to utilise the therapist in the primary section of the school, particularly the special education unit where there were students who had speech needs identified in their individual education programs. The preschool was to receive the services of the advisory visiting teacher for communication.

The provision of this service has never ceased, however there has been some interruption to its delivery, as a result of the untimely resignation of the therapist, on 6 September this year. Several steps have been taken to fill this vacancy:

(a) Eight applicants from an applicant pool assembled in June this year were contacted and each indicated that they had found other employment.

(b) The Queensland therapist locum register was contacted but was not able to supply a suitable applicant.

(c) Arrangements are under way to advertise the position in newspapers. The Department will proceed to recruit a suitable applicant as soon as possible.

991. Ipswich Hospital

Mr HAMILL asked the Minister for Health (9/10/96)—

With reference to the redevelopment of the Ipswich Hospital—

- (1) What is the total cost of this project?
- (2) What is the total contribution to be drawn from the recurrent hospital budget to meet the Government's new "capital charging scheme"?

(3) Over what period will this capital charge be paid?

(4) What was the actual spending of the Ipswich Hospital in 1995-96?

(5) What is the estimated spending of the Ipswich Hospital for 1996-97?

Mr Horan (8/11/96):

(1) \$75 million.

(2 & 3) The Coalition is committed to modernising and upgrading health care facilities; its capital works budget represents real outlays for real projects with achievable deadlines. By redeveloping facilities in this way, the Coalition will achieve value for capital investment, and improved outcomes for both patients and taxpayers.

The Coalition's new and redeveloped hospitals will run at considerably higher levels of efficiency and patient service. Queensland Health will not shirk its responsibility to deliver the best possible health services at the lowest possible cost to the Queensland taxpayer. The approved capital funding framework reflects this.

The only capital charge which will apply will be that to cover Labor's unfunded commitments: where your Leaders, Messrs Beattie and Elder, overcommitted the capital works fund by \$1.2 billion. This capital charge is the cost of preventing the collapse of Queensland's hospital infrastructure, the collapse which would have followed from the bankruptcy of the fund.

(4) \$47.241 million.

(5) Information on hospital estimated 1996-97 budgets, including the Ipswich Hospital estimated 1996-97 budget, will not be available until 1996-97 budget processes have been completed. Districts (and facilities/hospitals within Districts) are currently in the process of analysing budget details provided to them by Corporate Office. Estimated facility/hospital budgets will be determined after this analysis is complete and negotiations with the Director-General on performance targets are concluded. Districts will also access funds from the Surgery on Time and similar strategies as the year progresses.

992. Rural Fire Brigades

Mr LIVINGSTONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (9/10/96)—

With reference to recent complaints from rural fire brigades that they are underfunded and as a result, fear their effectiveness to fight bushfires will be impeded—

(1) Why is the 1996-97 Coalition Budget for rural fires less than that set by Labor in 1995-96?

(2) Does he agree with rural firefighters that underfunding in the 1996-97 Budget will mean less fire protection in rural Queensland?

(3) Given this underfunding, does he now expect that rural fire brigades will turn to local authorities so that they can properly fund their activities?

Mr Veivers (7/11/96):

(1) The budget for the Rural Fire Division of the Queensland Fire Service (QFS) for 1996-97 is \$6.364M. The Division's budget has not been cut. The current budget continues to be comprised of the agreed base funding, the Bushfire Audit initiatives and an allocation from the Department of Emergency Services indexed \$10M new initiative provision. The Division's base funding increased by 3.2% compared with 1995-96, from \$2.716M to \$2.803M.

(a) The initiative funding resulting from the Bushfire Audit and approved by the previous Government is scheduled for reduction over a five year period. The previous government approved a reduction in this financial year from \$3.09M to \$2.64M.

(b) The previous year's budget also included funding of \$0.860M by way of an election promise of the previous Government. This initiative was intended to provide:

(i) \$0.74M for the provision of new rural firefighting appliances.

(ii) \$0.07M for the provision of new communications equipment to rural fire brigades.

(iii) \$0.05M for the provision of protective clothing for rural firefighters.

Funding for the first year of this initiative (1996/97) was provided by Treasury from the Consolidated Fund. The Department of Emergency Services was directed by the previous Government to fund this initiative in 1996/97 FY from the Department's internal initiative fund (Tobacco Tax). As the funds from this source had already been fully allocated, the former Government's election promise could only be met by cutting other initiatives to which funds had already been committed. In other words, the former Government's election promise was in effect unfunded for the 1996/97 FY.

(c) The previous year also included a once-off amount provided by the Commissioner, QFS from the urban fire budget.

(2) I do not agree that there will be less fire protection in rural Queensland. It is pertinent to note that the funding for the Rural Fire Division for this year is higher than the funding provided over four of the six years during which the previous Government held office. This year will see general equipment, such as pumps and knapsacks valued at \$1M, provided to brigades.

Fire protection is dependent upon more than just equipment. The permit to burn system employed over the last four decades will continue, as will training to the volunteer fire wardens and volunteer brigade members.

(3) Legislation to enable local authorities to strike a rural fire levy was enacted in 1994 and over 30 local authorities already have a levy in place. It is up to each local authority to determine through consultation with the local District Inspector and the rural fire brigades whether a levy should be imposed, how much the levy should be and the disbursement of the levy money.

The Rural Fire Division has recently introduced a classification system which will help in the categorisation of each rural brigade into one of three categories. The classification system also recommends the type and quantity of equipment for a brigade of each classification. The Division is using this classification system to more equitably distribute equipment funds and it is probable that brigades in truly rural areas of Queensland are now receiving a greater share of the available funds. Now that this guideline has been introduced I encourage all councils to liaise with their local District Inspector to better determine how the needs of the local brigades can be met.

993. Ambulance Subscriptions; Fire Levy

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (9/10/96)—

With reference to the Queensland Ambulance Service and the Queensland Fire Service—

(1) Will he guarantee that there will be no other increases other than CPI increases in the ambulance subscriptions during 1996-97?

(2) Is he currently considering increases to ambulance call-out charges to be implemented early in 1997 or will he unequivocally rule out such increases?

(3) Will he guarantee that the fire levy will not be increased other than by a CPI or less figure during 1996-97?

Mr Veivers (7/11/96):

(1) You will be aware that a review of the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) is currently being undertaken with a report expected in the near future. This will also address the issue of QAS subscription rates and, until the report is received and considered by the Government, I am unable to comment further in regard to QAS subscription rates.

(2) This review will also consider the QAS fees for provision of ambulance services to persons not covered by a current ambulance subscription and, until the report is received and considered by the Government, I am unable to comment further in regard to QAS fees for provision of ambulance services.

(3) Increases on the fire levy for the 1996/97 period have been set at no more than 3.3%. This is in line with CPI increases. There will be no increases above this figure for the 1996-97 period.

994. Fire Station, Hervey Bay

Mr NUNN asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (9/10/96)—

With reference to the Coalition promise made to the people of Hervey Bay that a 24-hour fire station would be provided when the Coalition took Government—

(1) Why has this promise not been kept?

(2) Does he intend to keep this promise; if so, when does he intend to keep it?

- (3) What is the expected date of commencement of the 24-hour station?

Mr Veivers (7/11/96): In response to the specific questions made by Mr Nunn, I can advise as follows:

Both the Torquay and Pialba Fire Stations currently provide a 24-hour fire and rescue service to Hervey Bay. Torquay has a total of 14 career firefighters, who provide an immediate response between 7.00am and 11.00pm and 10 auxiliary firefighters to cover the remaining 8 hours. Pialba is staffed by 10 auxiliary firefighters.

The Queensland Fire Service has adopted a flexible staffing strategy employing auxiliary and permanent firefighters. This strategy matches resources to workload patterns in a way that ensures Hervey Bay is provided with a service meeting national and international standards of service delivery.

Growth projections for Hervey Bay suggest that an increase in the level of service delivery may become necessary at some time in the future. However, at this stage it would be premature to change staffing arrangements at Torquay Fire Station.

995. Shaws Road, Townsville

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (9/10/96)—

With reference to the improvement of the Thuringowa Drive—Dalrymple Road intersection and the sealing of part of Shaws Road which has led to a massive increase in traffic volumes and given that there have been some 40 accidents, some fatal, on the unsealed section of Shaws Road—

Will he give a firm undertaking that completion of Shaws Road will be given priority and will he give a timetable for completion of the work?

Mr Johnson (7/11/96): The construction of Shaws Road to a bitumen-sealed standard, extending from the Bruce Highway to Hind Road (an extension of Dalrymple Road) is scheduled for construction during 1998. Tenders are expected to be called in November 1997.

The recent State Budget provides funding for the design of this project during 1996/97. Design has commenced and will be completed by June 1997.

The project is currently programmed for completion in the second half of 1998.

The actual timing of the project will be reviewed in June 1997, at which time options for advancing the works will be considered.

996. Diesel Electric Locomotives

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (9/10/96)—

Will he take action to correct a design fault in the new 2800 class diesel electric locomotives, whereby when a beast is struck by the locomotive at running speed, the cowcatcher fails to throw the beast to the side of the train, and instead, allows it to pass under the train leading to damage to the air system, and in

the case of passenger trains, to other serious damage?

Mr Johnson (7/11/96): The design of the cowcatcher on the new 2800 class diesel electric locomotives is the same as existing QR locomotives, which means the cowcatcher is approximately 100mm above rail height. Animals such as kangaroos and small cows can squeeze under the cowcatcher and generally no air equipment is damaged.

However, any beast, including kangaroos, that strike the front of the locomotive (headstock), where the air connections for coupling to the adjacent locomotives are located, is likely to cause damage. If pipes are broken, the driver can still take action to apply the brakes of the train. Loss of train air will bring on the train brakes. The new 2800 locomotive is more susceptible to this damage due to the mounting arrangement of the cocks. In addition, the beast tends to roll along the side of the locomotive, where other air equipment is susceptible to damage.

The design of the 2800 locomotive did not take into consideration the high occurrences of beast strikes. It has also been suggested that the locomotive's reduced noise level offers less warning to cattle. Older QR diesel locomotives are less susceptible to damage due to the use of more robust cocks, mounted flat against the face of the headstock and, in general, higher up. Many still have buffers fitted which offer protection, but a program to remove buffers has been in force for some time now as they are considered unnecessary, and a safety issue. The 2800 locomotive headstock design is similar to electric locomotives.

QR is currently reviewing the design of future 2800 class locomotives, and modifying the existing locomotives. Modifications include stronger cocks, improved mounting and added protection, and has included the requirement for beast strike protection.

997. Prostitution Laws

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (9/10/96)—

With reference to the Special Operation Task Force to monitor identifiable trends in prostitution related activities, particularly where they relate to advertising in regional newspapers and attempts to circumvent existing legislation and noting that advertising is still wide spread (including in free suburban newspapers) (9/10/96)—

- (1) What staff are attached to this unit?
- (2) What trends has this unit identified?
- (3) How effective has the Police Service been in addressing breaches of the laws on prostitution?
- (4) What action is intended by the Police Service to address difficulties identified in policing current prostitution laws?
- (5) Does he intend to introduce amendments to the current prostitution legislation in the near future; if so, what will be the basis of those amendments?

Mr Cooper (5/11/96):

(1) The Special Operations Task Force is presently staffed by eight police officers and one staff member.

(2) The main trend identified by the Task Force has been the closure of known large brothels. With particular reference to advertising in regional newspapers, certain trends have been identified. The bulk of prostitution advertising is now drafted to give the appearance of single person operations, in compliance with current legislative requirements. These advertisements are not normally overt in relation to prostitution services. Advertisements are also being placed in the Natural Therapies section of some newspapers.

(3) The Queensland Police Service has actively enforced the current legislation relating to prostitution and, where breaches have been detected, appropriate action has been taken. During the period February 1993 to June 1996, some 190 persons were charged with a total 715 charges by the Special Operations Task Force.

(4) & (5) I have already indicated my intention to review the prostitution laws and I will keep you advised as to progress.

999. Police Resources, Maryborough

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (9/10/96)—

With reference to an increase in the funded strength of police numbers for 1996-97 of 139—

When does he intend to realise his commitment during the 1995 State Election that the Maryborough Police District needed another 88 police officers?

Mr Cooper (5/11/96): The Coalition Government has given an undertaking to increase the strength of the Queensland Police Service by 2780 police officers over the ten year period commencing from the 1995/96 financial year. This increase includes an additional 800 police officers in the three year period from 1996/97 to 1998/99. This financial year the overall strength of the Service is to be increased by 139 police positions.

While a final decision in regard to the distribution of these additional positions has not yet been made, operational policing and direct service delivery to the community remain priorities for the Service and will be considered in the determination of appropriate allocations. Accordingly, the Maryborough Police District will be allocated a proportion of the total number of available positions in line with the respective operational needs of Districts across the State.

1001. Police Beat Shopfront Program

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (9/10/96)—

With reference to the outstanding success of the Police Beat Shop Front Program introduced by the Labor Government in 1993, and his intention to bring

the total number of permanent shop front locations in Queensland to 25 by 30 June 1997—

(1) As this figure is substantially lower than the Labor Government's intention of 32 permanent and 14 relocatable shop fronts by the same date, does this mean the Coalition Government does not share the public's appreciation of these facilities; if so, why?

(2) What alternative measure does he propose to put in place to provide the Queensland community with the policing services they would have received had Labor's proposals been given full effect?

Mr Cooper (5/11/96):

(1) The Coalition Government has continued to support the Police Beat Shopfront Program and has provided funding of \$1.4m per year, an amount equivalent to the level of funding allocated by the previous Government.

Nevertheless, the recurrent costs involved in operating and maintaining these facilities have continued to escalate with the increases in the number of permanent shopfronts. Accordingly, the escalation in recurrent costs has impacted on the Service's ability to establish more shopfronts. Consequently the budget allocation of \$1.4m will only allow three shopfronts to be opened in the current financial year.

I would also point out that as more permanent shopfronts are opened, there is a decreased demand for the portable shopfront modules. I am advised that the requirement for portable shopfront modules and Police Beat is under review with the intention to remove portable facilities from service as from 1 November 1996 in line with changing requirements. It is anticipated that funds realised from the disposal of the vans and modules should be sufficient to complete an additional shopfront by June 1997.

(2) With respect to alternative measures I draw your attention to the crime prevention initiatives contained in the Coalition Government's Law and Order Module and in particular to the range of community based policing initiatives .

Central to the philosophy of the Law and Order Module is an active, practical encouragement of the community to help devise local crime prevention strategies and policies. The framework to implement this policy will be a statewide network of Police and Community Councils. The Councils will encourage submissions from local people, consider local crime-fighting strategies and discuss priorities in conjunction with local police.

This Government is funding the development of a School Based Policing Program which, in effect, will place operational police performing policing duties within selected school communities.

Beat Policing will be enhanced to improve access to policing services by local communities.

The key purpose of these new programs will be to supplement current crime prevention strategies and community policing initiatives such as the Police Beat Shopfront Program and form part of the whole of Government approach to crime prevention.

1002. Health Department, Funding of Non-Government Organisations

Mrs EDMOND asked the Minister for Health (9/10/96)—

With reference to the non Government organisations that receive funding from his department either as grants or subsidies—

- (1) How much did they each receive in 1995-96?
- (2) How much will they each receive in 1996-97?
- (3) Will he list all organisations which were defunded in 1996-97?

Mr Horan (8/11/96): (1)-(3) See parts (1), (2) and (4) to my Answer to Advance Question on Notice No. 9 asked during Estimates Committee G process by the Opposition.

1003. Public Art

Mr FOLEY asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (9/10/96)—

- (1) What action is the Government taking to support and promote public art?
- (2) Is the Government aware of the need to ensure that public art is a component of public works such as Government buildings and facilities?
- (3) Is the Government aware of the potential for generating employment for Queensland artworkers through ensuring that works of art are included in public projects such as the Cairns Convention Centre?
- (4) What funding is the Government providing in 1996-97 to support and promote public art?
- (5) In what specific public projects during 1996-97 is the Government planning to fund public art?

Mrs Sheldon (8/11/96):

- (1) In line with Coalition arts policy, the Office of Arts and Cultural Development (OACD) is developing for my consideration a Designing Environments Strategy to clarify the State Government's position on public art in relation to:

legal and administrative arrangements for the engagement of artists on major public works projects;

the purchase and commissioning of artworks in public parks and buildings;

ongoing management and maintenance of artworks on site;

project management issues and 'best practice' models;

the use of cultural activities and artworks to make public precincts safer, more friendly, more community responsive, and more attractive places to spend time in;

the protection of artists' copyright and intellectual property rights in this context; and

the delineation of the responsibilities of state and local government in the planning, development and ongoing management of public art projects and programs.

The Designing Environments Strategy will seek to maximise the development of public art as an industry here in Queensland. Public art is now widely recognised as a high profile aspect of cultural activity that generates employment, encourages cultural tourism and triggers economic growth. It also assists major centres such as Brisbane and smaller communities such as Cooroy or Gordonvale to define their distinct regional identity.

As part of the implementation of the Coalition's Arts Policy, the OACD has also recently commissioned ten cultural sector professionals to produce position papers (in the form of journal articles) which address Public Arts from their own

particular professional perspective. These papers will provide a valuable source of data for the Designing Environments Strategy as well as fostering awareness and debate about Public Art. These commissioned papers when published will not only inform the bureaucracy and Government, they will inform the arts, design and construction industries as well as the broader community.

Each year, the state government commits significant sums of money to art and cultural activities in the public domain. Funding is generally available to arts organisations or community groups for artists' fees for public art and collaborative design projects, however, on occasions funds have also been made available to individual artists to develop their own work in public sites.

(2) Yes. As well as administering funds for public art and providing advice to the Department of Public Works and Housing in relation to the Government's own projects, the OACD has recently supported seminars, workshops and lectures on public art in Brisbane, Townsville and Cairns.

(3) Yes. The procurement of artworks for the Cairns Convention Centre was project managed by OACD client, Queensland Artworkers Alliance (QAA). I was recently pleased to offer a significant increase in operational funding to QAA and next year the Government will be consolidating this organisation's ongoing success through a multiyear funding agreement. This will ensure the excellent work of the Queensland Artworkers Alliance and especially its artist employment program are expanded.

(4) In 1996-97, the Department of Public Works and Housing has made specific provision for public art in new buildings (see 5). I will shortly announce allocations under the Arts Development Program which was established to support arts activities including public art projects submitted by communities, Local Government and individual artists.

(5) In 1996/97 the Government will proceed with the development of 75 William Street in Brisbane City. This public sector project has \$200,000 earmarked by the Department of Public Works and Housing for the inclusion of public art. The commissioning process envisaged will be consistent with the one used for procuring the artworks for 111 George Street, the success of which has been acclaimed by both industry and the media.

1004. Fleay's Wildlife Centre

Mr FOURAS asked the Minister for Environment (9/10/96)—

With reference to his ongoing plans for Fleay's Wildlife Centre on the Gold Coast—

- (1) What were the results of his discussions with the National Trust and the management of the Currumbin Bird sanctuary regarding their acquiring or assuming responsibility for Fleay's?
- (2) Is the national Trust still in consideration as a possible manager of Fleay's?
- (3) What were the results of his discussions with the children of Dr Fleay regarding the future ownership and management of the centre?
- (4) When will a consultant be appointed to review the management of Fleay's?
- (5) When will the consultant be required to report?
- (6) What funding has been allocated for this review?
- (7) How does he account for the \$400,000 above receipts it cost the taxpayer to run Fleay's last year (a breakdown of this figure would be helpful)?
- (8) What was the level of receipts in 1995-96?

Mr Littleproud (6/11/96):

(1) The situation at Fleay's Wildlife Centre was one ignored by Labor. Preliminary discussions were held with the National Trust acknowledging the complementary nature of the similar organisations. Although the Trust has expressed interest in the management of Fleays Wildlife Park, no commitments have been made in this regard. In keeping with the wishes of the park's benefactor, the late Dr David Fleay, Fleays Wildlife Park is a declared Conservation Park under the Nature Conservation Act 1992. It can therefore not be sold or disposed of. It is the Department's intention to review the overall operations of Fleays Wildlife Park, with a view to reducing the commitment of taxpayers dollars to the park's operations.

(2) Expressions of interest have been sought to engage a management consultant to undertake a full review of the running of Fleays Wildlife Park. It is expected that the successful consultant will put forward recommendations to improve marketing and management structures to maintain the uniqueness of the Park while improving its competitiveness and viability. No individuals or organisations are being considered as possible managers of Fleays, and no commitments will be entered into prior to the consultancy being finalised.

(3) The Minister met with members of the Fleay family, including his daughter, sister and wife, as well as with park staff and volunteers to discuss the review of the Fleays Wildlife Park operations. At that meeting, the family was given a commitment that

ownership would remain with the State of Queensland and Fleays Wildlife Park would remain the responsibility of the Department of Environment.

(4) Expressions of interest for a management consultancy closed on Friday 11 October 1996. It is anticipated that the successful consultancy will be appointed soon.

(5) The consultancy brief states that work will commence upon the signing of a consultancy agreement with the Department. It is anticipated the study of Fleays Wildlife Park operations will take 6-8 weeks to complete.

(6) It is expected that the consultancy will cost between \$30,000 and \$40,000.

(7) The \$400,000 allocated above receipts is comprised of a \$200,000 contribution towards salaries and wages and \$200,000 in operational funding (for animal food, veterinary care, wildlife rescue and release and animal hospital costs).

(8) Receipts in admissions, food and souvenir sales and donations were approximately \$630,000 in 1995/96.

1005. Contaminated Land

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Environment (9/10/96)—

With reference to his answer to Question No. 772 I asked on notice—

- (1) What were the levels found at Bielba, Culgoa, Currawinya, Diamantina, Girraween, Idalia, Sundown, Thrushton and Welford National Parks for the following contaminants (a) arsenic, (b) chromium.,(c) lead, (d) mercury, (e) copper, (f) zinc, (g) aldrin and (h) dieldrin?
- (2) Where were these contaminants found on each of these national parks?
- (3) Why were the occupants of Lochern, Currawinya and Sundown National Parks the only staff blood tested as a result of these tests?
- (4) Which other national parks will be investigated in 1996-97 to ensure these workplaces are safe for staff?
- (5) If the national park study has shown that other houses in rural areas may also be contaminated to levels warranting investigation, what has he done to alert rural property owners to this?
- (6) Does he intend to use his powers under the Contaminated Land Act 1991 to notify rural property owners of the potential contamination in and around their homesteads and outbuildings; if not, why not?
- (7) Has he personally approached the Health Minister over this matter; if so, what was the outcome of these talks?

Mr Littleproud (7/11/96):

(1)

Park Contaminants	Arsenic As	Chromium Cr	Lead Pb	Mercury Hg
Culgoa National Park (dip site only)	50	<10	<10	<10
Currawinya National Park	<10-690	10-2300	<10-37000	<0.2-9
Diamantina National Park	<10	20	30-1200	<0.2
Expedition Range National Park (Bielba Base)	0-<10	0-10	60-510	0-1.3
Girraween National Park	<10	<10-10	50-320	<0.2
Idalia National Park	0-50	0-50	230-32000	0-<10
Sundown National Park	<10-1300	10-30	20-610	<0.2-4
Thruston National Park (sheep dip site only)	53-110	not done	not done	not done
Welford National Park	<10-1000	20-30	10-310	<10
	Copper Cu	Zinc Zn	Aldrin	Dieldrin
Culgoa National Park (dip site only)	10	80	.03	78.8
Currawinya National Park	<5-430	30-37000	<10	<.01-3.4
Diamantina National Park	20-75	310-7400	<.05-.04	.145-1.8
Expedition Range National Park (Bielba Base)	0-1600	not done	not done	
Girraween National Park	<5-60	270-850	<.005	<.005-.023
Idalia National Park	0-80	370-3100	0	.13-49
Sundown National Park	10-140	220-9500	<.01-.06	.05-41
Thruston National Park (sheep dip site only)	not done	not done	.01-.145	.58-14
Welford National Park	5-70	50-5100	not done	0.3-132

Results expressed as milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) in the AS 1289 prepared samples.

Varying number of samples were taken from each site—soil, dust & paint samples from residences, workshops & old stock dip sites..

(2) Contaminants were located in the vicinity of old stock dip and stock spraying sites, workshops where these chemical contaminants were stored, and in and around residences where pesticides were used.

(3) Medical advice provided to the Department indicated that blood testing of employees at the other National Parks was not required.

(4) The following national park sites will be investigated in 1996-97: Princess Hills base (Lumholtz National Park), Moorinya and Homevale. In this regard the Coalition Government is continuing to address this issue, which is more than can be said for your Labor Government.

(5) Medical and scientific advice was sought from the Environmental Toxicology Branch of the Queensland Department of Health in the investigations. The officers found that there were no significant health problems associated with the level of contaminants found in the survey.

It is likely that many rural and urban homesteads throughout Australia suffer in some degree from contaminants of various forms. The indications from the national park study are that in some houses the level of some contaminants in localised areas may be within the level requiring investigation.

In regard to paint lead contamination, a major and joint Commonwealth/ State program was put in place two years ago. Brochures are generally available at hardware stores and point outlets advising of the potential risk associated with renovating older houses which may have lead paints.

(6) If any warning in the future is required it would be issued through the Department of health as the lead agency in these matters. The Queensland Department of Health has participated in the review and has not provided this Department with any concerns in relation to long term health risks.

The main concern for rural property owners in regard to contamination by these chemicals is with stock dip sites. The management procedures incorporated in the Contaminated Land Act 1991 are in place to deal with dip sites in rural areas.

Queensland Health provide information to the general community regarding the management of older buildings painted with lead based paint.

The Rural Health and Safety Advisers from the Division of Workplace Health and Safety, Department of Training and Industrial Relations provide advice and information to rural communities on workplace issues relating to hazardous substance usage on rural properties.

The Queensland Farmers Federation employ Health and Safety Field Officers who provide assistance to rural communities on issues relating to farm chemicals.

(7) Given the above, no.

1006. Hospital Funding; Elective Surgery Waiting Lists

Mr MILLINER asked the Minister for Health (9/10/96)—

With reference to Royal Brisbane, Princess Alexandra, Prince Charles, Royal Children's, Cairns Base, Townsville General, Mackay Base, Rockhampton Base, Toowoomba Base, Gladstone, Bundaberg, Maryborough Base, Gold Coast and Nambour Hospitals—

- (1) What extra funding was allocated for each hospital to specifically address elective surgery waiting times?
- (2) What funds were spent on over-time for nurses and doctors and ancillary staff at each hospital to facilitate the extra operations undertaken to reduce the waiting lists?

Mr Horan (8/11/96):

(1) On 1 July 1996, the Coalition announced the commencement of its strategy to enhance elective surgery services in Queensland public hospitals. Surgery on Time is backed by funding of \$36.2 million in 1996/97. This funding is delivered through a number of programs, schemes, and allocations, including the Waiting List Backlog Program (WLBP), the Hospital Access Bonus Pool (HABP), and the Day Only Procedures Program (DOPP). Funding for 1996/97 from the WLPB allocated to each hospital is detailed in Table 1. HABP (\$10.5 million) and DOPP (\$2.642 million) funding is available by bid to all Health Service Districts to bid for available funds. Bids for the DOPP funds are currently being assessed. Further initiatives include:

\$56,000 per site to address the shortage of operating theatre nurses in public hospitals in Queensland, through the employment of perioperative nurse educators in each of the ten (10) Surgery on Time hospitals for 1996/97,

\$52,000 per site has been provided to employ Elective Surgery Coordinators in each of the ten (10) participating hospitals for 1996/97,

approximately \$5,000 per site (in ten (10) sites) will support the further installation of the Elective Admission System (EAS) by December 1996,

theatre information systems in the ten (10) participating hospitals as well as Redcliffe Hospital and the Mater Misericordiae Public Hospital, at a total cost of \$2.4 million,

a \$1 million minor works program (total funds provided to each site being detailed in Table 2), and

special funding to address critical demand management issues at five hospitals, Royal Brisbane, Gold Coast, Townsville, The Prince Charles, and Cairns Base Hospitals (funds provided to each site being detailed in Table 3).

Table 1

Waiting List Backlog Program	
Hospital	1996/97 Approved Funding
Bundaberg	\$360,000
Cairns	\$2,100,000
Gold Coast	\$1,630,000
Mackay	\$900,000
Maryborough	\$600,000
Nambour	\$1,923,113
The Prince Charles	\$1,100,000
Princess Alexandra	\$2,500,000
Rockhampton	\$1,000,000
Royal Brisbane*	\$2,500,000
Royal Children's	\$246,000
Toowoomba	\$900,000
Townsville	\$2,500,000

* An additional \$2.0m provided for replacement equipment plus \$0.5m for enhanced throughput of clinical services.

Table 2

Minor Capital Works Bids	
Hospital	Total Funds Provided
Cairns	\$60,039
Townsville	\$94,563
Rockhampton	\$121,824
Nambour	\$77,106
Royal Brisbane	\$74,000
Princess Alexandra	\$232,714
Gold Coast	\$41,500
Toowoomba	\$155,100
Ipswich	\$85,438
Total	\$942,284

Table 3

Hospital	Use	Critical Demand Management		
		Deliverables	1995/96	Full Year
Royal Brisbane	Open 2 x 30 bed wards	Reduce cancellations to 2/month Reduce waiting list by 230	\$1,300,000	\$5,100,000
Gold Coast	Open 30 beds	Additional 10,000 bed days/annum	\$417,534	\$1,277,163
Townsville	Recruit Urologist	Eliminate urology waiting list	\$277,000	\$908,699
The Prince Charles	Additional Category 1 Activity	Additional 6 Category 1 patients treated per week	\$560,000	\$2,500,000
Cairns Base	3 additional staff in Emergency Dept.	Waiting times improved	\$40,000	\$300,000
Total	90 additional beds 4 additional medical staff	Additional throughput Additional bed days	\$2,544,534	\$10,085,862

(2) The payment of penalties reduces the cost effectiveness of any program, and should be avoided. A program which incurred large overtime payments would suggest inefficiency and waste. Surgery on Time aims to see additional activity absorbed into the normal business day. I am pleased to advise the House that, for most sites, this has been achieved. Only emergency procedures (which are performed outside business hours) have incurred overtime.

1007. School Guidance Officers, Mount Gravatt Electorate

Ms SPENCE asked the Minister for Education (9/10/96)—

With reference to the 18 additional guidance officers provided for in the 1996-97 Budget—

- (1) Which schools in the Mount Gravatt Electorate will receive extra guidance officer time in 1997?
- (2) How much additional guidance officer time will they receive?
- (3) When will the Government achieve its election promise of doubling the number of guidance officers in State schools?

Mr Quinn (6/11/96): (1), (2) & (3) In June 1996, State Cabinet approved the employment of an additional 200 Full-time equivalent (FTE) support personnel, with a total budget of \$20 million over the next three financial years. These personnel are to be employed so that the Department of Education can increase the number of specialised support staff, including guidance officers, available to support children with behaviour difficulties and other special needs in Queensland state schools.

The FTE numbers were converted to a notional salary allocation and the Metropolitan East Region was allocated 10 personnel in 1996-97; 10 for 1997-98; and 9 for 1998-99. This is a total of 29 positions over the next three years.

A collaborative process involving Principals and School Support centre personnel, from the Metropolitan East Region, was used to determine what type of support staff were required to fill the new positions. A number of options were available (eg. Psychologists, guidance officers, behaviour management teachers, youth workers, community advisers and social workers). The final allocations were made in consultation with various groups throughout the region.

In 1996-97 [Stage 1 allocations], the Metropolitan East Region chose to appoint a variety of support personnel, including Behaviour Management Support Teachers, Community Advisers and Teacher Aides, to assist children in schools. However, no guidance officers were requested in this first stage. In Stage 2 (1997-98), it is proposed that three additional Guidance Officers, with a behaviour intervention and support focus, will be employed. A further three Guidance officers are proposed to be employed in the final stage.

With respect to schools in the Mount Gravatt electorate, the Honourable member would be aware that final staffing allocations for 1997 have not been

determined at this time. I would be happy to advise of 1997 support personnel staffing allocations, for schools in the Mount Gravatt electorate, when this information becomes available.

1009. Workers Compensation Board; Kennedy Report

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (9/10/96)—

- (1) Did the Workers' Compensation Board adopt misleading injury classifications in order to over-represent the occurrence and nature of "sprain/strain" injuries and "back injuries" as commented on in the Kennedy report?
- (2) Does the Workers' Compensation Board not adopt scientific injury classification guidelines such as those used by WorkSafe Australia?
- (3) What percentage of "back injuries" referred to in the Workers' Compensation Board data for the 1995 year are made up by each of the following types of injuries (a) upper back injuries, (b) vertebrae fractures, (c) spinal cord lesions, (d) spinal nerve injuries, (e) musculo-ligamentous back injuries, (f) disc injuries, (g) spinal stenosis, (h) spondylolysis and (i) spondylothesis?
- (4) Does the Workers' Compensation Board's grouping of all such injuries under one classification and attributing a demeaning description to it of "back injury" reflect its own agenda to eliminate compensation for this type of injury and common law claims in general?
- (5) How much money does the Government estimate has been spent through management time and expenses in pursuing its own agenda to eliminate common law claims?

Mr Santoro (7/11/96):

(1) The Board does not use misleading injury classifications. The injury classification system developed and used by the Board for claims was introduced on 17 February 1984.

(2) The Worksafe system, released in December 1990, is very similar to the Board's classification system. To ensure national consistency of statistics, the Board plans to upgrade the classification system to be more in line with the Worksafe system. This classification change will occur when the planned new claims management computer system is developed within the next three years. Currently the Board's compensation injury data is converted by the Government Statistician into the Worksafe Australia injury classification codes for the purposes of evaluating and producing statistics on Queensland workplace injuries.

(3) Of the 19,836 statutory back claims lodged during 1995/96:

- (a) 4.23% were upper back injuries
- (b) 1.09% were fractures.

Of the 1,217 common law back claims lodged during 1995/96:

- (a) 1.73% were upper back injuries
- (b) 3.45% were fractures.

The remaining categories requested are not able to be extracted. However, an injury classification breakdown for all statutory and common law back claims for 1995/96, in terms of injury location and nature, is attached.

(4) No

(5) The Government does not have an agenda to eliminate common law claims.

1010. Optical Services, Gladstone Electorate

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Health (9/10/96)—

With reference to optical services to Gladstone for public patients which are critical and as visiting optometrist, Dr Noble, has ceased visiting the city and residents must travel to Rockhampton or Bundaberg for services and as Dr Noble is now sick and has no locum—

What plans are in place to renew an optical service to the Gladstone region given the urgent needs of residents and particularly older residents with regular optical needs?

Mr Horan (8/11/96): The loss to Gladstone of Dr Noble's private practice, now some time ago, is of serious concern to me.

Accordingly, negotiations will be held with the successful tenderer for the proposed co-location of a private hospital in Gladstone regarding the provision of ophthalmology services. However, I realise that this may take some time and so I have directed my Department to immediately advertise the private practice opportunity presented by Gladstone.

As regards public services, there will be no reduction in the travel and accommodation assistance available to Gladstone residents travelling to other centres.

1013. Queensland Health, VERs

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Health (9/10/96)—

With reference to the reorganisation of staff in Queensland Health and savings measures outlined in the Program Statement—

- (1) How many staff from former Regional Health Offices and Central Office have accepted VERs to date?
- (2) What was the average length of service for early retirees concerned?
- (3) How many further VERs have been budgeted for in 1996-97 and when does the department expect to finalise these?
- (4) Will he list all positions which have been advertised as a direct result of the reorganisation since February 1996 and at what level are these positions?
- (5) Which of these have been appointed?

Mr Horan (8/11/96):

(1) VER numbers to date are 24 for Corporate Office and 47 for Regional Offices. These figures account for Regional Directors as Regional Office staff.

(2) The average length of service for these retirees was 16.6 years.

(3) There may be a small additional number of VERs as staff take up positions within the new Corporate Office structure. These will not be a major cost to the Department as it is anticipated that equivalent positions will be abolished and salary savings will compensate Queensland Health for the costs incurred.

(4 & 5) I refer you to the *Government Gazette* and the *Health Services Bulletin*. To what extent each of the vacancies appearing there are a direct result of rebuilding Queensland Health is debatable; the process required to separate this out would be unduly onerous in terms of staff resources. A number of the vacancies during the period occurred as a result of normal staff turnover. I am advised that all rebuilding vacancies will be filled by Christmas this year.

1014. Lake Eacham Regional Nursery

Mr BEATTIE asked the Minister for Environment (9/10/96)—

With reference to the slashing of funds for the Lake Eacham Regional Nursery in the recent State Budget—

- (1) What operational funding is available for the nursery in 1996-97?
- (2) What full-time equivalent staff numbers have been allocated to the nursery in 1996-97?
- (3) What numbers and classification of staff have been lost from the nursery in 1996 and for what reasons?
- (4) How does he see (a) the education work of TREAT being continued without the support of this nursery, (b) the revegetation work of TREAT being continued without the support of this nursery, (c) Donaghy's wildlife corridor being finished without this nursery, (d) this decision sitting with his Government's stated commitment to Landcare and Catchment Management, (e) the nursery's work propagating rare and threatened species of native plants being continued and (f) the revegetation work on new and existing national parks in Far North Queensland continuing without the nursery?
- (5) Who made the decision to cut funding to the nursery?
- (6) Was the matter considered by Cabinet?

Mr Littleproud (6/11/96):

(1) The overall budget allocation (including operational funding) for the Lake Eacham Nursery for the 1996/97 financial year is yet to be determined. The final allocation will depend upon the outcome of a Departmental review of the nursery, as well as:

- (a) an as yet undetermined allocation by the Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA) for ecosystem reconstruction; and
- (b) discussions with Trees for Eacham and Atherton Tablelands (TREAT) and other parties.

(2) There is currently one full time person staffing the nursery with support provided by other regional staff as required. This situation may alter after Departmental review of the nursery is completed in late November 1996.

(3) In June 1996 one temporary and one casual position were terminated as a consequence of strong indications from WTMA that budget allocations for a number of projects carried out by the nursery, and funded by WTMA, would either be terminated or cut. A further temporary employee has been re-deployed to other duties pending the outcome of the review.

(4) a) While the Departmental review of the nursery has not been completed, it is intended that access to nursery facilities by TREAT members will continue, particularly use of the nursery each Friday by volunteers. On this basis, the education work of TREAT would be expected to be largely retained.

If the nursery did close, TREAT would obviously be unable to undertake an education role based solely around the nursery. In the unlikely event this did occur, Departmental officers would help TREAT to identify alternative education opportunities. The Department would also continue to provide an extension service for those individuals and community groups interested in restoration and enhancement of natural habitats by native plant revegetation.

b) As stated above, it is intended that TREAT access to nursery facilities will continue. The revegetation work of TREAT may be affected by reduced field support by the Departmental and it may be necessary for TREAT members to collect more seed for planting than in previous years.

c) The Department's contribution to the Donaghy's corridor revegetation project has been predominantly funded by WTMA. Current indications are that there will be no allocation to this project by WTMA in the 1996/97 financial year. The plants for this project currently housed at the Lake Eacham nursery will be maintained until the planting out period during the forthcoming wet season, at which time I would expect that they would be planted in the area known as Donaghy's corridor.

I am advised that the completion of this project is not so much dependent on the continued operation of the nursery, rather the provision of additional funds for minor capital works.

d) These programs are funded by the Commonwealth Government and managed by the Queensland Department of Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry. The Lake Eacham nursery is not funded by either program, and although cooperative projects have been undertaken, the Lake Eacham nursery is not directly affiliated with either program. The State Government will continue to support both Landcare and the Integrated

Catchment Management initiatives throughout Queensland.

e) The propagation of rare and threatened species is not a primary function of the Lake Eacham nursery, although some experimentation work has been undertaken to trial various propagation techniques. Therefore there is not expected to be a significant impact on this work.

f) If a final decision were made to close the Lake Eacham nursery, priority revegetation work would continue to be undertaken on a park by park basis which would be coordinated through a regional strategic plan for priority rehabilitation works.

(5) and (6) Decisions regarding Lake Eacham will be made by the Government in the context of a woeful funding situation inherited from Labor at both Commonwealth and State levels.

1015. Enduring Power of Attorney Forms

Mr WELLS asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (9/10/96)—

- (1) Is he aware that the introduction of an Enduring Power of Attorney by the last Labor Government had as one of its purposes making accessible to lay people a simple form which could be signed by individuals without occasioning legal expense?
- (2) Is he aware that as a result of recent amendments to the old form 16 (PLA) the new form is now barely locatable, and therefore inaccessible to lay people?
- (3) Is he aware that a person trying to find the new form must go through the following steps (a) realise there might be a new form, (b) check the update of Queensland Legislation Annotations (25.8.96), (c) read through to discover the form is renumbered, (d) note that the form was gazetted 17 May 1996 and go to that Gazette, (e) find p. 621 and note that it says the form is in fact in Special Gazette No. 36 of 1996, (f) look under "n" for "notification of forms" to find a reference to PLA on pages 549-567 and (g) find form 14?
- (4) In light of this absurd difficulty, will he take steps to make Enduring Power of Attorney Forms accessible to the public again by, for example, putting together a package which can be advertised as available, and be circulated to Members for provision to their constituents?

Mr Beanland (12/11/96):

- (1) Yes
- (2) Notice of the approval of new forms for use under the Property Law Act 1974 was given in *Government Gazette* No. 41 17 May, 1996 and commenced on 28 May 1996. These new forms included a new Enduring Power of Attorney form 14 in lieu of the previous form 16A. The content of the new form is identical to the previous form, with the exception of the form number.
- (3) The Honourable Member will no doubt recall that it was legislation introduced and passed during the period he was Attorney-General that created the

inaccessibility of forms highlighted by his question. The passing of a 1994 amendment [via. the Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1994 No. 15 of 1994] to the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, by the Goss Government, inserted provisions which are now Part 8 in that Act. Thereafter all forms to Queensland legislation ceased to be included in Schedules to Acts. Since 10 May, 1994 the procedure for making forms for use pursuant to Queensland legislation, including the Property Law Act 1974, has been regulated by Part 8 of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992. The Honourable Member has correctly described the procedure which the Goss Government decided that the people of Queensland would follow to locate forms to legislation passed by this Parliament. The 1994 Explanatory Note, for section 47 which was subsequently renumbered section 58, asserts that the section "... states standard requirements to facilitate access to forms (and the correct versions of forms) by people who wish to use them".

(4) The Honourable Member suggests that his constituents and the people of Queensland have no choice but to go through the complex procedure described in part (3) of his question. However, in practice most people seeking to appoint an attorney under an Enduring Power of Attorney, either use the services of a solicitor, the Public Trustee or a Trustee Company or purchase a printed form from a Newsagent or a Stationery firm. The Honourable Member's suggestion of producing a package of forms to be supplied to Members for provision to their constituents may have some merit and will be considered. However, that consideration will be postponed until after my Department has completed the process of considering proposals made by the Queensland Law Reform Commission for reforms to the existing Enduring Power of Attorney legislation.

1016. Voluntary Conservation Agreements; Cape York Heads of Agreement

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (9/10/96)—

- (1) Does he endorse and support the comments of the Member for Mansfield in Parliament on Tuesday 8 October regarding the benefits of voluntary conservation agreements (VCAs) with landholders?
- (2) Does he believe all landholders should be treated equally in this regard; if so, does he support the Cape York Heads of Agreement between landholders, conservationists and Aboriginal communities providing for environmentally sustainable protection and use of Cape York lands?
- (3) When will he speak up for Cape York landholders to ensure State Government endorsement of their agreement in the same way he claims to support VCAs referred to by the Member for Mansfield?
- (4) Why is he happy to boast about his promotion of VCAs with rich white landholders elsewhere in Queensland while remaining conspicuously silent in the face of his Government's refusal to

endorse the Cape York VCA to which local Aborigines happen to be a party?

Mr Littleproud (6/11/96):

- (1) Voluntary conservation agreements (VCAs) are an appropriate strategy to provide protection for the conservation values of an area by working in partnership with the landholder. The Member for Mansfield highlighted the benefit of such agreements during his speech on 8 October 1996.
- (2) Yes to the first part of this section of the question. With regard to the Cape York Agreement, this is an unrelated issue, though I can understand the Member's confusion.
- (3) See answer to question 2.
- (4) See answer to question 2, although I resent the offensive nature of this section of the question.

1017. Commercial Crabbing, Pumicestone Passage

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (9/10/96)—

- (1) Is he aware of reports that certain commercial fishermen were conducting crabbing operations in Pumicestone Passage on a commercial basis?
- (2) Were the reports based on fact; if so, were the operations condoned by his department or the QFMA?
- (3) What action has been taken to ensure strict adherence to the regulations in future?

Mr Perrett (5/11/96):

(1) Two recent reports have been received at the Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol (QBFP) Mooloolaba office regarding crabbing operations in Pumicestone Passage. In the first instance a juvenile was crabbing using a licensed tender vessel. The youth was reminded to keep commercial fishing boat markings covered if it was being used recreationally. The second instance related to a number of crab pots. QBFP located only lawful pots. Subsequently patrols of the area revealed no unlawful activity.

(2) Commercial fishing operations of any form are not condoned within the closed waters of the Pumicestone Passage by any staff of the Department or the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority (QFMA).

(3) Regular patrols of the Passage are conducted by QBFP staff.

Very few comments or complaints have been received regarding commercial fishing activities within the Pumicestone Passage and I believe any known infringements would be reported by the public and other commercial fishers alike. Any complaints or notifications are fully investigated.

1018. Perpetual Town Leases

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (9/10/96)—

- (1) How many perpetual town leases are there in Queensland under the State Housing Act?

- (2) In what cities and towns are they situated and how many are in each?
- (3) What has been the average increase in the valuations of these leases over the past five years in Brisbane, Maryborough, Bundaberg, Gladstone, Rockhampton, Mackay and Townsville?
- (4) What is the annual rental on a perpetual town lease with a valuation of (a) \$10,000, (b) \$15,000, (c) \$20,000, (d) \$30,000, (e) \$40,000 and (f) \$50,000?

Mr Connor (8/11/96):

- (1) There are 493 perpetual town leases in Queensland under the State Housing Act.
- (2) The spread of leases throughout the state is shown in schedule 'A'.
- (3) The average increase in valuations over the past 5 years is shown below -
 - Brisbane (residential)—58%
 - Brisbane (commercial)—14%
 - Maryborough (residential)—107%
 - Bundaberg (residential)—73%
 - Gladstone (residential)—143%
 - Rockhampton (residential)—65%
 - Mackay (residential)—93%
 - Townsville (residential)—48%
- (4) Annual land rental for residential leases is based on 3% of the unimproved capital value. Annual land rental for commercial leases is based on 12% of the unimproved capital value.

1019. Year 2 Student Literacy

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education (9/10/96)—

- (1) What proportion of year two students were identified in phases A and B of the 1996 year two net for literacy?
- (2) How many of these students will be assisted by the Reading Recovery Program in 1996-97?
- (3) Will he provide a regional breakdown of both figures?

Mr Quinn (6/11/96): (1), (2) & (3) The Honourable Member would be aware that data from the Year 2 Net is protected under the Freedom of Information Act. Therefore, in the interests of Queensland students I am unable to provide a detailed response to this question.

The Reading Recovery program is an intervention program which utilises highly trained teachers to deliver individual specialised daily support to children who require assistance with support in reading and writing.

This program operates with the lowest text readers from the beginning of the second year of primary school. On entry into the program children will be operating in either Phase A or B of the Reading Continuum. On exiting the program the large majority of children will be Phase C readers.

A child would normally take between 14 and 20 weeks to exit the program. Upon completion less than 4% of children require any additional literacy support in their compulsory school years.

The Reading Recovery program is in its first year of implementation within Queensland. It is operating in four regions and there are currently 96 Reading Recovery Teachers operating in approximately 100 schools. In 1997, the program will extend to operate in all regions.

1020. Tugun Bypass

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (9/10/96)—

With reference to the proposed Tugun Bypass, west of the Coolangatta Airport—

- (1) What action has the Government taken to progress this proposal?
- (2) What discussions has he held with the New South Wales Transport Minister regarding the bypass?
- (3) Will he outline the Government's commitment to this proposal?

Mr Johnson (7/11/96):

(1) This Government is working towards determining the final land use transport strategy for the southern Gold Coast/Tweed corridor. An outcome of this work will be the preferred location and alignment of transport corridors and associated supporting facilities, including the resolution of the proposed Tugun Bypass and the Robina to Coolangatta rail line.

At this stage in the process, three consultants have been shortlisted and their final offers submitted to Government for consideration. It is expected that the successful consultant will be appointed in November 1996. The period allowed in the study is 250 working days, which means completion of the study at the end of 1997.

(2) This study is a joint exercise involving the Departments of Transport, Main Roads and Local Government and Planning. In early September 1996, representatives of these Departments met with representatives from the New South Wales' Department of Transport, the Roads and Traffic Authority and the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning to ensure the New South Wales Government was fully aware of this study. Following this meeting, my colleague the Hon. Di McCauley, Minister for Local Government and Planning wrote to the Hon Craig Knowles, Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning and Minister for Housing seeking agreement in principle of the New South Wales Government to support the findings of the study. I understand a reply has not been received at this point in time.

(3) My Government is committed to progressing and finalising the Southern Gold Coast/Tweed Corridor Strategic Planning Study. It is believed a key outcome of the study will include a land use/transport strategy for the study area which would identify preferred land uses and transport

networks. This would take into account the requirements for both passenger and freight transport and identification of detailed alignments for the major public transport corridor south of Robina and the major new road corridor between Tugun and the Tweed.

1021. Standards Australia

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (9/10/96)—

With reference to the organisation, Standards Australia, and the standards which are issued by this organisation—

- (1) Does he and his department have confidence in the standards issued by Standards Australia; if not, which standards issued by Standards Australia and which are referred to in legislation within his portfolio, do not have his or his department's confidence?

Mr Santoro (7/11/96): (1) There are 37 Australian Standards referenced within the Queensland Workplace Health and Safety legislation. My Department and I have every confidence that these Standards are appropriate to the specific circumstances in which the legislation references them.

1022. Hospital Waiting Lists

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Health (9/10/96)—

With reference to the proceedings for Estimates Committee G, in which he refused to supply information in response to a question on notice from the Shadow Health Minister (Mrs Edmond) concerning hospital waiting lists, under various categories, for certain Queensland hospitals and as he explained his refusal to the Committee by claiming that the question was really a series of questions and too onerous to answer and yet, in Parliament on 9 October, he informed the House that data for waiting lists is "signed off each month" by his department—

- (1) Was his statement to the Parliament on 9 October correct; if so, why did he refuse to supply this readily-available data on waiting lists to the Estimates Committee?
- (2) Is this simply another example of his contempt of the Parliamentary process or did he deliberately withhold this information from the Estimates Committee to hide waiting list figures from the people of Queensland?

Mr Horan (8/11/96): (1 & 2) The only contempt of parliamentary process was that committed by the Member for Mount Coot-tha, Mrs Edmond. She abused the standing orders by asking dozens of questions on notice when she was permitted ten. The success of Surgery on Time has been achieved through the time and effort of Queensland's first class medical, nursing, and allied health staff, which should not be diverted into chasing paper for Mrs Edmond.

I am only too happy to again provide the House with details of the success of Surgery on Time. I am advised that, at the ten Surgery on Time hospitals, between 1 July 1996 and 1 October 1996, the number of long wait, category 1 (urgent) patients fell by 71.6% to only 156. Similarly, the number of category 2 long waits fell by 56, and the number of category 3 long waits by 200.

1023. Cairns Health District; Townsville Health District

Mr De LACY asked the Minister for Health (10/10/96)—

Will he advise the actual recurrent expenditure for 1995-1996 (reconstituted on district basis), and estimated expenditure for 1996-1997 (including details of unresolved issues) for (a) Cairns Health District and (b) Townsville Health District?

Mr Horan (11/11/96): I am advised that the actual recurrent expenditure for 1995-1996 was as follows:

- (a) Cairns District—\$96.460 million (from a budget of \$97.527 million)
- (b) Townsville District—\$131.554 million (from a budget of \$122.264 million)

It must be noted that the total 1995-1996 expenditure for Cairns and Townsville Districts included several items (Cairns District—\$3.171 million, Townsville District—\$2.141 million) which will not occur in either District in 1996-1997, for example Regional Office costs, one-off litigation expenditure, and Public Health activities which have been centralised. This non-recurrent expenditure has been deducted to arrive at the above figures.

Also, under Minister Beattie, the Townsville District incurred a 1995/96 State funded budget overrun of \$9.72 million, which is expected to be reduced to nil in 1996-1997. I am advised that this District is, to date, running to budget.

The estimated funding (including estimated funding for unresolved issues) for 1996-1997 is as follows:

- (a) Cairns District—\$99.349 million
- (b) Townsville District—\$131.993 million

1024. Mackay Helicopter Rescue Service

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (10/10/96)—

With reference to his Government's pre-election promise to the people of Mackay that \$1.5m in capital funding would be provided to the Helicopter Rescue Services in Mackay—

Does he intend to keep the promise to the people of Mackay; if so, when will he be delivering on this promise?

Mr Veivers (11/11/96): On 26 June 1996 I handed over a cheque for \$300,000 from the Department of Emergency Services and a further \$100,000 from the Motor Accident Insurance Commission to assist with the establishment of the

Mackay helicopter rescue service. The Mackay service commenced operations on 1 September 1996.

The Central Queensland Helicopter Rescue Service based in Mackay currently receives an annual Government grant of \$300,000 (minimum) paid quarterly in advance.

I intend to submit an application for increased funding for the Mackay service, along with the other Community Helicopter Providers, to be considered in the Mid-Year Budget Review process in December 1996. A submission for increased funding will also be made for the 1997/1998 Budget.

The Government will continue to provide substantial financial support to the Mackay service.

1025. Jet Skis

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Environment (10/10/96)—

With reference to the noise from jet skis which has emerged as a problem in many areas of the State and, in particular, my interest in the area from the Townsville Breakwater to Cape Pallarenda—

Will he provide an assurance that the department will accept responsibility for the control of noise from recreational water vehicles or will he guarantee that the administrative steps will be urgently taken to transfer the responsibility to the Department of Transport?

Mr Littleproud (11/11/96): Under the Marine Safety Act which was enacted by the previous government, control of jet skis now only relates to safety issues.

The Department of Environment is having discussions with the Department of Transport with a view to devising suitable administrative and legislative control mechanisms to deal with the difficult issue of noise from transitory noise sources such as jet skis.

1026. Maryborough, Sesquicentennial Birthday Celebrations

Mr DOLLIN asked the Premier (10/10/96)—

- (1) Is he aware that the funding for Maryborough's Sesquicentennial (150 year) Birthday Celebrations has been slashed (the celebrations are an opportunity to celebrate 150 years of achievement since the community was founded in 1847)?
- (2) As this is not only a significant achievement for Maryborough but has broader significance to Queensland as a whole, will he take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that the sesquicentennial celebrations are a complete success by reinstating the funding it deserves?

Mr Borbidge (11/11/96):

- (1) No.
- (2) Meetings were arranged with representatives of the Maryborough City Council for Tuesday, 29

October 1996, to discuss the 1997 Maryborough Sesquicentennial Celebrations, and relevant Government Departments are considering their possible involvement.

1027. National Guidelines on Teacher Training

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education (10/10/96)—

With reference to the announcement by the Federal Minister for Education, Dr David Kemp, of the Federal Government's intention to impose national guidelines on teacher training—

- (1) What consultation occurred with him as the responsible State Minister and his Federal counterpart prior to this announcement being made?
- (2) What has he done since the announcement to ensure that the interests of Queensland's education system are appropriately incorporated in any proposed national guidelines?

Mr Quinn (6/11/96): (1) & (2) I am aware of statements that have been made in the media recently concerning what has been described as a national review of teacher training standards, and the alleged imposition by the Federal Government of national guidelines for teacher education.

The initiative is not a "review" but a collaborative project funded by the Commonwealth Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs. The project will build on the work done nationally by the "Chalk Circle—A Dialogue on Teacher Education" in 1995 and the work of the National Working Party on Guidelines for Teacher Education, convened by the Australian Teaching Council. This working party has a membership which includes representatives of the Australian Council of Deans of Education, the Australian Teacher Education Association, the South Australian Teacher Registration Board, and the Queensland Board of Teacher Registration.

The Working Party prepared and endorsed for discussion a set of 'Draft National Guidelines for Initial Teacher Education', which outlined best practice in teacher education. The draft guidelines were based on, and very closely resembled, the Acceptability of Teacher Education Programs for Teacher Registration Purposes guidelines of the Queensland Board of Teacher Registration. The draft guidelines were distributed widely late last year to members of the education community. The aim was to generate as much discussion and consensus as possible so that the profession and its key stakeholders could adopt a national position on teacher education and have more influence on its future direction.

The newly announced National Standards and guidelines for the Initial Teacher Education Project has similar objectives:

to develop national guidelines for teacher education, based on national work already undertaken;

to determine the role of national guidelines and frameworks in underpinning high standards of teacher education and entry into teaching across Australia;

to forge partnerships between key education stakeholders to promote ongoing commitment to the implementation of teacher education guidelines and to improve the effectiveness of initial teacher education.

The project will be managed by an Advisory Committee which will include representatives of government and non-government education authorities. The Queensland Board of Teacher Registration will be represented on the Committee, which meets for the first time next month. The envisaged outcome will be a report, suitable for presentation to the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA) and wider dissemination, as appropriate.

Queensland is in the fortunate position of being the only state in Australia to have established, under the Education (Teacher Registration) Act 1988 a statutory body which legislated authority to confer and collaborate with members of the education and general community in relation to standards of courses of teacher education. Through the work of the Board of Teacher Registration, Queensland has a high basic standard for entry into the profession, underpinned by legislation. National guidelines cannot simply be 'imposed' in Queensland.

The Board of Teacher Registration has strongly supported the development of agreed national standards for the teaching profession. The Guidelines of the Board, and the widely-consultative way in which they were devised and have been implemented, have served as a model of good practice for the rest of the country. The new Advisory Committee is expected to draw on, and benefit from, the experience and expertise of Queensland.

1029. State Schools, Security Services

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Education (10/10/96)—

With reference to the plan to wind back Government Security Services for State primary and secondary schools—

- (1) Which schools in the Sunnybank Electorate will now be required to pay for security services to protect buildings and equipment outside of school hours?
- (2) What will be the approximate costs incurred by schools to engage private security providers to protect buildings and equipment outside of school hours?
- (3) How does he propose that schools raise the funds to engage private security providers to protect State Government assets?
- (4) What assistance is he prepared to provide to smaller schools in my electorate such as Kuraby State School and Sunnybank State School to

maintain security services given that smaller schools have a much narrower fund raising base than larger schools?

Mr Quinn (6/11/96): (1), (2), (3) & (4) The decision, by the Department of Education, to withdraw funding for responses to the official electronic security systems of schools has now been rescinded. Consequently, no school in the Sunnybank electorate will be required to pay for security services, except when an alarm is caused by the incorrect use of a security system by school staff, or user groups.

The Department of Education, in conjunction with the State Government Security service, will continue to monitor the cost of this service to ensure that money allocated for school security is a benefit to as many schools as possible.

1032. Queensland Health, VERs

Mr NUNN asked the Minister for Health (10/10/96)—

With reference to the reorganisation of Queensland Health—

Have any staff who had their position abolished and who requested a VER, either from former Regional Health Authorities or in Central Office, resigned without having received a redundancy payout; if so, how many and why were they denied VERs?

Mr Horan (8/11/96): Two officers have resigned after having accepted other positions outside the Queensland public sector. They had requested but not been offered a Voluntary Early Retirement (VER) package because the requirements of the Public Sector Management Standard for Staffing Options to Manage Organisational Change in the Queensland Public Sector had not been met.

1033. Mr F. O'Gorman

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (10/10/96)—

With reference to recent media coverage concerning further investigation into the murder/suicide of two Atherton women, which raises the possibility of a new investigation taking place under an independent investigator, and the possibility that the independent investigator may be Mr Frank O'Gorman, a member of his personal Ministerial Staff, who is a former police officer—

- (1) What powers does Mr O'Gorman have to carry out police investigative work?
- (2) Who pays Mr O'Gorman's salary?
- (3) Will Mr O'Gorman's position in the Minister's office be filled from elsewhere while he is carrying out the investigation?
- (4) If Mr O'Gorman is not a serving police officer, why can't this investigative work be carried out by a serving police officer?
- (5) On what basis will Mr O'Gorman be given authority to carry out this investigation?

Mr Cooper (8/11/96):

(1) This question, as acknowledged, is based on media reports. The media reports are wrong and were written despite quite specific denial by my office that Mr Frank O'Gorman was conducting any review or investigation of the Arnold/Leahy murder/suicide.

(2) The bulk of the question is thus irrelevant.

(3) Mr O'Gorman, a highly respected former Assistant Commissioner with the Queensland Police Service, is acting in the position of Senior Policy Adviser in my office and as part of that role is tasked with handling correspondence relating to the Arnold/Leahy murder/suicide.

(4) During Opposition, I promised an independent inquiry into the police investigation of that matter as a suitable response to the widespread public disquiet about the matter.

(5) Since taking office, I have approached the Criminal Justice Commission who have undertaken to review all previous inquiries into that investigation. Any further action by me is a matter which will be decided when I am advised of the outcome of that review by the Commission.

1036. Mr A. Callaghan

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (10/10/96)—

With reference to the very serious allegations made against Allen Callaghan by three RSPCA Councillors and the subsequent Fraud Squad investigation into whether Mr Callaghan has misused a corporate Mastercard while working for the RSPCA since 1994—

As the Fraud Squad began their investigation 10 weeks ago on 30 July and as the allegations of misappropriation by Mr Callaghan are causing immense damage to the RSPCA in Queensland, will he advise when this investigation will be finalised?

Mr Cooper (5/11/96): The investigation into the allegations made against Mr Callaghan have been assigned appropriate priority by the Fraud and Corporate Crime Squad. The investigation is being conducted by a senior police officer.

In order to properly and thoroughly investigate the complaint, investigators consider it necessary to completely reconstruct the accounts associated with the credit card transactions. In order to achieve this the original vouchers have been called for from the relevant financial institutions. This has proved to be a lengthy and labour intensive process for the institutions concerned.

Following the receipt and analysis of those documents, a final determination will be made concerning the nature of any charges to be laid. It is anticipated that the matter will be finalised by the end of November 1996.

1037. Police Numbers

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (10/10/96)—

With reference to the matter of police to population ratios and the figures he supplied previously for each region and projected figures for 30 June, 1997—

(1) Why will the north coast be worse off in twelve months time and why isn't it being addressed?

(2) Why will there be virtually no improvement in the southern region and why isn't this being addressed?

Mr Cooper (5/11/96):

(1) The Queensland Police Service constantly monitors the need for police staffing numbers in line with population growth on a Statewide basis. The Service utilises a Staffing Allocation Model to determine appropriate police staffing strengths for each particular region.

The approved model allocation strength for North Coast Region at June 1996 was 704 police officers with an estimated model allocation strength at 30 June 1997 of 743.

The police to population ratio at June 1996 was based on the actual strength of North Coast Region which at that point in time was 715 police officers. The North Coast Region was in fact 11 police officers over the approved model allocation (704).

The actual staffing strength for each region can vary markedly at any given point in time. Contributing factors to this are the allocation of first year constables for training purposes to each region, and conversely, natural attrition and promotions and transfers in and out of each region.

The following comparison between the police to population ratios based on model allocations indicates an increase in staffing numbers and a reduction in the police to population ratio for North Coast Region over time:

Approved Staffing Allocation—June 1996	704
Police/Population ratio—June 1996	1:844
Actual Strength—June 1996	715
Police/Population ratio—June 1996	1:831
Estimated Staffing Allocation—June 1997	743
Police/Population ratio—June 1997	1:833

(2) Similarly, the above would apply to Southern Region.

The approved model allocation strength for Southern Region at June 1996 was 625 police officers with an estimated model allocation strength at 30 June 1997 of 636.

The police to population ratio at June 1996 was based on the actual strength of Southern Region which at that point in time was 635 police officers. The Southern Region was in fact ten police officers over the approved model allocation (625).

As mentioned previously, the actual staffing strength for each region can vary markedly at any given point in time. Contributing factors to this are the allocation of first year constables for training purposes to each

region, and conversely, natural attrition, and promotions and transfers in and out of each region.

The following comparison between the police to population ratios based on model allocations indicates an increase in staffing numbers and a reduction in police to population ratio for Southern Region over time:

Approved Staffing Allocation—June 1996	625
Police/Population ratio—June 1996	1:673
Actual Strength—June 1996	635
Police/Population ratio—June 1996	1:663
Estimated Staffing Allocation—June 1997	636
Police/Population ratio—June 1997	1:669

1038. Queensland Health, Staff Reductions

Mr MILLINER asked the Minister for Health (10/10/96)—

With reference to his promise to substantially reduce bureaucracy and I quote from one of his health policy announcements of 23 June 1995 entitled Coalition Hospital Management Plan in which it was stated that "180 bureaucrats would be axed to free up funds for another 300 nurses, doctors, and allied health professionals"—

- (1) Is he still planning to sack 180 people from Queensland Health?
- (2) Will he clarify the reference to the surrender of 200 net funded positions mentioned on page 4 of the Ministerial Program Statement as, in answering other questions on this specific issue, he has stated that this will not see a reduction of 200 full time employees?
- (3) Will he fulfil his pre-election promise to sack bureaucrats with approximately 200 positions to get the axe or not?

Mr Horan (8/11/96):

(1) The Coalition is not in the business of sacking the employees of Queensland Health.

(2) The number of positions saved since restructuring was identified as 214.5 at 18 June 1996. These savings are made up of Regional Office positions (181.5) and Central Office State permanent positions (33). These savings have enabled the Coalition to expand nursing numbers by 540, meeting and exceeding its commitment to the electors of Queensland.

(3) As I said, the Coalition is not in the business of sacking the employees of Queensland Health.

A vacancy management program to assist in rebuilding of Queensland Health has continued throughout my administration. A small number of employees who are unplaceable due to their geographical location or their skill fit with new positions may yet be offered Voluntary Early Retirement packages; however, Queensland Health is currently holding more vacancies than it has employees to place. I have every confidence in these redeployees and look forward to working with them in the new Queensland Health.

Queensland Health now has fewer administrators to clinical staff, its surgical waiting times are falling fast, and genuine community input is being restored, as is public confidence in the health system. These were our promises, and on these, the Coalition has well and truly delivered.

1039. Noise Barriers, Ipswich Motorway

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (10/10/96)—

When will action be taken to provide noise barriers on the Ipswich Motorway at Riawena Road, Salisbury, which is the defined transport route to the west and acts as a sound stage for the amphitheatre of residential south west Salisbury?

Mr Johnson (11/11/96): A report which will prioritise sections of access-limited roads for noise reduction treatment in the Metropolitan area south of the Brisbane River, is currently being prepared.

These roads include both State funded roads and the Federally funded National Highway.

This section of Riawena Road, Salisbury is a part of the National Highway, and approval of works by the Federal Government is necessary. Until the report is completed, I am unable to advise the priority for treatment of this section compared with other sections of the National Highway. However, I have already foreshadowed an application for funding of noise reduction measures to the Federal Minister, following completion of the report.

1040. Justices of the Peace (Qualified)

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (10/10/96)—

With reference to his departmental publication Future Focus, specifically page 2, referring to the new course for Justices of the Peace (Qualified) (10/10/96)—

- (1) Is it the case that he and or his office, and/or officer/s of the Department of Justice, either verbally or in writing, sought to stop the delivery of the JP (Qual) courses in both the TAFE Colleges and by Walker Pender in the pre-budgetary deliberations in the months leading up to the State budget; if so, what were the reasons given for the attempted curtailment of these training programs?
- (2) Was funding sought by the Department of Justice for the delivery of Justice of the Peace (Magistrates Court) training; if so, what was the decision in relation to this funding and the reasons that funding was or was not provided?
- (3) Will JP (Qual) courses continue to run in the TAFE Colleges and in rural and remote Queensland in 1997 and 1998 calendar years?
- (4) Given the article on page 2 which states "Those who have achieved JP (Qual) status can receive further training to a JP (MAG CT)", will he advise the 7,000+ JP (Quals) in the community how, when and where they can

receive this training and which department has the responsibility for delivering the training?

Mr Santoro (11/11/96):

(1) Neither I nor my officers sought to stop delivery of the JP (Qual) courses. I am unaware of any such attempt by officers of the Department of Justice. Furthermore, negotiations with Walker Pender Consultants Pty Ltd and TAFE Queensland Institutes in May 1996 resulted in a total of 51,216 student contact hours being delivered in remote areas.

(2) No.

(3) In 1997 provision is made for delivery of more than 40,000 student contact hours in JP (Qual) courses across a number of TAFE Queensland Institutes, including those Institutes in rural areas. Courses to be delivered in remote areas will be advertised through a competitive tendering process.

Delivery of the JP (Qual) course for 1998 is subject to the outcomes of consultations with stakeholders for the development of the 1998 State Training Profile.

(4) At this stage the JP (MAG CT) course is not recognised by VETEC. When a decision is made regarding delivery of the JP (MAG CT), people who have attained recognition for the JP (Qual) course will be advised how they can access the JP (MAG CT) training.

1041. Tuberculosis

Mrs EDMOND asked the Minister for Health (10/10/96)—

With reference to reports of an alarming incidence of positive tuberculosis test results identified in nursing staff at the Dandenong Hospital in Victoria and the public health implications this poses for Queensland Hospitals—

- (1) What testing is or has been conducted to allay community fears that this potentially life threatening illness could be contracted by patients free of the disease when they enter public health facilities for treatments?
- (2) Have there been any incidences of tuberculosis recorded by the department which could be attributed to staff in Queensland hospitals or other health facilities; if so, which hospitals and how many cases were identified in each case?
- (3) What is Queensland Health doing to ensure that all precautions are being taken in relation to the possibility that tuberculosis is making a come back in Australia?
- (4) From a clinical point of view, is Queensland more conducive to the spread of a disease like tuberculosis for climatic or other reasons worth noting?

Mr Horan (8/11/96):

(1) All nurses and medical students have a mantoux test (screening), chest x-ray and vaccination (BCG) if appropriate before commencing hospital work. The number of new cases of tuberculosis (TB) in Queensland remains low. Queensland facilities follow both the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards

and the recently released National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Guidelines. A working party is reviewing all State infection control policies. Any patient who is likely to be of higher risk of TB is screened and managed according to these guidelines.

(2) Most transmission of TB occurs in a household environment. Transmission of TB in Queensland hospitals is uncommon. This year one case of a health care provider in an Oral Health Clinic who had acquired the infection on an overseas trip has been implicated in the possible transmission of the TB bacteria to two other persons who have developed the active form of the disease. However, as neither of these persons were treated by the health care provider the investigation is continuing.

(3) While TB has re-emerged as a significant problem in the USA particularly, this has not been the case in Queensland or Australia. The Specialised Health Services Branch of Queensland Health has continued the program of specialised central TB control throughout Queensland. The situation is closely monitored on a continuous basis through an advanced TB surveillance statewide program.

(4) No. Rates of TB in Queensland are among the lowest in the world. On current knowledge, it is possible that the lifestyle and climate in Queensland is less conducive to the spread of TB. However, TB has not been eliminated anywhere in the World and its nature is such that small outbreaks are likely to occur and should not cause undue surprise. Our Queensland anti-tuberculosis control policy ensures that TB is maintained at low rates for the general population and special strategies ensure that special risk areas and situations are adequately catered for.

1042. Queensland Health, Staff Reductions

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Health (10/10/96)—

With reference to his promise to reduce bureaucracy outlined in yet another one of his pre-election statements on 4BC radio on 23 June 1995 when he said, and I quote "160 health fat cats would be sacked to create an additional 200 beds"—

- (1) Is this promise to axe 160 "health fat cats" as he put it still his policy and when will he finalise this number of sackings from his department?
- (2) Is this promise to sack 160 positions in addition to the 180 he also promised to sack or part of the total 180 and the 200 net positions to be surrendered which was mentioned in the health budget papers?

Mr Horan (8/11/96): The promises of the Coalition are to be found in its Policies. The Coalition Health Policy committed the Coalition to—

". . . devolve services as closely as possible to the people to achieve efficiencies that will enable more services to be provided from the health dollar."

It goes on to say that, at that time—

". . . regionalisation [had] nothing to do with community interest and access to facilities, but

everything to do with administrative convenience, with Government forgetting that it is the servant of the people. The Coalition will put the people first by delivering the service they require.

...

[District] Health Councils [will] provide for genuine community input into the services of their Hospital and Community Health Service."

The Coalition Nursing Policy provided for—

". . . an additional 400 staff in the first year . . ."

As you can see, the Coalition is not in the business of sacking the employees of Queensland Health. The number of positions saved since restructuring was identified as 214.5 at 18 June 1996. These savings are made up of Regional Office positions (181.5) and Central Office State permanent positions (33). These savings have enabled the Coalition to expand nursing numbers by 540, meeting and exceeding its commitment to the electors of Queensland.

A vacancy management program to assist in rebuilding of Queensland Health has continued throughout my administration. A small number of employees who are unplaceable due to their geographical location or their skill fit with new positions may yet be offered Voluntary Early Retirement packages; however, Queensland Health is currently holding more vacancies than it has employees to place. I have every confidence in these redeployees and look forward to working with them in the new Queensland Health.

Queensland Health now has fewer administrators to clinical staff, its surgical waiting times are falling fast, and genuine community input is being restored, as is public confidence in the health system. These were our promises, and on these, the Coalition has well and truly delivered.

1043. School Programs, Capricornia Region

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (10/10/96)—

With reference to the previous Labor Government's initiatives 'Schoolsafe', 'Makeshade' and 'Building Better Schools'—

- (1) Are these programs being continued by the Government; if so, what is the budget for each of these programs for the Capricornia Region?
- (2) What schools are involved and what is the time line for each of these schools/projects?

Mr Connor (11/11/96): (1) & (2) The Makeshade and Building Better Schools programs rest within the portfolio of my Cabinet Colleague, the Honourable Bob Quinn MLA, Minister for Education, it would be more appropriate that these questions be referred to him. With reference to the Schoolsafe program it would be more appropriate that these questions be directed to my Cabinet Colleague who is responsible, the Honourable Vaughan Johnson Minister for Transport and Main Roads.

1044. Mental Health Services, Emerald and Central Highlands

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Health (10/10/96)—

With reference to ongoing calls for additional dedicated mental health workers to service Emerald and the Central Highlands—

- (1) What is the level of service provided to patients at the Mental Health Service clinic at Emerald?
- (2) How many social workers and nurses are located in Emerald to service those in need of mental health care and to support the families of patients?
- (3) Has the Regional Mental Health Services Plan identified the need for additional dedicated mental health workers?
- (4) When will he commit real dollars to improving Mental Health Services for Emerald and the Central Highlands?

Mr Horan (8/11/96): Labor may not have listened to these ongoing calls, but the Coalition will.

(1) The Rockhampton District Mental Health Service provides an outreach service to Emerald two days every four weeks. This comprises a multidisciplinary team of psychiatrist, psychiatry registrar, psychiatric nurse and mental health allied health professional.

(2) Two locally based community health nurses provide support to people with mental illness and their families between visits from the Rockhampton team.

(3) Thanks to the return of genuine community input (through the Central Highlands District), the need for a locally based mental health service has now been recognised. This need was not previously highlighted by the then Central Region. So this is just one local benefit flowing from the abolition of Labor's failed regional system.

(4) The Ten Year Mental Health Strategy includes a time frame for the allocation of new resources to develop this new local service, supported by outreach services from Rockhampton. Emerald will be considered as a priority in the allocation of resources in the next State Budget.

1045. Gladstone State High School

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Education (10/10/96)—

With reference to the need for permanent emergency access to all areas of State and private school properties—

Will the department accept responsibility for the dirt road at Gladstone State High School which allows fire brigade, ambulance and police to rear buildings on this site?

Mr Quinn (6/11/96): The Department will review the situation of emergency access to buildings at the rear of the Gladstone State High School site in light of priorities within the Capital Works Program.

I will keep Honourable Member informed of any development regarding this matter.

1046. Bus Trials

Mr ELDER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (10/10/96)—

What are the details of the accessible bus trials which are being conducted as part of the pilot program this year?

Mr Johnson (11/11/96): In the 1996/97 Budget the Government allocated funding of \$7.5 million over three years to provide financial assistance to bus operators to purchase and trial wheelchair accessible buses. \$1.5 million has been allocated for 1996/97.

The Government recognised the value of the Accessible Bus Pilot Program introduced by the previous Labor Government and continued it with this substantial injection of funds.

Under the program, bus operators will receive a subsidy of up to 25 percent of the total purchase price of accessible buses which they operate. As a condition they will be required to collect information for Queensland Transport about the operations of the buses over a twelve month period.

As well as giving operators a helping hand in investing in new technology, it will also provide us with some good information on the performance of different types of accessible buses in different operating conditions in Queensland.

In terms of the details of the accessible bus trials currently being conducted, the Honourable Member will be aware that two accessible buses commenced operating in the Ipswich area in March this year.

By the end of October, the operator in Camira will take delivery of a wheelchair accessible ultra low-floor MAN mini bus which will be the first of its kind to go into operation in Australia. This operator will take delivery of a second MAN bus approximately four weeks after this. The bus operator in Mackay expects to take delivery of the same type of bus around December. The Townsville operator will be obtaining a number of accessible buses over the next 2 years.

A number of other operators from Park Ridge, Maryborough, Redcliffe, Bribie Island, Cairns, Wynnum and Brisbane have also expressed a strong interest in receiving funding under the program to purchase accessible buses in this financial year.

1047. Sheepstation Creek Conservation Park

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Environment (10/10/96)—

With reference to Sheepstation Creek Conservation Park at Morayfield—

Will he confirm whether or not adult visitors, including local residents, will be required to purchase a Park Pass before entry?

Mr Littleproud (7/11/96): The proposed Park Pass entry fee will be required from March 1 next

year for all national and conservation parks in Queensland including Sheepstation Creek Conservation Park. This entry fee will apply to adult visitors including local residents. You will be aware that introduction of such an entry fee was made necessary by the Labor legacy of inadequate funding for management of protected areas. However, it is worth noting that all other States and Territories have some form of park entry fee already operating.

1048. Mr R. Matson; Peicor Pty Ltd

Mr D'ARCY asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (10/10/96)—

With reference to my Question on Notice No. 840 and to his answer—

- (1) Is Mr Roger Matson a principal of Peicor Pty Ltd?
- (2) Who are the office holders of that company?

Mr Beanland (12/11/96): In response to the specific questions made by Mr D'Arcy, I can advise as follows:

- (1) No.
- (2) The office holders of Peicor Pty Ltd are Christa Antoinette Schweizer, director and secretary, and Robert Schweizer, director.

1049. Nelly Bay, Magnetic Island

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (10/10/96)—

With reference to the proposed development of Nelly Bay, Magnetic Island—

- (1) Does the Government intend to excise any section of World Heritage Marine Park in order to sell the area to private developers?
- (2) What is the legal precedent for the removal of a public beach from a World Heritage State Marine Park for private residential development?
- (3) When will the final EIS be made public?
- (4) Will the Government require a new public review process if the proposal is altered significantly through the EIS process?
- (5) Will the Picnic Bay jetty be closed to make way for the Nelly Bay Harbour project?
- (6) What does he understand to be the result of the Bright Point boundary dispute?
- (7) How much has the Queensland Government spent to date on project promotion, the EIS process, various applications affecting the marine park, court proceedings and other costs?
- (8) What infrastructure and ongoing maintenance costs will the State incur in servicing the project if it goes ahead?

Mr Littleproud (11/11/96): This matter is the responsibility of the Honourable Minister for Economic Development and Trade, to whom any question should be directed.

1050. Gold Coast Rail Link

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (10/10/96)—

With reference to the Gold Coast Rail Link—

- (1) What is the expected completion date of the Robina Station?
- (2) What is the expected completion date of the rail line from Helensvale to Robina?
- (3) What studies to date have been undertaken on the extension of the rail line from Robina to Coolangatta?
- (4) What is the Government's commitment to the extension of the rail line from Robina to Coolangatta?

Mr Johnson (11/11/96):

- (1) For several years, the completion date for the station has been December 1997.

However, negotiations have also been in progress for many years with Robina Land Corporation (RLC) with regard to the acquisition of the land required for the station and for the southern extension of the railway through RLC's lands.

Unfortunately, these negotiations have not been concluded as there emerged significant differences of opinion between the Government and RLC over the form of construction for the southern extension.

The date for completion of the station will depend upon the outcome of negotiations and in particular the date when land can be acquired for construction and also the form of architectural treatment of the station building.

It is therefore no longer possible to say specifically that the station will be opened in December 1997. An opening in March 1998 will be feasible if Government resumes the land and the station building is to QR's design. Adoption of RLC's proposed building could add some months to the design and construction which would affect the completion date.

As previously stated, these negotiations are imminent and the question can be better answered when they are concluded, hopefully within the next month.

- (2) As noted in the response to Part 1 of this question, the station building at Robina is critical for the rail line opening to Robina.

However, construction is well advanced between Helensvale and Nerang and it is expected to call for tenders for the station building in November this year, with completion expected twelve months later.

It is expected that the service to Nerang will open in December 1997 as planned.

Included in the station complex is a bus interchange which will provide bus/bus transfer as well as bus/rail and it is expected that this will lift the level of public transportation in the region significantly.

(3) A study was conducted in 1991/92 which looked at options for a Casino—Murwillumbah/Robina rail corridor. The study was conducted by Symonds Travers Morgan on behalf of Queensland Rail and the NSW State Rail Authority. The options were for the development of some form of full or partial rail service between Casino and Robina. One option considered was a rail extension from Robina to Coolangatta.

Gutteridge Haskins and Davey (GHD) managed a study for Queensland Transport on an investigation of a proposed rail connection from Robina—Coolangatta. A report was produced in August 1995.

The purpose of the GHD study was to examine the technical feasibility of a rail alignment, to identify impacts on property, and to assess major construction and operational issues.

(4) Agreement between all levels of Government was reached in 1996 to progress the rail extension from Robina—Coolangatta. The study project will progress under the umbrella of the Building Better Cities Program. The investigation program also includes consideration of a Tugun Bypass (an extension of the Pacific Highway).

The Queensland and Commonwealth Governments are both contributing major funding towards the project, with a contribution also from Gold Coast City Council. This Government is committed to a proper evaluation of the concept as are also Gold Coast City and Tweed Shire Councils. A Steering Committee is in operation, and it is expected that consultants will be appointed to commence the study by the end of 1996.

The rail extension is an important public transport opportunity for investigation identified in the draft Integrated Regional Transport Plan (IRTP).

1051. Schools, Nudgee Electorate

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Education (10/10/96)—

With reference to primary and secondary schools in the Nudgee Electorate—

- (1) What are the enrolment and predicted enrolments for each school at (a) Boondall, (b) Zillmere, (c) Geebung, (d) Nudgee and (e) Northgate Primary Schools and Banyo State High School for the years 1990 through to 2006?
- (2) Excluding the monitoring of enrolments and demographic trends what proactive action has the department taken, or does it intend to take, to maintain viability of schools within the electorate?

Mr Quinn (6/11/96):

(1)

Year	Banyo SHS	Boondall SS	Geebung SS	Northgate SS	Nudgee SS	Zillmere SS
1990	405	430	365	141	440	140
1991	455	466	324	144	427	173
1992	394	448	298	118	416	194
1993	319	466	293	125	406	205
1994	289	458	294	147	378	181
1995	291	463	306	157	331	193
1996	292	460	314	145	337	184
1997	301	456	325	133	318	186
1998	321	440	338	135	314	193
1999	322	435	346	147	326	195
2000	328	428	344	158	336	197
2001	327	443	341	159	366	197
2002	321	450	334	168	386	198
2003	316	462	334	190	394	196
2004	311	470	332	208	400	194
2005	306	476	331	219	404	192
2006	300	484	329	226	407	195

(2) The Department of Education maintains regular monitoring of enrolments and demographic trends for all schools in the region. Part of such monitoring includes a viability assessment.

Projections indicate that Boondall State School, Geebung State School, Northgate State School, Nudgee State School and Zillmere State School will maintain enrolments at, or about, their present levels.

Banyo State High School shows a continuing downward trend which will make the provision of a range of senior secondary programs increasingly difficult, over time. This will be addressed in part by Banyo SHS students accessing a wider array of post compulsory offerings drawn from the surrounding cluster of schools. The Honourable Member would be aware that I met recently with Mrs Elizabeth Grace MP, Federal Member for Lilley, and representatives from Banyo SHS and Nudgee College, to discuss the concept of a Centre for Excellence at the high school.

1052. Reef Tax

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry (10/10/96)—

With reference to the proposed increase in the barrier reef tax by the Federal Government from \$1 to \$6 per day and the State Government's \$3 national park entrance tax, for a tourist visiting Lady Musgrave Island off Bundaberg and having a scuba dive, the taxes imposed will be \$9 paid by the tourist boat operator and \$6 paid by the dive operator—a total of \$15.00—

(1) Since many of the tourist packages have been presold to tour wholesalers for the period up to March 1998, how can these tour operators absorb these massive tax increases?

(2) What help will be given to tourist operators to enable them to survive with these massive cost increases?

Mr Davidson (8/11/96):

(1) The Commonwealth Government's proposal to increase the EMC by \$5 and to implement this increase by 1 January 1997 would not give many operators sufficient time to absorb the increase, especially those who have pre-sold a large number of tours. It is extremely regrettable that the Commonwealth has announced the increase in the EMC in this way. The Queensland Government will not increase commercial tour operator user charges for national parks before 1 January 1998, allowing time to negotiate with the industry and time for the industry to absorb any increases.

(2) I view the proposed increase in the EMC with great concern and have asked the Commonwealth to reconsider this proposal. The most effective form of assistance to the industry would be to have a compromise worked out that will provide sufficient funding for the management and protection of the Great Barrier Reef.

I have made representations to the Commonwealth Minister for Industry, Science and Tourism, the Honourable John Moore MP, and the Minister for Environment, Sport and Territories, Senator Robert Hill. I have also spoken to the Prime Minister, the Honourable John Howard, outlining Queensland's concerns. The Chair of the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation has written to Mr Moore seeking to have the decision overturned. The marine tour industry is making strong representations on the issue. My Department is continuing to liaise with the Commonwealth Government, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the industry. It is hoped that the Commonwealth will reconsider the issue and

a compromise will be reached that shares the cost of protecting the Great Barrier Reef among all those who benefit from it.

1054. South Bank Parklands Redevelopment

Mr BEATTIE asked the Minister for Environment (11/10/96)—

With reference to plans to re-develop the South Bank Parklands at a cost of \$26m—

- (1) What part and area of the South Bank Parklands is proposed for this re-development?
- (2) What portion of the re-development area will have the 200—250 residential units built upon it?
- (3) What portion of the re-development area will be retained as open space parkland?
- (4) What portion of the re-development area will be set aside for commercial development?
- (5) Will two hotels providing up to 700 rooms also be built on the site?
- (6) Are a series of 6-10 storey office developments also planned for the site?
- (7) Is the South Bank Corporation planning land sales of South Bank land to recoup the \$26m cost of this re-development and realise a profit of approximately \$24m?
- (8) Where is it intended to spend this \$24m profit?
- (9) How much land is intended to be sold and where is this land located on the South Bank site?

Mr Littleproud (11/11/96): This question should be directed to the responsible Minister, that is, the Honourable the Premier.

1055. Cautionary Notices; Traffic Breach Notices

Mr NUNN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (11/10/96)—

- (1) What is the normal operational procedure followed by police officers in issuing cautionary notices instead of fines?
- (2) How many traffic breach notices were issued by the Queensland Police Service in August 1996?
- (3) How many cautionary notices were issued by the Queensland Police Service in August 1996?

Mr Cooper (8/11/96):

(1) The discretionary power for a police officer to issue penalty notices or cautionary notices is found in section 3.4 of the Operational Procedures Manual for the Queensland Police Service. This section outlines the matters that the officer is to consider before making a decision to prosecute or not.

The decision to either institute proceedings or desist from doing so initially rests with the officer who, having investigated the offence, contemplates instituting proceedings against the person for that

offence. In cases where a minor offence is detected and where the offender is an otherwise law abiding citizen, prosecution for the offence may in fact be counter productive. However, each case must be considered individually.

Some of the factors an officer must consider when deciding to initiate a prosecution are:-

- (i) the seriousness or, conversely, the triviality of the alleged offence or whether the offence is of a 'technical' nature only;
- (ii) any mitigating or aggravating circumstances;
- (iii) whether the prosecution would be perceived as counter-productive;
- (iv) the availability and efficiency of any alternatives to prosecution both personal and general.

The manner in which cautionary notices are to be issued is outlined in Commissioner's Circular 74/93.

That Circular provides for officers to give a verbal caution to an offender when issuing a cautionary notice.

The officer is to make a note of the date, time, location, offence committed, the offender's name and address and registration number of the vehicle in their official notebook or Activity Log.

No other action is required.

(2) Queensland Transport records indicate that during the period 1 August to 31 August 1996, a total of 29,615 Traffic Infringement Notices were issued by members of the Queensland Police Service. This figure does not include Infringement Notices issued as a result of traffic incidents.

(3) No centralised records are kept of cautionary notices issued by police and consequently the number issued during August 1996 is not readily obtainable.

1056. South East Freeway; Pollution Levels

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (11/10/96)—

With reference to his answer to my Question on Notice No. 521 where I raised concerns that the decision to widen the South East Freeway and increase its carrying capacity would result in a further deterioration in air quality in suburbs such as Underwood, Springwood and Rochedale and his advice that 'the increased capacity in the corridor, particularly if achieved in a manner which encourages increased vehicle occupancy, is not expected to cause a deterioration in air quality levels'—

- (1) What scientific evidence does he have to support this statement?
- (2) Will he provide this evidence to ensure residents who currently live along the South East Freeway will not suffer a deterioration in health as a result in a deterioration in air quality brought about by the significant increase in traffic movements along the freeway predicted by the Vietch Lister Consulting Technical

Report prepared for the Department of Transport?

Mr Johnson (11/11/96):

(1) Air quality levels are affected by a range of parameters, transport being only one. The population growth in the South East Freeway corridor and dispersed land use patterns are the primary causes of the expected increase in traffic flows and associated changes to air quality. To meet this growth, effective transport infrastructure is needed. Without additional capacity, congestion and air quality problems will increase. Provision of the additional capacity through a busway and high occupancy vehicle lanes is an environmentally responsible way to meet the growth in population and travel demands.

In terms of scientific evidence, modelling of air quality levels which may result from the upgrading has not been done at this time. However, it is noteworthy that modelling done as part of the development of the Impact Management Plan for the section of the Pacific Highway south of the Logan Motorway, showed that regional air quality would not deteriorate as a result of the widening.

(2) An Impact Management Plan (IMP) will be developed as part of the planning for the South East Busway Project. As part of this process, air quality impacts will be analysed. This will include consideration of both regional air quality and local air quality impacts. It is unlikely that the improvements to public transport resulting from the South East Busway Project will cause a deterioration in air quality. The incentives to increase vehicle occupancy created by the HOV lanes will play a key role in moving people more efficiently and reducing emissions from transport in the corridor.

1057. Suncorp and QIDC, VERs

Mr HAMILL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (11/10/96)—

With reference to the operation of Suncorp and the QIDC—

- (1) What was the total number of employees in each of these Government owned enterprises at 26 June 1996?
- (2) What is now the total number of employees in each of these Government owned enterprises?
- (3) How many employees of each of these Government owned enterprises have (a) retired and not been replaced, (b) resigned and not been replaced, (c) taken a voluntary redundancy package, (d) redeployed and their old position abolished and (e) been retrenched in the period since 26 June 1996?
- (4) What is the cost to Suncorp and the QIDC for the voluntary and involuntary redundancies during this period?

Mrs Sheldon (8/11/96): QIDC

(1) The total number of employees of QIDC as at 26/6/96 was 455.

(2) The total number of employees of QIDC as at 22/10/96 was 450.

(3) The number of employees who have left QIDC since 26/6/96 due to:

- (a) retired and not replaced—0
- (b) resigned and not replaced—11
- (c) taken a voluntary redundancy package—0
- (d) redeployed and their old position abolished—0
- (e) been retrenched—14

(4) The cost to QIDC of voluntary and involuntary redundancies for the period was \$573,908.41

Retrenchments at QIDC have resulted from the decision to close some elements of the investment banking division, in particular, the Corporate Advisory area due to under performance and a consequent lack of profitability. Retrenchments have not in any way been merger related as neither Suncorp or Metway conduct similar activities to those terminated at QIDC. QIDC is still actively recruiting to fill key vacancies.

SUNCORP

(1) The total number of employees of SUNCORP as at 26/6/96 was 3781.

(2) The total number of employees of SUNCORP as at 22/10/96 was 3850.

(3) The number of employees who have left SUNCORP since 26/6/96 due to:

- (a) retired and not replaced—0
- (b) resigned and not replaced—30
- (c) taken a voluntary redundancy package—0
- (d) redeployed and their old position abolished—34
- (e) been retrenched—35

(4) The cost to SUNCORP of voluntary and involuntary redundancies for the period was \$502,017.

In the case of Suncorp, any redundancy or redeployment of staff has occurred as a result of various organisational restructures that were planned well before any announcement of the merger with Metway and QIDC was made.

1058. Railway Workshop Job Losses, Townsville

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (11/10/96)—

With reference to the Estimates Debate during which he acknowledged that further job losses in the railway workshops would occur from the existing 1,844 jobs to 1,100 in 1998—

In view of the foreshadowed loss of a further 750 workshop jobs, will he indicate if any of those job losses will occur in Townsville?

Mr Johnson (11/11/96): It was established at the Estimates Committee Hearing this year that the reduction of employment within the Workshops group of Queensland Rail was in line with the overall direction of the original Workshops Strategy

adopted in July 1993, which was during the time of the Labor administration.

In September 1996, a new initiative in respect of Townsville Workshops has been entered into by Queensland Rail in line with the Coalition Policy which considers the retention of a number of major maintenance operations within the Townsville region.

The current level of employees within the Townsville Workshops will be retained subject to normal attrition, and the current Voluntary Early Retirement policy operating within QR and the workload which will be appraised on a regular basis.

Overall, the level of employees within the Workshops group will reflect the opportunities afforded to the group to compete for appropriate rail work and the group's ability to achieve the necessary efficiency to compete within the market.

1059. Bingham Report Implementation Committee

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (11/10/96)—

With reference to his announcement of an Implementation Committee for the Bingham Committee Report and the fact that no information has been made publicly available of the costs associated with that implementation committee's work—

- (1) What are the projected costs to the Police Service for this implementation?
- (2) What will be the remuneration paid to each member of the implementation committee?
- (3) How will their expenses be paid and what is that projected cost?
- (4) How will the Bingham Report Implementation Committee impact on the work of the Criminal Justice Commission?

Mr Cooper (11/11/96):

(1) In answering this question it is assumed that it relates to the operations of the Overview Committee, and not the costs of implementing the QPS Review Committee's recommendations.

The members of the QPS Review Overview Committee are:

Sir Max Bingham (chair)

Sir Bruce Watson

Ms Jill Bolen

Mr Roly Dargusch

Mr Laurie Witham

Projected costs relating to the Overview Committee will consist of remuneration for Committee members, associated travel costs, executive support, equipment and miscellaneous costs.

The cost of the Overview Committee for the remainder of the 1996/97 financial year has been estimated to be \$70,664.39. The breakdown of this cost is provided below.

2. Members of the Overview Committee will be remunerated at the same daily rate as applied when they were conducting the Review, with the exception of Sir Bruce Watson who has again asked that an honorarium be paid to charities nominated by him. While it is not certain at this stage exactly how many days the Committee will need to sit, it is anticipated that ten days per member for the remainder of the 1996/97 financial year is the likely requirement. On the basis of this estimate, the following costs will be incurred:

Sir Max Bingham @\$600 per day—\$6,000

Ms Jill Bolen @\$600 per day—\$6,000

Mr Roly Dargusch @\$500 per day—\$5,000

Mr Laurie Witham @\$500 per day—\$5,000

Sir Bruce Watson—\$1,000

Total—\$23,000

In addition, it is anticipated that Sir Max Bingham and Ms Bolen will be undertaking research and reading work associated with the Overview Committee separate from formal meeting days.

Sir Max Bingham @\$600 per day x 15 days—\$9,000

Ms Jill Bolen @\$600 per day x 10 days—\$6,000

Total—\$15,000

(3) Other costs include travel and accommodation costs for Committee members and administrative costs.

- (a) Travel costs have been calculated at \$7,201.89
- (b) Accommodation costs have been calculated at \$2,880.00
- (c) Administrative costs:-
 - (i) Motor Vehicle Parking \$480.00
 - (ii) Secretarial support \$7,200.00
 - (iii) Executive Officer support \$9,600.00
 - (iv) Contingency Reserve for Unidentified Costs \$4,000.00
 - (v) Equipment (computer connection and software) \$700.00
 - (vi) Miscellaneous (telephone and post office box rental) \$602.50

(4) The Overview Committee will have no impact whatsoever on the work of the Criminal Justice Commission.

1060. Juvenile Aid Bureau, Gladstone

Mr LIVINGSTONE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (11/10/96)—

With reference to my understanding that the Assistant Commissioner, Central Region, supports the idea of establishing a Juvenile Aid Bureau in Gladstone in principle—

- (1) Why has Gladstone a higher priority than any other town, city or district under his control?

- (2) What other towns, cities or districts in the central region does the Assistant Commissioner support in principle for the establishment of a Juvenile Aid Bureau?
- (3) What other towns, cities or districts in all other police regions in Queensland have "in principle" support for the establishment of a Juvenile Aid Bureau?

Mr Cooper (8/11/96):

(1) Mackay, Rockhampton, Gladstone and Longreach Police Districts are located in Central Police Region. Juvenile Aid Bureaux are established at Rockhampton and Mackay. No Juvenile Aid Bureau (JAB) is located at Longreach and it is not proposed to establish one as the volume of reported crime does not warrant it.

The Officer in Charge, Gladstone Criminal Investigation Branch, submitted a report dated 7 February 1994 for establishment of a Juvenile Aid Bureau at Gladstone with justifying statistics for juvenile police work conducted there. This application was supported by the District Officer. The Juvenile Aid Bureau State Co-ordinator conducted a needs assessment for the establishment of a Juvenile Aid Bureau in the Gladstone Police District in 1994. As a result of this assessment, it was recommended that three additional positions be allocated to Gladstone Police District to establish a Juvenile Aid Bureau. The additional positions could not be met from existing Regional Resources at the time.

The District Officer, Gladstone, made further application on 26 October 1995 for establishment of a Juvenile Aid Bureau at Gladstone. Justification was based on local statistics showing that, for the period 1 January to 30 October 1995, the number of juvenile arrests/summonses/cautions for the District totalled 407. Of this figure, 220 juvenile arrests/summonses/cautions were reported for Gladstone Division.

A proposal was made to the Queensland Police Service's Board of Management on 11 June 1996 for the provision of additional staff to create a Juvenile Aid Bureau at Gladstone in conjunction with other staffing submissions. At that time, it was resolved to defer a decision on this matter, pending the completion of a Statewide review of service delivery.

As previously stated, the need for a Juvenile Aid Bureau in Gladstone was identified in 1994, and its priority for establishment over any other town, city or district in the Central Police Region has the full support of the Assistant Commissioner. This support is based on the volume of juvenile related police work conducted in the Gladstone District compared with similar work undertaken in Rockhampton and Mackay which are already serviced by a JAB.

(2) The Assistant Commissioner, Central Police Region, does not support in principle the establishment of a Juvenile Aid Bureau at any other towns, cities, districts in the Central Police Region at this time.

(3) No other Regions within the State have Board of Management approval or support "in principle" or

otherwise for the establishment of Juvenile Aid Bureaux at this time.

1061. Denison Street Rail Line, Rockhampton

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (11/10/96)—

With reference to the upgrade of the Denison Street rail line in Rockhampton—

- (1) Will he ensure that the ballast on that line is completely sealed and therefore averting the continuing problem of stone damage in the area?
- (2) Will he assure any small businesses in the area that they will be compensated for any loss incurred during the reconstruction of this line?

Mr Johnson (11/11/96):

(1) Virtually all railway lines in Queensland are laid on crushed rock ballast which has to be renewed from time to time. Open ballast track allows this maintenance work to be carried out quickly and with minimum effect on the occupants of Denison Street.

Sealing the ballast reduces the ability to maintain track stability and alignment, a necessary requirement for the safe operation of trains. In addition, future removal of the surfacing to allow track maintenance, can only be achieved at considerable cost and will cause disruption to businesses and residents in the area.

Queensland Rail, in the development of the Denison Street upgrade project, undertook extensive community consultation and reluctantly agreed, due to the costs involved and the serious limitations in relation to maintenance operations, to reconstruct the section between Stanley and Fitzroy Streets as a sealed bitumen surface. While sealing of the remainder of the line is not being carried out, Queensland Rail has put in place measures for staff to be vigilant in reporting acts of vandalism.

I am sympathetic to the residents in the area, but I do believe that it is a community policing issue and every effort should be made to fix the cause of the problem, not the symptom.

Ultimately, as an organisation, Queensland Rail cannot be held responsible for the criminal actions of unknown persons.

(2) Given that the rail line is located within Denison Street, its reconstruction always had the potential to cause some disruption to businesses within the surrounding area. Queensland Rail always identified this fact and as such undertook to notify all concerned parties, including the wider community and to carry out the work in an efficient and expeditious manner.

Queensland Rail has endeavoured to work in with businesses as far as practicable.

The high standard of reconstruction work carried out means Queensland Rail will not need to carry out major works for some years. Trackwork on the line in the immediate future will be limited to minor maintenance. In the interests of safety, the reconstruction work is required.

I am satisfied that Queensland Rail has done everything in its power to minimise the effect of the construction on businesses and residents and as such compensation will not be paid.

1062. Fortune Telling, Criminal Sanctions

Mr WELLS asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (11/10/96)—

With reference to his proposals for review of the criminal law and noting that they fail to recommend removal of criminal sanctions against fortune telling—

- (1) Is he aware of strong representations for removal of this archaic and now pointless legal ban?
- (2) What is his response to these representations?

Mr Beanland (12/11/96): The leading questions asked by the Honourable Member and the point of reference upon which they are predicated each assume

- (a) that there is a flaw or a failure in the independent review process not recommending the repeal of laws which proscribe fortune-telling;
- (b) that because something is old it is archaic and therefore unnecessary; and
- (c) that I should agree with his view that the law is pointless.

I am aware of representations to have section 432 of the Criminal Code and section 4(1)(o) of the Vagrants Gaming and Other Offences Act 1931 repealed.

These provisions as they are there to protect the gullible and to discourage the practice of not only fortune-telling but, as section 432 also provides, witchcraft, sorcery and practices in the occult; the very kinds of evil which led to the killing of Mr Baldock in a Brisbane city park and to the conviction of Tracey Wiggington, Kim Jervis and Lisa Ptaschinski.

These practices therefore are not archaic. Between 1984 and 1990 in Western Australia, one Scott Bryan Gozenton committed deviant sexual acts upon 12 to 15-year-old boys while professing to be practising witchcraft, and initiated some boys into an organisation called "the Satanic Warriors". Reported cases of prosecutions for pretending to tell fortunes also exist; see for example *Hartridge v Samuels* [1976]14 SASR 209 in which it was accepted that the South Australian Parliament had outlawed fortune-telling because it was in itself a fraudulent practice and necessarily deceptive whether or not the defendant genuinely believed in his ability to foretell the future.

1063. Police Numbers

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (11/10/96)—

With reference to his projected police to population ratios for the next decade previously provided—

- (1) Will Queensland's ratio, by the year 2004-05 have only just surpassed New South Wales' present figure of 1:475 and still be worse than every other Australian State and Territory's present figure and just level with the Australian average ratio?
- (2) Is he admitting that he intends to preside over the worst police to population ratios in Australia for the next decade?
- (3) What, in his view, is the value of the police to population ratio as a measure of effectiveness of delivery of policing services?
- (4) Has his continued carping on this subject over the last six years now been exposed for the hollow rhetoric it obviously was?

Mr Cooper (8/11/96):

(1) The Coalition inherited the worst police to population ratio in Australia. This Government's proposed increase in police numbers over the next nine years is more than double the increase proposed by the previous Government and is a major step in improving the police to population ratio. We plan to match the Australian average by 2005.

(2) Under this Government, the average increase in police strength over the next decade will be approximately 302 officers per year, as against only 142 officers per year under Labor. In fact, under Labor, the police to population ratio in 2004-05 would have been 1:531 which is even worse than the one they left to the Coalition in February 1996.

(3) It is the Government's view that police to population ratios are valuable indicators of policing requirements at the macro level to ensure police numbers keep pace with population growth and do not return to the levels experienced under the former Government. In the larger States, New South Wales and Victoria, police to population ratios have remained static for many years. The Queensland police to population ratio will be steadily reduced through our ongoing commitment to increased police recruit intakes.

However, in determining the effectiveness of delivery of policing services, particularly at the District and Regional levels, there are other factors that must be considered rather than relying solely on police to population ratios.

The demographics and social characteristics of the population to be served, the proportion of police performing operational duties, the number of specialist positions and civilian staff available to support general duties police officers, changes in technology, and the efficiency and effectiveness of police systems and procedures are critical measures of the standard of policing services.

(4) I believe that the Coalition's action in addressing the police to population ratio speaks for itself.

1064. Spectacle Prescription Examinations, Princess Alexandra Hospital

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Health (11/10/96)—

Will he advise if patients still waiting for appointments at Princess Alexandra Hospital to provide examination for spectacle prescriptions, will be allowed the option of attending other hospitals with shorter waiting lists and easier access, in view of the problems being faced by these people, denied an essential faculty?

Mr Horan (8/11/96): All patients already have the option to attend any hospital they choose to seek assistance with the provision of spectacles. Provided the patient is not seeking provision of spectacles more frequently than is considered reasonable under the guidelines, any hospital will provide the necessary examination.

1065. QE II Hospital

Ms SPENCE asked the Minister for Health (11/10/96)—

With reference to the QE II Hospital—

- (1) How many medical beds are available?
- (2) How many surgical beds are available?
- (3) How many patients have been seen in the emergency department in the past 12 months?
- (4) What improvements have been made in radiological facilities since he became Minister for Health?
- (5) What use is proposed for the 5th floor of the hospital?

Mr Horan (11/11/96):

(1 & 2) Fifteen (15) medical beds and fifty (50) surgical beds are currently available. However, through the recent State Budget, the Borbidge Government provided \$10 million for capital works, as well as an additional \$10 million in operating funds to restore the QE II Hospital to full community general hospital status.

Your constituents remember that QE II was downgraded to such an extent that during one weekend in 1995 there was a total of 9 patients in the Hospital.

In contrast, the Coalition will restore QE II to a fully operational 161 bed hospital. This redevelopment will result in the:

Upgrade of the High Dependency Unit with the ability to ventilate patients for short periods;

Establishment of a 30 bed acute medical ward;

Addition of another rehabilitation unit to complement the existing neurological rehabilitation unit;

Equipping and staffing the remaining two operating theatres to increase surgical throughput, improve access to elective surgery and reduce waiting times;

Increasing staff for the emergency department;

Re-equipping the radiology unit.

These major improvements to QE II will make the hospital a vital link in the network of hospitals on Brisbane's southside.

(3) During the 1995/96 financial year, 25,873 patients were seen in the Emergency Department. A total of 6,684 patients have been seen in the 1996/97 financial year.

(4) As part of the redevelopment process, the Radiology Review Reference Group was established in July to investigate the various options for improvement. A report was prepared and is currently being considered by the Capital Works Branch of Queensland Health.

(5) In the current plan, the 5th Floor of QE II Hospital is to accommodate Clinical Division offices, hospital and community administration offices. The hospital and District administration are relocating to the 5th Floor to make space available for clinical services on the Ground Floor. It will also accommodate the Aged Care Assessment Service currently based at Diamantina House, Princess Alexandra Hospital and the Community Health Service which is currently housed at 1st Floor, 472 Ipswich Road, Annerley.

1066. Undurba State School

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Education (11/10/96)—

With reference to the Undurba State School—

When will covered walkways between the modular and demountable buildings be constructed?

Mr Quinn (6/11/96): It is current Department of Education policy not to provide covered walkways to temporary (relocatable) buildings. Therefore any request for this provision at Undurba State School would require consideration of any circumstances which would warrant approval as a special case.

1068. Drought Assistance

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (11/10/96)—

With reference to the fact that on 10 December 1996, several thousand primary producers across Queensland will become ineligible for the Drought Relief Payment as a result of the revocation of drought exceptional circumstances and as producers and their families will also be ineligible for other forms of income support, such as Job Search, because of the assets and activity tests—

What urgency has he, as Minister, applied in his negotiations with the Federal Government to ensure that thousands of Queenslanders will not be denied income support until they have recovered from the drought and established a cash flow that will allow them to again stand alone as a much needed rural producer?

Mr Perrett (5/11/96):

(1) There have been ongoing delegations and submissions to the Prime Minister and Minister for Primary Industries and Energy since the revocation

of northern and south-eastern Queensland from Drought Exceptional Circumstances (DEC) declared status on 11 June 1996.

(2) I presented a submission to Messrs Howard and Anderson during their visit to Winton and Clermont drought areas on 16 August 1996.

The submission sought extension of assistance measures, including the Drought Relief Payment for two (2) years, rather than the six (6) months currently provided, following revocation of DEC status.

(3) To further progress that submission, the Premier lead a delegation, including myself and senior industry members, to Canberra on 16 October 1996.

(4) The Prime Minister has been made well aware of the plight of Queensland primary producers and has provided an assurance that he will progress Queensland's case through Cabinet at the earliest opportunity.

(5) In addition, I have been vigorously pursuing the plight of Queensland producers during drought and in post drought recovery, through the Commonwealth Spring Review of DEC Declarations and the Mid-Term Review of the Rural Adjustment Scheme currently under way.

1069. Bundaberg Police District

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (11/10/96)—

- (1) How many extra police will be provided in the Bundaberg Police District?
- (2) What steps are being taken to immediately provide extra patrols in the CBD on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights?
- (3) What steps are being taken to improve immediately the police patrols and services to coastal towns around Bundaberg?
- (4) Will he advise the number of crimes reported, by classification, number of crimes cleared, crimes per police officer etc., for 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 and this year to date for the Bundaberg Police District?
- (5) Will he advise the annual Budget for the Bundaberg Police District for 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97?
- (6) What was the average number of prisoners held in the Bundaberg Watchhouse for 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 and what was the highest number of prisoners held in any one day in the Bundaberg Watchhouse in 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 and the current year to date?

Mr Cooper (8/11/96):

(1) During 1996/97, the funded strength of the Queensland Police Service will be increased by 139 officers. Of this, it is expected that the allocated strength of the Bundaberg Police District will be increased by six officers to a total of 92 officers.

(2) The Bundaberg District has a Target Committee which includes the District Officer, the District Intelligence Officer, the Officer in Charge of the District Criminal Investigation Branch and the Officers in Charge of all police divisions throughout the District. This Committee meets monthly to identify problem areas in the Bundaberg Police District and to develop appropriate strategies to address them, based on local intelligence. Specific operations targeting a number of locations, including the Bundaberg CBD, have recently been conducted. The Target Committee will continue to focus on policing priorities of the areas concerned.

Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights are known periods of increased activity and all available police staff are rostered at those times.

(3) The Assistant Commissioner, North Coast Region, is satisfied with the policing service currently provided to coastal towns around Bundaberg. All calls for assistance received by police in this area are prioritised and attended to accordingly on that basis. Additional intelligence driven patrols and operations are also conducted in the area.

(4) Bundaberg District Crime Statistics

	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	Year to 30/9/96
Offences Against Person				
Occurred	345	353	521	101
Cleared	257	272	355	59
Offences Against Property				
Occurred	4840	4128	4685	1194
Cleared	971	1146	1017	195
Other Offences				
Occurred	1182	1143	1633	337
Cleared	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total				
Offences	6367	5624	6839	1632
Officers	88	88	89	89

Please note that cleared offences include offences which may have occurred in previous years but were cleared in the year under review. Consequently it is possible to have more offences cleared than reported for a given year.

(5) Summary Report—Bundaberg District:

Description	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97
Salaries	3,290,548	3,291,303	3,367,557	3,471,249
Wages	25,689	30,496	34,286	35,828
Allowances	68,385	70,330	71,394	98,102
Overtime	140,574	137,447	170,344	126,993
Statutory Holidays	49,357	40,837	17,685	17,333
Weekend Work	298,217	292,879	451,388	504,878
Travel Allowance	24,576	26,406	42,507	31,687
Fares, Freight, Printing and Stores	30,661	39,043	27,693	23,773
Maintenance, Plant and Equipment	114,741	127,606	83,812	82,977
General Administrative Expenses	99,428	152,205	157,537	125,218
Fixed Assets		1,929		
Payroll Tax	193,639	199,599	205,633	212,719
Total	4,335,815	4,408,151	4,631,765	4,730,757

Please note that for salary related items, the 1996/97 column is an estimate based on this years expenditure to September. Comparisons between previous years' expenditure will be affected by changes to staffing levels throughout Districts as the Region moves towards its correct model strength. These budgets are affected by budget redistributions relating to the centralisation of motor vehicle expenditure and changes to the processing of workers compensation.

(6) The average numbers of prisoners held in the Bundaberg Watchhouse were:

93/94	1020
94/95	1166
95/96	1480

The highest number of prisoners held in any one day (i.e. overnight) was:

93/94	unknown
94/95	17
95/96	17

1070. Police Station, Palm Beach

Mr ROSE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (11/10/96)—

With reference to the proposed Police Station at Palm Beach—

- (1) How will the \$75,000 allocated in the current Budget be spent?
- (2) How much of the funding for land acquisition will be set aside for a Palm Beach site?
- (3) What is the timeframe for acquisition of a site?
- (4) When is it expected that the police station will be fully operational?

Mr Cooper (8/11/96):

- (1) The funds allocated will be used towards preliminary planning and professional fees as a prerequisite to actual construction.

(2) Negotiations are continuing and the valuation of a property is being sought. Until this valuation is known, it would not be appropriate to speculate on the purchase price.

(3) It is expected that settlement of a suitable property will be effected later this year or early in 1997.

(4) The station should be fully operational sometime in the 1998/99 financial year. The actual date for completion is unknown at this stage.

1071. Austcast Foundry, Northgate

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Environment (11/10/96)—

With reference to the Austcast Foundry situated at Toombul Road, Northgate—

- (1) How many complaints have been received in each of the years 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995 and 1996 for noise, dust and odour respectively?
- (2) What actions are taken when complaints of this nature are lodged?
- (3) Has the department entered into an environmental management plan with Austcast; if so, what environmental management strategies have been agreed to under this plan?
- (4) What action will the department take if aspects of the management plan are not adhered to?

Mr Littleproud (7/11/96):

(1) Year	Noise Complaints	Dust Complaints	Odour Complaints
1990	1	0	27
1991	1	0	54
1992	0	4	55
1993	2	5	27
1994	0	3	8
1995	0	0	7
1996	0*	0*	0

0* Up to and including 20 October 1996

(2) When complaints are received, details are recorded and complainants contacted by telephone or personal visit. Premises are inspected to assess the nature and sources of the alleged complaints. Appropriate action is then taken to resolve the issues.

(3) Yes. Odour minimisation.

(4) Austcast has shown every indication of complying with the Certificate of Approval for the Environmental Management Program.

If circumstances arose to the contrary, investigation and enforcement provisions are available under the Environmental Protection Act.

1072. National Institute of Indigenous Performing Arts

Mr FOLEY asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (11/10/96)—

With reference to the support National Institute for Indigenous Performing Arts (NIIPA), the proposed (Roving) Indigenous Arts Festival, Support to Indigenous Arts in general in Queensland—

- (1) What action has she taken to date to establish the National Institute of Indigenous Performing Arts (NIIPA) in Queensland?
- (2) Why has she continued to avoid public criticism of the Federal Government for depriving Queensland of this important national arts institute?
- (3) Why has she scrapped the proposed indigenous art festival launched by the Labor Government in 1995?
- (4) What action, if any, is she taking to support and promote indigenous art in Queensland?

Mrs Sheldon (8/11/96):

(1) I have previously advised the House that I have met with Senator Alston on several occasions and twice written to him in the lead up to the formulation of the Federal Government budget. On each of these occasions I championed Queensland as the appropriate home for NIIPA.

Notwithstanding my strong advocacy, the new Commonwealth Government did not have the same commitment to a National Institute for Indigenous Performing Arts. I am separately considering a number of issues related to the accommodation needs of arts organisations. I will be looking at what capacity there is for Queensland to support training in the Indigenous arts.

(2) There seems little value in criticising the Commonwealth Government on this issue. The former Labor Government had plenty of time to finalise arrangements with the Commonwealth regarding NIIPA but the delay in finalising funding for a new site for the Queensland College of Arts (which was proposed as a co-location option with NIIPA) resulted in Queensland losing NIIPA.

(3) The Coalition Government recognises the need to maintain traditional practices and encourage contemporary expressions of the two Indigenous cultures of Queensland. Increasing the opportunity

for employment in all cultural industries through resourcing and empowering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities to preserve, express and develop their unique Indigenous arts and heritage is an essential part of the Governments program. I will shortly receive a report on Indigenous Arts Infrastructure in Queensland. This survey will inform future policy and program direction especially in relation to festivals and other celebratory events.

(4) The Government through the Arts Development Program and through the Arts Statutory Authorities is supporting women's traditional arts and craft; preserving heritage through displays of historical artefacts; encouraging greater community access to Indigenous arts and heritage collections; developing artistic skills; supporting urban Indigenous practice; and the commercial development of Indigenous arts and craft.

1073. Rugby League Clubs

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (11/10/96)—

As the guidelines for the allocation of grants and subsidies to Queensland sporting bodies require that applicants be affiliated to their State governing bodies, what will be the situation for any rugby league clubs and associations which align themselves with the privately owned and controlled Super League?

Mr Veivers (7/11/96): I am advised that, under the present guidelines, Super League clubs would not be eligible for funding under programs administered by my Department.

1074. Management of National Parks

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Environment (11/10/96)—

- (1) Is he aware that the Maryborough office of the Department of Environment is severely understaffed and that there is a need for additional park rangers to care for our national parks?
- (2) Is he also aware that the employment of a trainee ranger could cost as little as \$122 a week, or \$3 an hour, with Federal Government subsidies?
- (3) Will he take appropriate action and employ additional staff to ensure the future management of our national parks?

Mr Littleproud (7/11/96):

(1) Staffing levels have been the same for at least the last four years. Despite the budgetary situation inherited from Labor, this Government is prepared to meet the management challenge for National Parks—unlike our predecessors who had an excess of \$50m in three years to make the area operational and viable and who failed abysmally on both counts.

That being accepted there are six national parks and 12 conservation parks managed by the Department of Environment's Wide Bay-Burnett District staff

based in the Maryborough office. At present there is a District Ranger and four field rangers dedicated to management of those parks.

A ranger position at Murgon is vacant. This will have a minor impact on wildlife operation but will not affect management of the conservation parks in the area which are willingly managed by the local Shire Councils as trustees.

(2) There are 11 environmental trainees placed with the Department of Environment in Queensland; 5 in Southeastern Region, 4 in Southwestern and 2 in Central Coast Region.

Across the State and all employers there is a total of 170 environmental trainees placed.

The cost of employing a trainee can be as low as \$122 per week but depends on a number of factors including the type of certificate being sought, the length of time the person is unemployed before the traineeship and their eligibility for Job Start and any Federal Government subsidies.

The decision to employ a trainee must include consideration of the resources available to provide the necessary and obligatory training as well as the identification of funding. The Department of Environment has and is considering appropriate traineeships within the constraints of budgets and identified needs.

(3) Management of national Parks is a high priority for this Government. Unfortunately the previous government did not match its funding for park acquisition with adequate funding for management, so there is considerable catching up required. Increased funding has been provided for park facilities and introduction of the Park pass system will also help in increasing funding for park management.

1116. Logan West Community Centre; Ms W. Howard

Mrs WOODGATE asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (30/10/96)—

With reference to the application for funding under the Family Support Worker Program by the Logan West Community Centre which carries the signature of Ms Wendy Howard alongside the telephone number of his ministerial office—

(1) Is this the same Wendy Howard who is employed as his private secretary?

(2) Is he aware of community and departmental concern that preferential treatment was given to the LWCC because of Ms Howard's association with him?

(3) Will he agree that it is highly inappropriate for someone from his staff to submit funding requests to his department?

(4) Will he outline why the submissions lodged by the other 30 unsuccessful applicants for funding were inferior to that submitted by his private secretary?

(5) Did he exert any influence over his department's selection process to ensure Logan West and

Jimboomba, the community centre in his electorate and of which he is a patron, became successful applicants?

Mr Lingard (12/11/96):

1. I am advised that Wendy Howard's signature does not appear anywhere on the application; therefore questions (1), (2), (3) and (4) are not applicable.

5. I am advised that I am not the Patron or a member of the Committee of Jimboomba Central Neighbourhood Centre.

1120. Carruthers Inquiry; Connolly/Ryan Inquiry

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (30/10/96)—

With reference to his reply in the second reading debate on 11 October on the Criminal Justice Legislation Amendment Bill which provided significant powers to be given to the Connolly Inquiry where he stated—"There will be no way that Carruthers will be influenced by other matters. It is quite clear that Mr Carruthers will not be influenced. I am sure that he will produce his report together with its recommendations in due course" and given the shock resignation by Mr Carruthers as a result of inappropriate interference by the Connolly Inquiry—

(1) What correspondence or conversations occurred between the Attorney-General and Commissioners Connolly and/or Ryan and/or Counsel assisting the Inquiry with respect to the Carruthers Inquiry?

(2) Was he aware that Commissioner Carruthers had been directed to produce all documents relevant to his Inquiry by the Connolly Inquiry; if so, when did he become so aware?

(3) Did he support the actions taken by the Connolly Inquiry in demanding the production of all documents by Mr Carruthers prior to the completion of his Inquiry; if so, why?

(4) Does he remain committed to the completion of the Carruthers Inquiry free from interference from the Connolly Inquiry or other sources; if so, how does he intend to facilitate this?

(5) Will he publicly distance himself from the disgraceful interference in the independence of the Carruthers Inquiry and allow the completion of the investigations free from any further unwarranted and compromising actions by the Inquiry he established?

Mr Beanland (12/11/96):

(1) No correspondence or conversations occurred on this matter.

(2) I first became aware of this from media reports on 29 October 1996.

(3) The Commission of Inquiry into the future role, structure, powers and operations of the Criminal Justice Commission is entirely independent of the Government. The Commission is required to operate within the terms of the Order in Council of 7 October 1996 and the Commissions of Inquiry Act 1950. I have no evidence this has not been done.

I am advised that Senior Council assisting the Inquiry sought from Mr Carruthers an undertaking that

neither he nor any person engaged in assisting him in the preparation of his reports would destroy any document which came into his or their possession or had been procured in the course of the inquiries conducted by him or the preparation of his reports.

Despite the honourable member's unsubstantiated assertion, I am unaware of any request to Mr Carruthers to produce any documents.

(4) This is entirely a matter for the Criminal Justice Commission.

(5) I understand the Criminal Justice Commission has taken steps to overcome the problems arising from Mr Carruther's resignation.

1124. Carruthers Inquiry

Mr ARDILL asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (30/10/96)—

(1) What action does he intend to take to remove the ultimate corruption of interference with the work of Mr K Carruthers QC, a person in a judicial situation and a former Supreme Court Judge, investigating possible corruption at the highest level, at the crucial time of preparing to bring down his report?

(2) Will he consider the fact that matters, such as this, are only interrupted if a Supreme Court or Appeal Court order is obtained?

Mr Beanland (12/11/96):

(1) I do not understand the concept of "corruption of interference" raised by the Honourable Member.

(2) See (1).

1133. Police Action at 4ZZZ Concert

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (30/10/96)—

With reference to the police action at the 4ZZZ market day concert on Saturday, 19 October which involved the use of police horses and riot equipment, the batoning of young people by police, and the inappropriate (and possibly illegal) involvement of military police—an incident which resulted in over 60 arrests—

(1) How does he explain this use of physical force by police on a group of young people sheltering from the rain?

(2) Why did police not consult with the concert organisers as provided for in the Policing and Conflict Resolution Plan negotiated with the Police Service prior to the concert before deciding to clear the park?

(3) Will he guarantee that police will not act in a similarly precipitous way at future such concerts?

(4) How many police from which units attended this function?

(5) Why were these numbers required?

(6) At what other similar functions have similar numbers of police been required in Brisbane in recent times?

(7) At what time was the main body of police who dispersed the crowd attending the function put into place?

(8) What action by the crowd warranted this action at this time?

(9) Who gave the order for these numbers of police to be assembled at this time?

(10) Was a request received by police from organisers of the function for this police assistance?

(11) Which police officer requested the assistance of the military police and at what time was this request made?

(12) When did the military police make their presence at the function known to the Queensland Police Service?

(13) How many military police were in attendance?

(14) What role did the military police play in this affair?

(15) How many arrests were made in total and how many people were charged?

(16) What particular actions at the function required police dogs, mounted police and riot gear to be used?

(17) Is he satisfied that this matter has been handled according to the best standards of policing; if not, what action has he taken to ensure there is no repetition?

(18) Is he aware of an undercurrent of ill-feeling amongst the Police Service towards radio Station 4ZZZ?

(19) Will he absolutely rule out the possibility that police handled this function in the manner they did in response to 4ZZZ's criticism of the Police Force?

(20) Is he satisfied with the manner in which the Criminal Justice Commission is handling their inquiry into this incident?

Mr Cooper (8/11/96): The Member for Waterford was fully briefed by Chief Superintendent Freestone on Monday 21 October 1996 in relation to the 4ZZZ Concert.

As this incident is currently under investigation by the Criminal Justice Commission, it would be inappropriate for me to make any further comment on this subject.

1141. Repayment of Rates, Hamilton Island Enterprises/Whitsunday Shire Council

Mrs BIRD asked the Minister for Natural Resources (30/10/96)—

With reference to an answer to my Question on Notice in September in which he advised that his department had reduced valuation of land occupied by concessionaires on Hamilton Island at nil value and given that in real terms this land is valued at many millions of dollars (most expensive in the Whitsundays) (30/10/96)—

How can he justify the huge reduction in valuation and an enormous refund anticipated at \$800,000 to Hamilton Island Enterprises?

Mr Hobbs (13/11/96): The concessionaires, that is the sublessees, are not "owners" for the purposes of the Valuation of Land Act 1944. The head lessee—Hamilton Island Enterprises—is the "owner". Therefore, the recent valuations were issued over the whole of the island in lieu of the previous valuations which were calculated by adding the valuations of each of the subleases.

The valuations date back to 30 June 1993. Therefore, there is an accumulation of rates affected by the changed valuations.

1175. Pine Rivers Shire Council, Quarry Approvals

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Local Government and Planning (31/10/96)—

With reference to the expiration of the moratorium on quarry approvals at 13 July as contained in the Pine Rivers Shire Council's Town Planning Scheme—

Will he extend the moratorium on quarry approvals in the shire until 13 January 2002?

Mr McCauley (13/11/96): The moratorium expires on 13 January 1997, and not on 13 July 1996.

A six month extension to the original five-year moratorium approved by the previous Government, was published in the Government Gazette on 12 July 1996. This extension from 13 July 1996 to 13 January 1997, was granted at the Council's request to allow it time to consider a consultant's report on

extractive resources, and for the Council to initiate appropriate amendments to the Strategic Plan.

The Pine Rivers Shire Council notified the Chief Executive of the Department of Local Government and Planning on 29 October 1996 of its intention to extend the moratorium to the year 2002, by way of draft amendments to its Planning Scheme and Strategic Plan. Public submissions on these proposed amendments close on the 28 November 1996 and the 23 January 1997 respectively.

Officers of my Department will evaluate the amendments including any public submissions and Council's representations on them, when they have been submitted to the Department by the Council following its assessment of public submissions. I will consider this material together with advice from Departmental officers, in deciding the nature of my recommendation to the Governor in Council. It would therefore be inappropriate for me to prejudge what my recommendation could be until I have had the opportunity to review this material and the merits of the amendments.

As a general principle however I do not favour the use of moratoriums as a permanent means of managing land uses and their impacts. I would prefer that Councils take a more comprehensive planning approach to the management of their communities in an even handed and carefully considered manner, rather than merely continuing to defer hard decisions to another time when they will be all the more difficult to deal with, and where such moratoriums only serve to perpetuate uncertainty.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**1075. "Stoneleigh"; Windsor Historical Precinct**

Mr BEATTIE asked the Minister for Environment (29/10/96)—

With reference to the recent illegal demolition of two stone cottages at 90 and 92 Stoneleigh Street, Windsor on Wednesday 23 October—

- (1) When was he or his department advised by the local historical society of their desire to see the buildings retained as part of the Windsor Historical Precinct?
- (2) What was the historical significance of those buildings as set out in their submission?
- (3) What threats were indicated to the buildings from developers in the society submission?
- (4) What action did his department take with the submission and when?
- (5) What advice did he receive from his department regarding this submission and when did he receive it?
- (6) What is the total number of buildings in the area nominated for protection by the society?
- (7) Has he asked his department for an initial assessment of their heritage significance; if so, what was their advice; if not, why not?
- (8) As three of the buildings have already been demolished and the chance of further losses must be high, why can't he place stop orders on all of the buildings with heritage significance as allowed under the Heritage Act?
- (9) If he fails to do so, will he personally accept responsibility for any further losses of historic buildings that occur in the area from demolition?

Mr Littleproud (26/11/96):

(1) Firstly, it should be stated that the Brisbane City Council and more specifically Councillor Maureen Hayes were in a position to have done something to save these cottages. Brisbane City Council could have placed a stop-work order on the cottages if it perceived there was a threat when a demolition application was lodged and refused, or it could have advised the Queensland Heritage Council or the department of a potential threat. Cr Hayes knew of this and also apparently had the owner/developer discuss the matter with her at her office, protesting about the refusal of the application. If Cr Hayes genuinely cared about these buildings she would have passed on information about a potential threat so appropriate action could be taken to counter that. Was the honourable member himself aware of the above.

A list titled "19th Century smaller brick and stone houses in the Windsor District" was sent by facsimile to the department on 13 September 1996. This list was considered by the Heritage Council at its meeting on 25 September 1996, when it resolved to forward it to Brisbane City Council for its consideration. The list was not a formal submission and was not from the local historical society. The list

was from Dr John Slaughter, Chair of the Heritage Register Advisory Committee, a subcommittee of the Heritage Council, who is a local resident.

An application under s.24 of the Queensland Heritage Act 1992 seeking the entry of 90-92, Stoneleigh Street in the Heritage Register was submitted on 4 October 1996.

(2) The s.24 application stated that the two brick cottages appeared to have been built around 1886 by the Massey family, a well known early brickmaking family in the area. The society considered they were significant as examples of the workmanship and type of dwellings used by early tradesmen in the area.

(3) The s.24 application did not directly indicate a threat to the cottages, but "suggested that they should remain but similar development could occur behind them". My department was aware that a consent application was under active consideration by Brisbane City Council, but no indication was given that the places were in immediate danger from demolition.

(4) Research to assess the properties in relation to the requirements for entry in the Heritage Register laid down in s.23 of the Queensland Heritage Act 1992 was commenced by the department on 11 October 1996.

(5) I received advice in relation to 90-92 Stoneleigh Street on 24 October 1996, the day following their demolition.

(6) Since 27 September 1996 the department has received four (4) applications under s.24 of the Queensland Heritage Act 1992 from the Windsor and District Historical Society Inc. seeking the entry in the Heritage Register of eight (8) places. Two (2) of these places, 90-92 Stoneleigh Street, were demolished on 23 October 1996.

(7) On 24 October 1996 advice on the cultural heritage significance of, and a potential threat to, one (1) of the six (6) nominated places was provided to me. In response on the evening of 24 October 1996 a "stop order" was served under s.58 of the Queensland Heritage Act 1992 in relation to "Skilmorlie" 12, Bryden Street, Windsor.

I was also provided with an assessment of the potential risk to the other five (5) nominated properties, which are currently being researched by the department.

(8) To make a "stop order" I am required to be of the opinion that such action is necessary to protect a place of cultural heritage significance. I have demonstrated my willingness to use this power both in Brisbane and Toowoomba when this requirement is met and appropriate advice is provided by the department.

(9) On 30 October 1996 I delegated my powers to Cr Jim Soorley, Lord Mayor of the City of Brisbane, to make "stop orders" under s.58 of the Queensland Heritage Act 1992 within Brisbane and to institute legal proceedings under s.64 if a "stop order" is contravened. This should help prevent the further loss of historical places in Windsor, and other parts of Brisbane, through unauthorised demolitions.

1076. Master Michael Peters; Hospital Waiting Lists

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Health (29/10/96)—

With reference to Michael Peters, aged five, who has been on a waiting list for treatment by an ENT Specialist at Townsville General Hospital for fifteen months and as he will commence school in 1997 and because of the delay his education will certainly suffer—

When will this little boy receive this urgently needed operation?

Mr Horan (28/11/96): Townsville General Hospital employs one visiting ENT specialist for two 3-hour sessions per week—one operating session and one outpatient clinic session.

The ENT specialist's workload is predominantly head and neck oncology and it is highly likely that, between now and the end of 1996, his public sessions will be devoted entirely to head and neck oncology surgery.

The ENT specialist gives priority to children with hearing problems and particularly where there is a likelihood of loss of time from school. He estimates that he will be able to recommence including these children on his operating list in the first quarter of 1997

The ENT specialist estimates that Michael Peters should be booked for surgery during the first quarter of 1997.

Townsville General Hospital is currently investigating the possibility of additional ENT specialist operating sessions on Saturday mornings. Preliminary investigations have revealed that another ENT specialist, resident in Townsville may be prepared to provide public sessions to the Hospital. Negotiations are proceeding. Such an arrangement would have a significant impact on the ENT waiting list at Townsville General Hospital.

1077. Sunnybank State High School

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Education (29/10/96)—

With reference to the listing of the Sunnybank State High School Manual Arts Upgrade in the 1996-97 Capital Works Program—a project that was listed in the 1995-96 program but was delayed at the point of the change of Government earlier in 1996—

- (1) When will tenders be called for this project?
- (2) When is it anticipated that work on this \$770,000 upgrade of the Sunnybank State High School manual arts block actually commence?
- (3) How long is it anticipated that this upgrade will take to complete?

Mr Quinn (29/11/96):

(1) The honourable member would be aware that the Department of Education is no longer upgrading the manual arts block at the Sunnybank State High School. This project is now a replacement block and it is expected that tenders will be called in Term 1, 1997.

(2) Construction is expected to commence in Term 2, 1997.

(3) As this project is a replacement of existing facilities, a 30 week period has been programmed for construction and commissioning. The building is expected to be ready for occupation before the start of the 1998 school year. The existing manual arts block will be available during construction and commissioning.

1078. Public Housing, Sandgate

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (29/10/96)—

With reference to his answer to Question on Notice No. 932 of Friday 13 September—

- (1) When does he expect tenders to be called for the development of the proposed public housing development situated in Seventh Avenue, Sandgate?
- (2) Following the calling of tenders, what time period will be allowed before a decision is made on the successful tender?
- (3) What is the timeframe for the commencement and expected completion of the project?
- (4) What type of development is planned?
- (5) How many bedrooms will be contained in each dwelling?
- (6) What style of accommodation is planned?
- (7) Will it be a mixed development catering for a cross section of tenants or will it cater for one specific group in the community?
- (8) Will he give an assurance that the proposed development will compliment the existing architecture styles in the area?

Mr Connor (28/11/96):

(1) The project at Seventh Avenue Sandgate is scheduled on the Draft 1997/98 Capital Works Program and will be reviewed against other State priorities when the 1997/98 Capital Works Program is finalised. My department has advised that no forward commencement date has been proposed and consequently there is no projection on when tenders will be called for this project.

(2) It is not possible to give an accurate indication of the time it will take to complete the tender process as it will depend on the complexity and number of the tenders received.

(3) No commencement date has been given for this project.

(4) The project at Seventh Avenue Sandgate is a mixed development project having seniors units and cluster style dwellings.

(5) The seniors units will comprise 6x1 bedroom units and 1x2 bedroom unit. The cluster style accommodation will incorporate 5x2, 3x3 and 2x4 bedroom dwellings.

(6) It is planned that there will be seniors units and cluster style units.

(7) It will be mixed development.

(8) The design of this project will compliment the existing architecture in the area.

1079. Caloundra Basketball Association

Mr ELDER asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (29/10/96)—

With reference to the Caloundra Basketball Association's successful application for funding for an indoor sports centre—

- (1) When was the initial application submitted to the department?
- (2) What was the closing date for such applications?
- (3) At what stage was a feasibility study for the project submitted to the department?
- (4) Are there guidelines in place for approval of such applications and were they followed for the approval of this project?
- (5) If such guidelines do exist, who developed them and when, and are they publicly available?
- (6) How many other projects were treated similarly to the Caloundra Basketball Association's application?

Mr Veivers (28/11/96):

- (1) The initial application from Caloundra Basketball Association was received by the Office of Sport and Recreation on 30 November 1995.
- (2) Final applications for the 1996 National Standard Sport Facilities Program closed on 29 February 1996.
- (3) Both a Marketing Plan and a Strategic Plan for the project were submitted by the Caloundra Basketball Association with their application of 30 November 1995. This submission was also tendered to the Caloundra City Council for consideration. The Council subsequently formed a working party to investigate the feasibility of the proposal. The feasibility report commissioned by the Caloundra City Council was completed in August 1996 and submitted to the Office of Sport and Recreation to underpin the original submission by the Caloundra Basketball Association.
- (4) Written guidelines for the 1996 National Standard Sport Facilities Program currently exist. The proposal for the Caloundra Indoor Sports Stadium was assessed in accordance with these guidelines which in broad terms encompass predetermined eligibility criteria, financial viability, demonstrated community need and regional priorities.
- (5) The guidelines for the 1996 National Standard Sport Facilities Program were developed by the Office of Sport and Recreation in August 1995. The guidelines were released in conjunction with the release of the application forms. These guidelines are available to the public.
- (6) Applications currently approved under the 1996 National Standard Sport Facilities Program have been assessed in accordance with the guidelines for this program. Approved projects will only proceed after they have demonstrated that they meet the eligibility criteria, are financially viable, meet a demonstrated community need, are a regional priority and a Resource Agreement is signed by both parties.

1080. Suncorp, Transfer of Shareholding in Bank of Queensland

Mr HAMILL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (29/10/96)—

With reference to the transfer of Suncorp's shareholding in the Bank of Queensland to Queensland Treasury Holdings—

- (1) What was the market value of this shareholding?
- (2) What consideration was paid to Suncorp in return for these shares?
- (3) What was the source of this consideration?
- (4) What stamp duty was paid on the instrument of transfer of these shares?
- (5) If no duty was payable, why was this so?
- (6) If this instrument was exempted from duty, what duty was forgone?

Mrs Sheldon (28/11/96):

- (1) The market value was \$136,794,344.50.
- (2) Queensland Treasury Holdings Pty Ltd paid \$136,794,344.50 to Suncorp General Insurance Limited.
- (3) Queensland Treasury Corporation loaned the required funds to Queensland Treasury Holdings Pty Ltd at commercial rates.
- (4) No stamp duty was payable on the instrument of transfer.
- (5) In accordance with section 76 of the State Financial Institutions and Metway Merger Facilitation Act 1996 (the Act) any action connected with, or arising out of, the Act is exempt from State tax.
- (6) If not exempted the stamp duty forgone would be \$820,766.07 which would be shared equally amongst both parties. However, it must be remembered that both entities are State bodies and pay dividends and tax equivalents to the State. Therefore, any exemption granted to these two entities is not revenue forgone by the State but rather revenue that will be received through an alternative source.

1081. Calicivirus

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Natural Resources (29/10/96)—

With reference to the recent release of the Calicivirus in Queensland to combat the rabbit problem—

- (1) How many releases has his department made so far?
- (2) How many more releases are planned?
- (3) In which shires and on which properties have the releases occurred to date?
- (4) What criteria were used in selecting these release sites?
- (5) How many release sites have been or will be in his own electorate?
- (6) Where are the main concentrations of rabbits in Queensland?

- (7) Are private landholders being permitted to release Calicivirus-diseased rabbits as and where they desire; if not, what measures are being implemented to stop this practice?
- (8) What level of mortality amongst wild populations are being achieved at present?
- (9) What is he doing to ensure landholders are rapidly following up the release of the virus with conventional rabbit control methods to ensure maximum kill rates are achieved?
- (10) What funding and staff is being directed towards this follow up work?

Mr Hobbs (25/11/96):

1. Rabbit Calicivirus (RCV) has been released at approximately 53 sites across nine Shires.

2. Over the next month approximately 20 further sites have been identified for the RCV first release phase.

3. Releases have occurred in the following areas : Inglewood, Goondiwindi, Stanthorpe, Charleville, Quilpie, Roma, Emerald, Rockhampton, Taroom, Wandoan, Chinchilla.

To protect landholder privacy, the department will generally not release the names of properties where RCV has been released.

4. As per the Queensland RCV Release Action Plan, a document produced in consultation with a number of other Government agencies including Department of Primary Industries, Department of Health, the Darling Downs Moreton Rabbit Board and Department of Environment, release sites are chosen using the following broad criteria:

there is a known large rabbit population within the area

whether the area is environmentally sensitive to damage by rabbits

landholders support a follow-up with conventional control methods.

5. I have an extensive electorate in the Southern third of the State. Much of this area is affected by rabbits. Areas within the electorate which meet the above mentioned criteria will therefore be targeted for an RCV release.

6. The main concentrations of rabbits occur across the bottom third of the State. Further concentrations occur up the Great Dividing Range in Belyando, Bowen, Dalrymple, and Mareeba Shires. Isolated dense infestations of rabbits occur elsewhere and they will be treated as reported once the first phase of the RCV release is completed.

7. RCV in its injectable form is registered under the National Registration Authority and has specific guidelines for its distribution and methods of use.

Only officers of DNR have the authority to use RCV, and have been trained in the injection of rabbits.

Private landholders are not permitted to use Rabbit Calicivirus and do not have access to the vials of Rabbit Calicivirus distributed to Queensland.

8. The distribution of rabbit calicivirus is still in the first phase. It is too early at present to discern the

level of mortality amongst wild rabbit populations in Queensland from planned releases. Where RCV has spread naturally near Birdsville, rabbit numbers have declined by approximately 90%.

9. DNR has established a follow-up rabbit control plan in support of the release of RCV.

The extent to which the control plan can be implemented will depend on the impact of RCV on existing rabbit populations. It is still too early in the release program to determine exact requirements.

10. The Rural Lands Protection Act requires that declared animal pests be controlled by landholders on their own lands, but assistance and advice will be provided by DNR to achieve the maximum benefits from the release of rabbit calicivirus.

New Initiative funds of \$250,000 per year have been provided for research and extension as well as the establishment of additional zoologist technician positions as part of a nationally coordinated program.

Normal base allocations for staffing and equipment are also being utilised for ongoing conventional control work.

1082. Tourism Strategy

Mrs BIRD asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry (29/10/96)—

With reference to yet further delays in the release of Queensland's tourism strategy—

- (1) What has caused this latest delay?
- (2) What were the "restrictive points" that threatened the independence of the QTTC?
- (3) Does he agree the strategy should only be "a guide" as claimed by one QTTC member?
- (4) Is he aware of the degree of frustration these delays are causing within the tourism industry?
- (5) When does he now expect this strategy to be released?

Mr Davidson (28/11/96):

(1) Additional time has been taken to consult with industry on the consultant's document.

(2) The document will be released with further consultation with the industry, to ensure it reflects the fluid and changeable nature of tourism markets.

(3) Yes.

(4) I have not received any correspondence to this nature.

(5) This document is to be presented to Cabinet before the end of the year.

1083. National Park Fees

Ms SPENCE asked the Minister for Environment (29/10/96)—

With reference to his National Park entry fee plan called ParkPass to be introduced from March 1997—

- (1) Has a \$300,000 contract been let to a private consultant to advertise ParkPass?
- (2) How much of the anticipated return from ParkPass in 1996-97 does this consultancy constitute?

- (3) What tendering process was followed in allocating this contract?
- (4) How many firms or individuals tendered for the work?
- (5) Was the successful tender the cheapest; if not, why was it selected?
- (6) What are the terms of this advertising contract?
- (7) How much of the \$300,000 contract will be spent on actual air time and print space and how much on production costs?
- (8) What funding has been set aside in the 1996-97 budget for staff training on ParkPass?
- (9) How many staff will be working full-time on this training?

Mr Littleproud (15/11/96): It should be noted that other States and Territories, and many other countries, have some form of user charge for national Parks. In Queensland it has become essential to introduce such a charge in order to raise additional revenue to improve the sad state in which our National Parks were left by Labor.

(1) No, but an advertisement placed in The Courier-Mail on 6 November invited public relations and advertising agencies to submit expressions of interest to research, write and prepare material for a media campaign to inform the community about the ParkPass Scheme for Queensland's National Parks and other protected areas. The closing date was only today (15 November)

(2)-(7). Refer (1).

(8) The budget for the introduction of ParkPass includes the following provision for staff training which is related to this initiative:

- (a) Workshop for briefing of regional staff involved in leading the introduction of ParkPass—\$11,500
- (b) Further development of training packages for two components (administrative matter and visitor contact skills) and familiarisation for regional implementation officers—\$24,000

Total—\$35,500

Training of field staff will be conducted within the regional training program, using the modules developed above.

(9) Development of training packages by central office is anticipated to require one full time equivalent staff.

Regional delivery is anticipated to require two full time equivalent staff for the duration of the training exercise.

In addition, specialist modules on, for example, financial procedures, workplace health and Safety, and customer service, will require one full time equivalent person.

Where specialist skills are not available in-house, they will be externally sourced.

1084. Police Service, Rostering Arrangements

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (29/10/96)—

With reference to the implementation of the Enterprise Bargaining Agreement which included the introduction of an operational shift allowance and new shift working arrangements, which resulted in increased flexibility and improved rostering arrangements—

- (1) What has been the increased availability of police in the busy period from Thursday night through weekends?
- (2) Will the Police Service be committed to maintaining and enhancing this improved flexibility and improved rostering in the next round of enterprise bargaining in 1996-97?
- (3) As industrial productivity issues will be pursued in the second enterprise bargaining agreement to be negotiated in 1996-97, what productivity issues will be pursued by Police Management in these negotiations to improve the delivery of policing services to the public?

Mr Cooper (22/11/96):

(1) A comparison of shifts worked by police officers across the State before and after the implementation of the Operational Shift Allowance (OSA) has been carried out. This was done using shift rosters currently in receipt of the OSA for a 28 day period in November 1994 (roster 1) and the same shift rosters for a 28 day period in November 1995 (roster 2). In roster 1, 17,315 shifts were worked from Thursday afternoon shift to Sunday night shift excluding Friday day shift. The comparative data for roster 2 is 18,376, an increase of 1061 shifts or 6.1%.

(2) It is the intention of the Police Service to make modifications to the Operational Shift Allowance arrangements through the next enterprise agreement where improvements to those arrangements have been identified. For this reason, it is not proposed to undertake a further analysis of a 28 day roster period in November 1996. It is anticipated, however, that about 4500 officers would be in receipt of the allowance by 31 December 1996.

(3) A list of productivity issues to be pursued in the second Police Service enterprise agreement is still being compiled. At this stage, the list could include matters such as modifications to the OSA, changes to the rank structure, changes in remote area incentives and six weeks paid maternity leave.

1085. Morningside Police Station

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (29/10/96)—

- (1) When will the extra police promised by him be made available to Morningside Police Station to bring that station up to the correct manning levels?
- (2) How many police officers are on roster and working today on the 24-hour roster?

- (3) How many police officers are needed to bring Morningside Police Station up to the correct 24-hour roster manning levels?
- (4) When will the dangerous, unhealthy and unsafe buildings that house Morningside police officers be replaced so that Morningside police officers can work in safety?

Mr Cooper (22/11/96):

(1) This Government is committed to increasing the number of police positions to 9,100 by the year 2005. This represents an increase of 2,780 officers. As the extra police become available, they will be transferred throughout Queensland in accordance with identified needs and priorities.

During 1996/97, the funded strength of the Queensland Police Service will be increased by 139 officers. 32 of these officers will be allocated to the Metropolitan South Region by 30 June 1997. The allocation of these officers will be made at the discretion of the Regional Assistant Commissioner, and at this stage, Morningside is expected to receive at least one of them.

(2) The following police officers were rostered for duty at Morningside on 29 October 1996:

- 1 Sergeant—6:00 am to 2:00 pm
- 1 Constable—6:00 am to 2:00 pm
- 1 Sergeant—8:00 am to 4:00 pm
- 2 Constables (trainees)—8:00 am to 4:00 pm
- 1 Senior Constable—2:00 pm to 10:00 pm
- 1 Constable—2:00 pm to 10:00 pm
- 1 Senior Constable—10:00 pm to 6:00 am
- 1 Constable—10:00 pm to 6:00 am

(3) The Morningside Police Station is currently adequately staffed to maintain a 24 hour roster.

(4) The Morningside Police Station buildings are not dangerous, nor do they constitute a risk to the health and safety of the staff who work there.

Conditions at the Morningside Station are monitored by the South Brisbane District Health and Safety Committee. Any workplace health and safety matters requiring attention are reported on by this Committee for remedial action where necessary.

Minor Works proposed for this financial year at Morningside Police Station include the installation of air-conditioning.

A replacement police station at Morningside is not included on the current Police Service Capital Works Program.

1086. Burleigh Heads CIB; Child Pornography Photographs

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (29/10/96)—

With reference to reports that staff of the Burleigh Heads Criminal Investigation Branch had retained unnecessarily on file on their computers explicit child pornography photographs that had originally been used as evidence in an official investigation—

- (1) Are these reports correct?
- (2) How many and which staff of the Burleigh Heads CIB are involved?
- (3) Why is the matter being handled as an internal inquiry and not been referred to the Official Misconduct Division of the CJC?
- (4) When is the internal inquiry expected to report and to whom?
- (5) What has happened to the photographs in the meantime?
- (6) Have these photographs been unnecessarily duplicated; if so, how many of the copies have been accounted for?
- (7) What will be the final fate of these photographs?
- (8) Are the parents of the children featured in the photographs aware of this investigation; if not, why not?
- (9) Will the results of the internal inquiry be made public?
- (10) Who will make decisions as to whether criminal or disciplinary charges should be laid?

Mr Cooper (22/11/96):

(1) No, the reports are not correct. No child pornography photographs have been retained on computers at the Burleigh Heads Criminal Investigation Branch and no child pornography photographs have been copied by staff from the Burleigh Heads Criminal Investigation Branch. Further, there is currently no inquiry whatsoever into allegations of this type.

(2 to 10) I have been advised that an investigation is being conducted into unauthorised material found on a computer at the Burleigh Heads Criminal Investigation Branch office, however, as I have previously stated, this investigation does not involve child pornography photographs. This matter is being investigated by members of the Professional Standards Unit and will be overviewed by the Criminal Justice Commission. It is unknown at this time who may be involved or when the matter will be finalised.

1087. Lytton Junction-Fisherman Islands Rail Line Electrification

Mr LUCAS asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (29/10/96)—

With reference to the rail freight haulage to the Port of Brisbane—

- (1) What is the estimated cost of electrification of the rail line between Lytton Junction and Fisherman Islands?
- (2) What is the estimated cost of electrification of the rail line between the main western line and the open cut coal mines at Ebenezer?
- (3) What is the estimated cost of duplication of the narrow gauge, single track section between Lytton Junction and Fisherman Islands?
- (4)(a) What types of diesel electric locomotives are currently hauling coal to the Fisherman Islands coal

facility, (b) how many locomotives are involved and (c) what is the noise output of each class of locomotive involved?

(5)(a) What is the noise output of the 2800 Class diesel electric locomotives and (b) is it planned to allocate any 2800 Class locomotives to haul coal and/or freight to Fisherman Islands; if so, when?

(6)(a) What is the estimated cost of fitting noise suppression equipment for those diesel electric locomotives which are used to serve coal and freight duties to Fisherman Islands, (b) what is the average unit cost per locomotive and (c) is such a project planned; if so, when?

(7)(a) What is the cost of the noise suppression barriers erected as part of the standard gauge rail project for the Port of Brisbane, (b) what is the estimated cost of noise suppression barriers approved for construction, but not yet constructed, from Yeerongpilly to Fisherman Islands and (c) what is the average reduction in noise levels experienced as a result of erection of the said noise barriers?

Mr Johnson (27/11/96):

(1) The estimated total cost to electrify from Lytton Junction to Fisherman Islands is in the order of \$20 million, which includes the current coal and grain roads and approaches to the container terminal. This excludes acquisition of any additional electric locomotives.

(2) The estimated cost to electrify the Ebenezer spur line for coal haulage is \$12 million, inclusive of a new electrical feeder station needed west of Ipswich to handle power requirements of electric loco hauled coal trains. Not included in this estimate is the provision of any alternative coal load-out structure, or additional electric locomotives. Coal loading is currently done by end-loader, which is not feasible if the track is wired.

New electric locomotives to replace diesels on the three train consists currently servicing the West Moreton coal traffic would cost an estimated \$24 million.

(3) The estimated cost to duplicate the remaining single line section between Lytton Junction and Fisherman Islands is \$5 million.

(4)

- a. Diesel electric locomotives utilised on the West Moreton coal traffic are a mix of 93 tonne and 90 tonne Clyde locos and include 2100, 2170, 2400, 2350 and 2470 class locos. Coal trains generally operate as a double header consist comprising 1/93t and 1/90t loco with 39 VAO coal wagons.
- b. There are four coal train consists in the Brisbane area operating the West Moreton and Darling Downs coal traffics.
- c. Loco generated noise arises from a number of sources on the loco, including engine, alternator and traction motors, exhaust system and cooling systems, as well as movement related noises (wheel/rail), structural vibration, and warning horn. Level of noise generated is dependent on notch/power setting, speed and track condition and in a particular location,

individual driver skills. Standard test on loco emissions in QR are assessed while the loco is stationary under full power (notch 8) and with braking and cooling system fully applied. This ignores wheel/rail noises which are too variable to replicate in a standard test situation but overstates the loco noise outputs in operation (simultaneous full power and full braking).

Under these test conditions the older generation locos (Clydes built in 1970s) would test in the 92-97 dBA range. The new generation 2800 class locos test in the 86-88 dBA range.

(5) (a) As mentioned in part 4(c) of this Question, the new generation 2800 class locos test in the 86-88 dBA range. The 2800 class locos are up to 10dBA quieter than the older Clyde locos ignoring wheel/rail track generated noises.

(b) It is not planned for 2800 class locos to haul coal or freight to Fisherman Islands. However, 2800 class locos may operate selective container freight services from the north to Fisherman Islands commencing in 1997, but due to axle load limitations on bridges west of Redbank, the 2800 class locos cannot be utilised on coal or grain traffics from the west.

(6) (a) The small QR rollingstock gauge and axle load limits (due to bridge and track strengths) severely restricts the ability to fit additional equipment to existing locomotives to reduce noise outputs. Investigations undertaken recently into a proposed major loco rebuild program indicated the additional mass of equipment and sound absorption linings to achieve noise reductions equivalent to the new generation locos would be of the order of 2-3 tonnes. Such could not be fitted onto an existing Clyde locomotive (due to space and loco mass constraints).

(b) Refer to part 6a of the Question. A technical solution that would provide a worthwhile reduction in noise on existing locos is not available.

(c) No project is currently planned.

(7) (a) The only noise barrier erected to date on the standard gauge rail project was the trial barrier at Dutton Park. This barrier cost \$300,000, but involved modifying to test a number of scenarios.

(b) Budgeted cost of noise barriers proposed between Yeerongpilly and Fisherman Islands is \$5.15 million.

(c) Trials on the high level barriers suggested a reduction of approx. 10dBA behind the barrier. The proposed medium height barrier will have a lesser impact on noise reduction from the existing diesel loco fleet, but is a compromise between the intrusive nature of noise barriers and noise. Strong community support has been demonstrated in the recently completed survey of residents for the medium height barrier and future quieter loco noise management strategy.

1088. Ferry Safety Standards, Picnic Bay Terminal, Magnetic Island

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (29/10/96)—

With reference to ferry travel in Townsville and the recent fatality and incidents relating to safety standards of ferry travel on the Brisbane River and the subsequent investigation—

- (1) Is he aware of the dangerous conditions due to high winds that existed at the Picnic Bay Ferry Jetty on Magnetic Island during the week commencing 20 October?
- (2) As Magnetic Island is primarily a suburb of Townsville, rather than a resort destination, will he order an investigation into the safety standards for embarking and disembarking passengers, particularly schoolchildren and the elderly, at the Picnic Bay Terminal?
- (3) Does he agree that passengers from the Townsville suburb of Magnetic Island are entitled to the same standard of safety as passengers using the Brisbane River ferry services?
- (4) If an investigation reveals safety deficiencies at the Picnic Bay Terminal, will the Government provide substantial financial assistance to ensure the construction of the proposed Nellie Bay Terminal can proceed?

Mr Johnson (27/11/96):

(1) Picnic Bay jetty is owned by the Crown and is located at the southern point of Magnetic Island, approximately 7 kilometres north of the Port of Townsville. Due to its exposed location the jetty suffers from wave action in certain wind conditions. Moderate to strong onshore winds were experienced during the latter part of October, making conditions at Picnic Bay jetty difficult for transferring passengers to and from ferries.

(2) The safety of passengers while embarking or disembarking at Picnic Bay jetty is the responsibility of the ferry operator. However, maintenance of the jetty is carried out by the Townsville Port Authority which funds this through a levy. Right now a \$35,000 project to provide a non-slip surface for pedestrians on the jetty is nearing completion.

An investigation was carried out by the Townsville Port Authority in 1992 into providing improved access for medical evacuations and disabled access. The conclusion of that investigation was that a rock breakwater was needed off the head of the jetty at a cost of up to \$4.4 million. There was no assessment of the environmental impact of such a structure.

(3) Passengers travelling to Magnetic Island are entitled to expect a high standard of safety when using a ferry service. The present facilities have served the community well for 35 years. Obviously passenger expectations have changed over that time and the matter needs to be re-assessed. There are difficult commercial considerations involved in upgrading these facilities.

(4) Any proposal to construct a ferry terminal in the Nellie Bay development project would need to be negotiated with the developer to ensure that the whole project was commercially viable in the long term.

I can assure you that the needs of the community on Magnetic Island will be fully taken into account when

considering any commercial proposal to develop improved passenger access.

1089. Gifted Children

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Education (29/10/96)—

With reference to his statement recently that he would be developing programs to enhance the learning options of gifted children in the State school system—

What progress, if any, has he made in this area of policy development?

Mr Quinn (29/11/96): The honourable member would be aware that the 1996-97 Coalition budget was the first Queensland budget to ever commit funding to Gifted and Talented Education.

In light of this commitment, the State Advisory Committee on Gifted and Talented Education has met and developed a proposal which is based on the findings from a range of initiatives that the department has undertaken in recent years. These initiatives have been acclaimed highly at a national level.

It is envisaged that the current proposal for Gifted and Talented Education will involve three levels of operation. These levels will seek to raise public awareness, assist schools to develop programs and to enhance professional development.

There is scope also to provide grants to tertiary institutions in order for them to conduct research studies.

1090. Teachers in North-west Queensland

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Education (29/10/96)—

(1) In the year 1997, and all subsequent years, will all North West teachers be given a compensation package of \$1000 or an appropriate family amount to meet travel costs; if not, why not and will he undertake to drive (not fly) to Mount Isa to discuss the matter with teachers?

(2) In order to access the incentive money payable in the fourth, fifth and sixth years in a centre, does he advocate those long-serving teachers (over six years) who are presently ineligible to transfer to a coastal centre at departmental expense, later transfer back at departmental expense so as to become eligible?

(3) Why does he believe a teacher, who elects to stay a sixth year, is deserving of a monetary reward because of his or her continuity of service, but believes that a seventh year is of no special value and deserves no monetary reward whatsoever?

Mr Quinn (29/11/96):

(1) Yes. All North West Queensland State school teachers in areas with a transfer rating of seven, six, or five will receive between \$1,000 and \$5,000 under the compensation component of the enhanced Remote Area Incentive Scheme (RAIS). Some will

receive considerably more, depending on family circumstances.

This is in addition to generous incentive payments of up to \$5,000 where an entitlement exists, and a range of other benefits such as subsidised accommodation and locality allowances. The maximum value of RAIS and non-RAIS benefits for a single teacher in your region has been conservatively estimated at \$16,800.

The maximum value for married teachers increases in accordance with the number of family dependents. For example, the total package for a teacher, spouse and two children in a particularly remote area such as Mornington Island, would be worth up to \$33,700.

(2) There are no long-serving State school teachers in remote areas who are not eligible for transfer to a coastal centre at departmental expense. In fact, the teacher transfer policy ensures that the only State school teachers serving in remote areas after more than six years are those who choose to do so. That being the case, the question the honourable member has posed would not appear to be an issue.

1091. Harness Racing, Townsville

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (29/10/96)—

With reference to media statements in the *Townsville Bulletin* in January 1996 which suggested the annual prize money for the resumption of harness racing at the Townsville Showgrounds would exceed \$500,000 and a further \$100,000 required to upgrade the Townsville Showgrounds and to recent reports which suggest the cost for the first six months of the re-established harness racing industry in Townsville will be met by a Government grant and I understand prize money thereafter will be taken from the prize money pool allocated to the six other harness racing clubs in Queensland—

- (1) What impact will the reintroduction of harness racing in Townsville have on the prize money allocated to the existing clubs of Rockhampton and Mackay?
- (2) Is he prepared to allow other harness racing clubs to fail in the interests of honouring a pre-Mundingburra by-election promise which was made without consultation with the industry?

Mr Cooper (26/11/96):

(1) I reiterate what I stated in a media release of 10 October 1996 that prize money at Rockhampton and Mackay would not be reduced with the commencement of harness racing at the Townsville Showgrounds.

(2) An election commitment of this Government was to restart harness racing in Townsville. Close consultation has been undertaken with the Queensland Harness Racing Board which endorses the proposed course of action to implement the proposal. As part of this process key performance indicators are being developed to gauge the effectiveness of establishing harness racing at the Townsville Showgrounds in meeting both the

objectives of harness racing supporters in North Queensland and those of the wider industry.

1092. Red-light cameras

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (29/10/96)—

With reference to the disrespect of red-light cameras again being demonstrated at busy intersections in Brisbane—

- (1) Will he provide additional cameras at these locations to reduce the alarming and dangerous practice of many transport drivers and motorists of proceeding, after opposing traffic has been given a green light?
- (2) Further, will he consider the need for grade separation of a number of Brisbane intersections, which constitute a fertile field for red-light running because of unacceptable delays at those locations?

Mr Johnson (27/11/96):

(1) The main objective of the red light camera program is to deter red light running at signalised intersections and hence reduce crashes. Consequently, red light cameras are used at intersections which have a history of crashes resulting from the disobedience of red signals.

Red light cameras are only part of Queensland Transport's overall approach to reducing crashes at intersections. Most intersections are not signalised and so key safety countermeasures which are being enhanced or expanded include works such as roundabouts (and making them simpler to use) and other engineering improvements, and enforcement programs such as Random Road Watch to address unsafe driving practices.

Queensland Transport has recently developed a randomised deployment system to improve the effectiveness of their red light camera operations. This will assist the Queensland Police Service to maximise the deterrent effect of red light cameras and further reduce crashes at signalised intersections.

The current focus is on speed management and through this we will help to address the issue of vehicles travelling at excessive speeds through intersections. When introduced, further speed cameras will deter drivers from speeding and hence reduce the incidence of red light running and associated crashes at signalised intersections.

After speed camera implementation and a consolidation phase, we will then be in a position to re-examine red light cameras and their effectiveness.

(2) Red light running associated crashes are only one of many possible factors to be considered when deciding whether or not to construct a grade separated intersection in lieu of a signalised intersection. Other impacts include congestion and environmental costs which are imposed on industry and the community.

Infrastructure works such as these, however, only occur if benefit/cost analyses which take all these factors into account still show that the work will be obviously beneficial overall.

1093. Bridled Nailtail Wallaby

Mr MILLINER asked the Minister for Environment (29/10/96)—

With reference to the recent release of 27 bridled nailtail wallabies on Idalia National Park—

- (1) How many wild bridled nailtail wallabies are estimated to still exist on Taunton and Red Hill in the dingo district?
- (2) Are their numbers increasing or decreasing?
- (3) What management and research work is being conducted into the Taunton and Red Hill populations of the wallaby?
- (4) How many staff are devoted full-time to this work and what classification are these staff?
- (5) What operational funding (over and above salaries) has been set aside in the 1996-97 Budget for this work on Taunton and Red Hill?
- (6) If the wallaby numbers are decreasing at Taunton and Red Hill, to what does he attribute the decrease?
- (7) What is he doing to specifically address this decline?
- (8) If the wallaby is in decline at Taunton and Red Hill, wouldn't it be more appropriate to direct the staff and funding going into the Idalia project into arresting and reversing the decline at Taunton and Red Hill?
- (9) Is he satisfied that everything that can be done to ensure the wallaby's survival is being done?

Mr Littleproud (26/11/96):

1. The estimated population is 500.
2. There is no evidence to suggest that the numbers have decreased during 1996 and the improvement in available food and cover on the park during this year is likely to result in an increase in the level of breeding and recruitment to the population.
3. There are five research projects currently being undertaken by non-departmental staff. The projects are:

demography and dispersal of bridled nailtail wallaby—University of Queensland;

the disease status of wallabies (study of the parasites of the black-striped wallaby and ectoparasites and blood parasites of the bridled nailtail wallaby)—Central Queensland University;

flora study (aim—explain density patterns of the bridled nailtail wallaby)—University of Queensland;

population modelling—University of Queensland;

genetic studies—University of Queensland.

Departmental staff have implemented a range of programs including:

- predator control;
- habitat manipulation on the park to increase the available food and shelter suitable to bridled nailtail wallabies;
- supplementary feeding; and
- a quarterly census.

4. One Ranger OO4 works on the park full time. Other full time staff work on the management of the bridled nailtail wallaby as a component of their work including a Research Technician TO3 who devotes half of his time to habitat manipulation and census work on Taunton National Park (Scientific), and conservation officers levels PO3 and PO4 doing specific project work, eg predator control.

5. Departmental operational funding to this park is approximately \$23,000 from State recurrent and \$30,000 from the department's macropod research fund. The Commonwealth has contributed approximately \$100,000 over the past five years under the endangered species program for the recovery of the bridled nailtail wallaby.

6. The population is not currently in decline. There was a decrease in the population during the drought which could be attributed to a reduction in the quality and quantity of the food supply and increased predation due to lack of suitable cover for the wallabies.

7. The habitat manipulation program in conjunction with the favourable rainfall in 1996 has resulted in a significant improvement in food and shelter availability. An enhanced predator control program targeting feral cats was instigated in September 1996 and supplementary feeding has occurred during the recent drought.

8. The wallaby is not in decline at Taunton National Park (Scientific). However, there is still a need to develop other populations to ensure the long term survival of the species. There is a significant captive breeding program managed at Townsville and the project to develop a population at Idalia is based on the advice of the recovery team for this species.

9. I am guided in decisions relating to the management of the wallaby by a recovery team comprising DoE staff, Australian Nature Conservation Agency staff, local landholders, conservationists and university researchers. This group provides advice and support to the department on:

- developing and implementing a recovery plan;
- monitoring and assessing for the progress of recovery;
- advising on whether implementation of recovery actions is consistent with the recovery plan objectives; and
- commenting on draft progress and final reports required by funding agencies.

In addition the recovery process has been subject to external peer review. Ensuring the survival of the bridled nailtail wallaby is a long term project to which the department is fully committed.

1094. Public Housing Waiting List

Mr MACKENROTH asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (29/10/96)—

With reference to the waiting list for public housing accommodation—

- (1) How many allocations were made in the period 30 March 1996 to 30 September 1996?

- (2) How many allocations were made in the corresponding 6 month period in 1995?
- (3) How many new applications were admitted to the list in the period 30 March 1996 to 30 September 1996?
- (4) How many new applications were admitted to the list in the corresponding period in 1995?
- (5) How many applicants waiting for periods of greater than 4 years were on the list in (a) March 1995, (b) September 1995, (c) March 1996 and (d) September 1996?
- (6) How many applicants waiting for periods in excess of 4 years were housed in total and in their listed areas of choice in the following periods (a) March 1995 to September 1995 and (b) March 1996 to September 1996?
- (7) How many applicants were taken off the waiting list without being housed in the period (a) March 1995 to September 1995 and (b) March 1996 to September 1996?
- (8) Of those taken off the list for both the above periods, how many applicants had waited in excess of 4 years for allocations in their area of choice?
- (9) Can any applicants taken off the list as a result of case management or administrative action be reinstated to the list at any time or will their request be treated as a new application?
- (10) Of the applicants housed in the period from the end February to the end September 1996, how many received allocations out of turn as a result of Ministerial or senior management intervention?

Mr Connor (28/11/96):

- (1) A total of 5,132 allocations were made to public housing in the period 30 March 1996 to 30 September 1996. This figure excludes any transfers from one public housing property to another.
- (2) A total of 4,579 allocations were made to public housing in the period 30 March 1995 to 30 September 1995. This figure excludes any transfers from one public housing property to another.
- (3) A total of 9,806 new applications for public housing were received in the period 30 March 1996 to 30 September 1996. This figure excludes any applications for transfers from one public housing property to another.
- (4) A total of 10,307 new applications for public housing were received in the period 30 March 1995 to 30 September 1995. This figure excludes any applications for transfers from one public housing property to another.
- (5) Systems within the department do not normally keep historic data of this nature.

Reliable information is available from March 1996. At end of March 1996, 728 applicants had been waiting for public housing for four or more years while at the end of September 1996, 392 applicants had been waiting for public housing for four or more years.

- (6) In the period March 1996 to 20 September 1996, 198 applicants who had been waiting for public

housing for four or more years had been allocated public housing. All were allocated in one or other of their areas of choice.

- (7) (a) This information has only been collected on a regular basis since June 1995.

(b) A total of 10,013 applicants were removed from the waiting list in the period March 1996 to September 1996.

- (8) In the period from the end of March 1996 to 20 September 1996, 392 applicants who had been waiting for public housing for four or more years were taken off the waiting list.

(9) Applicants can have their application cancelled if they say they are no longer interested in public housing and ask to be taken off the waiting list or if they do not respond to department correspondence. In the first case, it would normally be assumed any subsequent application would be treated as a new application. However, this will depend on circumstances. For example, if there had been an unexpected personal crisis after cancelling the original application, applicants may be reinstated to their original place on the waiting list. In the second case, an applicant who has his/her application cancelled because of a failure to respond to correspondence can have the application reinstated within 12 months of cancellation provided the applicant can demonstrate continued residency in Queensland.

(10) Allocations out of turn have been made on fourteen (14) occasions. On one occasion fourteen (14) applicants were housed because of the sudden closure of a caravan park in the Woodridge area. The other thirteen (13) were as a result of representations from local members on compassionate grounds. For example, one representation by the Member for Redcliffe for an individual diagnosed as terminally ill and another representation by the Member for Mt Gravatt for an individual who had had a kidney removed.

1095. Operation Noah

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (29/10/96)—

With reference to his plans to scrap Operation Noah on the basis that resources could be better used in the Crime Stoppers program—

- (1) How many calls were received during this year's Operation Noah?
- (2) How many have already produced charges?
- (3) How many are still being followed up?
- (4) How many deliberately mischievous calls were received?
- (5) What level of resources will be freed up if the operation is scrapped?
- (6) To what aspect of the Crime Stoppers program will these resources be directed?

Mr Cooper (22/11/96):

- (1) 1375 calls were received during the one day phone in with a total of 1446 being received over the week long period the toll free number was available.

- (2) 66 persons have been arrested and charged in relation to 116 drug offences.
- (3) 432 reports are yet to be finalised.
- (4) 80 calls were assessed as mischievous.
- (5) The only financial cost associated with Operation Noah were minor telephone installation costs and overtime payments for administrative staff which were met from within the State Crime Operations Command budget allocation. Staffing of 157 sworn and 22 unsworn officers were provided from police establishments within south east Queensland specifically for the Operation. These personnel are employed in the operation room on the day of the "phone-in" with rostered Crime stoppers staff accepting calls between 7:00 am and 10:00 pm on other days of the week. Consequently, no resources will be "freed up", should the Operation be discontinued.
- (6) Refer to answer to Question 5 above.

1096. Giant Steps Autistic Therapy Association

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education (29/10/96)—

With reference to his letter of 1 April to the Giant Steps Autistic Therapy Association of Queensland and given his advice to the association that a trial of their program was anticipated to commence in 1997 and the advanced stage of planning within Giant Steps for a 1997 commencement date—

- (1) Why has he now reneged on his commitment to fund Giant Steps in 1997?
- (2) What statistics does his department have regarding the number of Queensland school-aged children suffering autism?
- (3) How many of these children are being assisted by existing specialist programs being run for autistic children?
- (4) How does he justify his decision to deprive Giant Steps of funding he indicated would be forthcoming for a trial in 1997 and thus deprive a number of autistic children the opportunity to access a better standard of education?

Mr Quinn (29/11/96):

(1) The proposal outlined in the letter of 1 April 1996 indicated that consultations were occurring to facilitate a one year pilot of Giant Steps as an approved non-State special education facility. This proposal also included an external evaluation by a reputable agency.

Funding of such a pilot was based on the formula used for non-State special education programs (i.e. enrolment reflecting special education support). For 12 students this would be approximately \$200,000. Giant Steps had requested a contribution of \$796,500. Under this proposal Giant Steps was required to find additional funding from other sources and to advise the department of this fact. To date, no application has been lodged for approval to commence a non-State special school.

(2) It is estimated that approximately 1,200 students with autistic spectrum disorder attend State educational facilities.

The department, this year, began using the Ascertainment process to determine the educational needs of students with autistic spectrum disorder. To date, 240 students diagnosed with autistic spectrum disorder have been ascertained.

(3) The department supports students with autistic spectrum disorders through an array of educational settings. These include primary (including preschool), secondary and special schools. A range of specialist educational personnel support students with autistic spectrum disorder.

An initiative in 1996 has been the appointment of 10 advisory visiting teachers—autistic spectrum disorder, across the State to support students with autistic spectrum disorder.

Additionally the Autistic Children's Association of Queensland provides specialised services at three therapy centres (approximately 80 students). These facilities are approved as non-State schools. The Department of Education provides over \$1.25 million to the operation of this Association. The Association also receives Commonwealth funding under the National Equity Program for Schools (NEPS) Special Education Component to support outreach services to approximately 270 students throughout the State.

1097. Premier's Department Office, Rockhampton

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Premier (29/10/96)—

With reference to his half smart reply to my previous question regarding the establishment of an Office of the Premier in Rockhampton—

- (1) Is there to be an Office of the Premier's Department established in Rockhampton; if so, when is it to be opened?
- (2) How many officers will be employed in this office?
- (3) What will be their classification?
- (4) What is the estimated annual operational cost (including salary component) of this office?
- (5) Will Government vehicles be provided; if so, what types of vehicles will these be and will they be Government plated?
- (6) What selection process is to be used in appointing their officers?

Mr Borbidge (28/11/96):

(1) An office of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet is being established in Rockhampton. While the official opening of the new premises is not expected to take place until late January early February 1997, the department should have an operational representative in place around mid December 1996.

(2) Two.

(3) Manager (AO8) and Office Co-ordinator (AO3).

(4) \$183,000.

(5) Yes. One standard six cylinder vehicle in accordance with existing contractual arrangements. No.

(6) Full merit and selection process in accordance with the Public Service Management Standard for Recruitment and Selection.

1098. Contaminated Land

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Health (29/10/96)—

With reference to a recent study of national park homesteads in rural Queensland to determine the level of contaminants in and around buildings resulting from their past agricultural uses—

- (1) Is he aware of the study and its results?
- (2) What advice has he received from his department regarding the health risks these levels of contaminants could pose to the occupants of these buildings?
- (3) Does he believe that, based on the results of this study, other rural properties could similarly be affected?
- (4) Does he intend to warn rural property owners of this risk; if not, why not?
- (5) Has he had discussions with the Minister for Environment over this matter?

Mr Horan (28/11/96): I am advised that the report had not been provided to Queensland Health at the time your question was asked. Because of this, I am not in a position to issue such warnings. However, I have directed my department to urgently obtain and assess the report, and to take all appropriate action.

1099. Bundaberg Base Hospital, Dialysis Unit

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Health (29/10/96)—

With reference to the recently opened dialysis unit at the Bundaberg Base Hospital—

- (1) Are the four chairs being fully utilised with eight patients being treated on a regular basis?
- (2) Are there other patients waiting to be treated or people who are suffering kidney diseases and will require dialysis in the near future; if so, how many potential patients are there?
- (3) What is the budget for the operation of the dialysis unit?
- (4) How much extra funding will be provided to allow for the dialysis unit to meet these extra demands?
- (5) Will the Health Department provide appropriate funding to cover the capital costs of establishing the unit?
- (6) Will he give an undertaking to ensure funding is provided in the future to meet the full operating and capital costs for the dialysis unit?

Mr Horan (28/11/96):

- (1) The chairs are fully utilised with 13 patients currently being treated.
- (2) The District anticipates that an additional 10 patients will require the service within the next

several months. It should be noted that a new purpose built dialysis unit will open in Hervey Bay in 1997 which will be able to meet this additional demand. This unit will significantly improve access for patients in the Maryborough and Hervey Bay Districts

(3 & 5) Yes. The Coalition Government has provided \$425,000 for the capital cost of establishing the recently opened dialysis unit at Bundaberg Base Hospital. A total of \$412,000 in recurrent funding has been allocated to the unit. Supplementation of this amount is a matter for consideration by the District Manager within the context of local competing service demands.

(4) It is anticipated that the new Hervey Bay dialysis unit will meet additional demand in the immediate future. Demand for dialysis across the Districts will continue to be monitored closely.

(6) A Statewide End Stage Renal Failure Services Plan will be developed by the end of June 1997. Implementing this plan will provide fair and widely available access to these services. Future resources will be considered in this context, and also in recognition of annual budget considerations by the new District Health Councils, and the imminent introduction of the new Hervey Bay unit.

1100. Banyo and Boondall North Railway Stations

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (29/10/96)—

With reference to Banyo and Boondall North Railway Stations—

- (1) On what date, or approximately what date, did Queensland Rail make its decision not to proceed with the upgrade of Banyo Railway Station?
- (2) When will Banyo Station and Boondall North Station be upgraded in accordance with the improvements outlined in answers to Questions on Notice No. 43 and 846?

Mr Johnson (27/11/96):

(1) The decision not to proceed with the upgrade of Banyo railway station was made by Queensland Rail on approximately 30 April 1996.

(2) The proposed work was deferred to allow funding to be diverted to high priority safety issues for example, the Train Safe Program.

Given the high priority of passenger safety initiatives, the Banyo and Boondall North stations will not be upgraded in the foreseeable future. In the meantime, the stations will be maintained to provide safe and secure facilities for staff and passengers.

1101. Police Shopfront, Elanora

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (29/10/96)—

When will he insist that a desperately needed Police Shopfront be opened at the Pines Shopping Centre at Elanora?

Mr Cooper (22/11/96): It is not proposed to establish a Shopfront at the Pines Shopping Centre at Elanora at this time, as the area receives an adequate 24 hour policing service as part of the Coolangatta Police Division. However where warranted, additional policing resources are allocated to areas experiencing periods of increased activity. To this end, the Officer in Charge of the Coolangatta Police Division has scheduled a beat patrol to operate at the Centre during January and February 1997. The Officer in Charge will continue to monitor the situation at the centre and make any further resources adjustments considered necessary.

The commitment by the Government to provide a police station at Palm Beach will further enhance the policing service provided in the Elanora area.

1102. Tertiary Offers to Caboolture Students

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Education (29/10/96)—

With reference to the unacceptably low acceptance of tertiary place offers by students from Caboolture (only 55 per cent of students offered a place in 1996 courses accepted the offer) (29/10/96)—

- (1) Has any work been done to ascertain the reason for this low acceptance rate; if so, what are the results of that research?
- (2) Does he support the establishment of a free standing university, or a campus of an existing university, to serve the needs of those Caboolture students presently unable to take up tertiary offers?

Mr Quinn (29/11/96):

(1) No research has yet been undertaken into the patterns of offers and acceptances for 1996 applicants for tertiary places. The Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) does release some preliminary data directly to schools, which is not available more publicly. The Office of Higher Education, in the Department of Education, has requested final QTAC data when it becomes available. The department will then be in a position to look in detail at patterns, offers, and acceptances, at that point in time.

(2) To enable the development of a new higher education facility, the State Government would require the support of the Commonwealth Government.

At present, the population in the Caboolture region is serviced by two higher education facilities—the Sunshine Coast University College, to the north, and the Carseldine campus of the Queensland University of Technology, to the south. Both of these campuses are within a 35 minute drive of the Caboolture city centre, and the latter can be accessed directly by train.

It is highly unlikely that the Commonwealth Government would agree to the establishment of an additional Queensland campus, in the near future. In the longer term, sustained population growth in the corridors north and south from Brisbane is expected to support a case for additional higher education

facilities being developed. Caboolture is a potential site for such a facility. The timing of these developments will depend very much on continued population growth and the longer term plans of the Commonwealth Government.

1103. School Chaplaincy Programs

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Education (29/10/96)—

With reference to issues of discipline and student behaviour which continue to be of great concern to teachers and parents in primary and secondary schools and as funding is available for STAR Counsellors—

What consideration has been given to funding assistance for chaplaincy programs, particularly in high schools, when the programs can be shown to be effective within the school community itself and extension into the other areas affecting student behaviour?

Mr Quinn (29/11/96): Departmental policy procedures relating to chaplaincy, in State schools, ensures that the development and maintenance of these services is entirely a matter for consideration and the financial responsibility of individual school communities. Consequently, each school providing chaplaincy services is required to establish, and have approved by the Executive Director of the region in which the school is located, a local chaplaincy committee to administer and finance these services.

Over 50 schools across Queensland are currently offering chaplaincy services to the school community. The local chaplaincy committees managing these services raise over \$1,000,000 per annum towards the maintenance of these services. There are no Government, or departmental, funds set aside, in Queensland, specifically for the purposes of supporting chaplaincy services.

However, the Department of Education employs currently two religious education advisers who have some responsibility for supporting chaplains in State schools and assisting schools in setting up, or maintaining, such services. Further, the Scripture Union, in Queensland, as the major employing authority of chaplains in State schools, provides an extensive service of professional development for all chaplains in State schools.

The honourable member would be interested to note that the department has created recently a behaviour management unit to address issues related to student behaviour in schools. The Interagency Team Project, as part of a behaviour management initiative, promotes effective co-operation between different Government and community agencies interested in working with young people.

1104. Suncorp/Metway/QIDC Merger

Mr W. K. GOSS asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (29/10/96)—

With reference to the Treasury review of the proposed Suncorp-Metway merger and the reports on the merger recently received by the Treasurer—

- (1) Is the merger still proceeding on the basis of an expected 100 branch closures and 1,000 redundancies; if not, what are the expected numbers of branch closures and redundancies?
- (2) What estimate does the Treasury Department put on the cost of the decision by the Government to subordinate the entitlement of the public to a dividend behind that of other Metway shareholders?
- (3) If Treasury has not calculated a figure, what is the estimated range of cost?

Mrs Sheldon (28/11/96):

(1) The Merger Planning Group is responsible for integration planning and has recently conducted a series of briefings on the merger for investors and the general public in centres around the State. The Merger Planning Group and senior executives have made public statements that the priority would be to retain the strong customer base of each of the three entities and that this strategy would be inconsistent with widespread branch and staff rationalisation.

(2) Less than a third of the Government's interest will have a lower priority for dividends.

Even with this subordination, the Government is forecast to receive more dividends as a result of the merger than it would have from keeping QIDC and Suncorp in their current form. As well, on sell down, the Government will have a more valuable asset than it currently has. This has been confirmed by the independent expert, Arthur Andersen, and now by the market.

Over the next three years, dividends as a result of the merger are expected to exceed those that would typically have come from Suncorp and QIDC by a total of \$120 million, even after taking account of the effect of the dividend priority which is estimated to reduce dividends to the Government by around \$25 million over three years.

The dividend priority and sell-down precommitment are no different to similar marketing features used in the Commonwealth Bank and QANTAS floats as well as other public share offerings.

(3) See answer 2 above.

1105. Unemployment, Caboolture and Pine Rivers Shire

Mr HAYWARD asked the Premier (29/10/96)—

With reference to the persistently high level of unemployment in the Caboolture and Pine Rivers Shire—

- (1) What specific steps has his Government taken to reduce unemployment in that region?
- (2) Will he make a specific request to his Ministers to assist in facilitating employment-generating projects and opportunities in the region?

Mr Borbidge (28/11/96):

(1) The Government's 1996/97 capital program will provide many new employment opportunities in the Pine Rivers and Caboolture Shires. As a result of the Government's 'back to basics' approach to infrastructure and service delivery, new industries

will be encouraged to establish and existing industries to expand in the area through the provision of the infrastructure essential to economic growth. In addition to the immediate employment and economic benefits of the capital projects, significant social benefits will also flow on to the residents of the area.

Specific capital projects that have been included in the 1996/97 budget, and are indicative of the Government's commitment to the area, include:

Completion of a new 600 bed prison at Woodford (\$30.1M);

Construction of the Buchannans Road Interchange (\$28.1M);

Design and construction works for the Narangba Industrial Estate (\$2.5M);

Construction of four lanes on Deception Bay Road (\$2.3M);

Construction of a new police station at Ferny Grove (\$1.5M);

Construction of four lanes on Caboolture—Bribie Island Road (\$1.3M);

Completion of a new 33/11 kV electricity substation at Narangba (\$1.1M);

Upgrading/Refurbishment of the Caboolture Hospital (\$1.0M);

Pine Rivers Community Health Centre—Stage 1A (\$0.6M); and

Other miscellaneous capital projects (including the construction of: a Neighbourhood Centre at Deception Bay; a new Primary School at Morayfield West; Preschool works at Morayfield West; a Special education facility at Caboolture; Planning for a new High School at Burpengary; and Bus Shelters in Pine Rivers).

(2) Yes—this applies to all regions in Queensland.

1106. Public Housing, Maryborough; Rental Subsidy Payments

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (29/10/96)—

- (1) Is he aware of the great concern about public housing in Maryborough brought about by the uncertainty and lack of answers on this Government's housing reforms?
- (2) Will the upgrading of public housing continue to take place; if so, where will the money come from for this?
- (3) In relation to the "subsidy" system, how will the tenants receive the subsidy?
- (4) Will the subsidy be paid on the basis of bedroom eligibility?
- (5) What will this mean for a single tenant who lives in a two bedroom unit because her children have moved out?
- (6) In the future will the Government easily be able to decrease the level of subsidies?
- (7) Will public housing no longer be located in quality locations because of the subsidy differential?

- (8) If public housing won't be built in quality areas, will tenants be forced over time to move areas which are cheaper?
- (9) How can private rents not be driven up?
- (10) Won't private landlords raise rents in anticipation of the subsidies?
- (11) Where will the funds for more public housing come from?
- (12) Will this Government reassure the elderly, the disabled, migrants and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people that they will receive the same level of customer service as provided by the department, as we all know private landlords are not interested in these people as tenants?
- (13) As the public housing system has worked well for 50 years, how can this Government justify such major changes to our system in Queensland?

Mr Connor (28/11/96):

- (1) I am very aware of the effect throughout the State including Maryborough of the current uncertainty about the Commonwealth Government's proposal to reform current public housing arrangements.
- (2) Yes, funding either capital or subsidies will continue under the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement.
- (3) The Commonwealth has proposed payment of subsidies would be available through the Department of Social Security.
- (4) & (5) The Commonwealth has proposed that rent subsidies would be paid on a similar basis to Department of Social Security rent assistance, subsidy will be related to need. The detail on how this would impact on individual households is yet to be suggested by the Commonwealth.
- (6) The level of subsidy and any movement in them will be a matter for the Commonwealth Government.
- (7) & (8) This Government's policy is to continue having housing in areas where it is needed.
- (9) & (10) Rent levels depend on supply and demand.
- (11) The reforms are based on the Private sector becoming the major provider of low cost housing. The need for increased public housing will depend on the final nature of the reform arrangements.
- (12) Public housing will continue to provide access to housing for the client groups specified.
- (13) The Commonwealth has proposed reforming the current approach to public housing. I have expressed publicly, concerns I have and on behalf of my Queensland constituency regarding the Commonwealth reforms which were announced by the previous Labor Government in December 1995.

1107. Whale-watching Licences

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (29/10/96)—

With reference to the issue of additional whale-watching permits—

- (1) How many licences are currently issued in (a) Hervey Bay, (b) Moreton Bay and (c) elsewhere, (list according to location)?
- (2) What are the names of each of the licensees?
- (3) How many additional licences are proposed to be issued and under what conditions?
- (4) What consultation was had with the Hervey Bay whale-watching industry before announcing the new licences?
- (5) Why was the decision to issue new licences made before finalising the relevant conservation plans for whales?
- (6) Was this decision contrary to advice previously given to licence applicants and against the advice of his department?
- (7) What assessment has been made of the impacts on whales of additional whale-watching boats in Moreton Bay and what are those impacts?

Mr Littleproud (26/11/96):

1. The number of whale-watching permits issued is as follows: (a) Hervey Bay 20; (b) Moreton Bay 4; (c) Central Section Great Barrier Reef Marine Park—there are 14 holders of Marine Park Permits who have whale watching as a permitted activity.

2. Permits are issued to the following:

Hervey Bay

Mr L Bagley—KBRV Resort Operations Pty Ltd

Mr S Boyd—Fraser Island Top Tours

Mr L & Mrs R Burgess—L & R Grainbrokers Pty Ltd

Mr G Dorn

Mr R & Mrs G Foster—Eclipse Charters Pty Ltd

Mr W Franklin—The Oceania Project

Mr R Frith—Kyljane Pty Ltd

Mr C & Mrs M Jackson—Contentment Cruises

Ms M MacPherson—Mimi MacPherson's Whale Watch Expeditions (2 licences)

Mr E & Mrs R May—Whale Watch Safari

Mr S Melksham & Ms A Burger—Oser Pty Ltd

Mr A Nicholson—MV Princess II

Mr B & Mrs J Perry—Hervey Bay Whale Watch (2 licences)

Mr T Robertson—Lady Musgrave Barrier Reef Cruises

Mr D Seales & Mrs E Davidson—Fraser Princess Whale Watch Charters

Mr B Seymour & Mrs E Ockinga—Seaspray Charters

Mr J & Mrs M Wood—Flumen Pty Ltd

Mr L & Mrs M Zidek—Stefanie Charters Pty Ltd

Moreton Bay

Tangalooma Island Resort Ltd

Ms K McTaggart

Mr G Bradford & Ms A Peters—All Boat Charters (2 licences)

Central Section, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

Mr K Jordan—Reef Enterprise Charters

Mr A McNaught

Elnan Pty Ltd—Pacific Reef Cruises

Fairmont Investments Pty Ltd

Fantasea Cruises Pty Ltd [2 licences]

H2O Sportz Pty Ltd

Handcroft Pty Ltd

Keikew Pty Ltd—Whitsunday Dive Charters

The Gamefisher Pty Ltd

Turbo Pty Ltd

Ansett Transport Industries Pty Ltd

Mr W Bailey—Sea Gypsy Cruises

Warryndene Pty Ltd

3. It is not intended to issue any additional licences for Hervey Bay. In Moreton Bay up to a maximum of 5 permits may be issued in 1997 and the conditions are yet to be finalised. In the Central Section there is a moratorium on the issuing of permits endorsed for whale watching.

4. None.

5. Advice received indicates that the applications for permits were considered by the department on their merit and that no factual scientific data were available to suggest an additional 4 vessels would threaten the conservation status of the whales.

6. Previously applicants were advised that until the Cetacean Conservation Plan was released, the department did not intend to issue additional permits in Moreton Bay unless it could be established that person was involved in the whale watching industry prior to the Moreton Bay Marine Park being gazetted. The permits were issued by staff within the department.

7. A strategy to monitor the impact on whales of four additional whale watching vessels for the 1997 season is being developed.

1108. School Cleaning Services

Mr FOLEY asked the Minister for Education (29/10/96)—

With reference to parental concern over the savage cut imposed by the Government on the weekly cleaning hours available to schools in my electorate, namely 50 per cent at Rocklea State School, 42 per cent at Moorooka State School, 28 per cent at Yeronga State School and 20 per cent at Yeronga State High School—

(1) Does he seriously expect cleaning services to be maintained at current levels despite such massive cuts as 42 per cent at Moorooka State

School and fully 50 per cent at Rocklea State School; if so, in what specific ways is this to be achieved?

- (2) Does he concede that these cuts far exceed the productivity improvements set out in the enterprise bargaining agreement between the State Government and the cleaners' union (ALHMWU); if not, please specify the terms of that agreement which justify cuts to school cleaning services in the order of 42 per cent and 50 per cent?
- (3) Has he obtained advice as to any health risks to school children, staff and parents arising from cuts to school cleaning services in the order of 42 per cent and 50 per cent; if so, will he table this advice in Parliament; if not, will he (a) admit that his failure to obtain such advice amounts to negligence and (b) take steps to monitor the health and hygiene consequences of his cuts to school cleaning services?
- (4) Will he reconsider his decision with a view to ensuring that school cleaning services for schools in my electorate are maintained at least at current levels?

Mr Quinn (29/11/96):

(1) The productivity rates applied in the recent round of changes were agreed to in the Q-Clean Services Enterprise Agreement 1994, which was signed by the previous Labor Government and the Australian Liquor, Hospitality and Miscellaneous Workers Union (ALHMWU). A comparison of past cleaning allocations with the new allocations is not reasonable, given that such allocations are based on different productivity rates.

The average reduction in cleaning allocations to schools is in the order of 18 per cent. It is important to note that there were at least 10 per cent of Queensland schools operating at the new productivity levels prior to the recent round of changes. I see no reason why Rocklea, Moorooka and Yeronga State Schools, as well as Yeronga State High School, cannot maintain an acceptable standard of cleaning with their reduced allocations, as agreed under the Q-Clean Services Enterprise Agreement. Further, I remind the honourable member that the General Secretary of the ALHMWU is on record stating that his members would have no trouble meeting the stated Enterprise Agreement outcomes.

(2) Section 4.2 of the Q-Clean Services Agreement, entitled "Calculation of Cleaning Time", outlines the specific productivity rates applied in the recent changes.

Overall, these reductions are based on the floor areas and other relevant measurements of schools. In instances where measurements are questioned, principals were advised, on 14 October 1996, to contact their regional Ancillary Services Adviser to arrange a remeasure.

(3) The Department of Education employs a workplace health and safety officer within the Ancillary Services Branch, as well as in every region, should there be any health concerns. Principals have been directed to ensure that there are no increased

health risks arising from any reduction in cleaning allocations, by ensuring that the standard of cleanliness in high priority areas such as classrooms, toilets and eating areas are maintained.

Monitoring of the standard of cleaning in schools is included in the agreement between the Honourable the Premier and the Australian Liquor, Hospitality and Miscellaneous Workers Union (ALHMWU), and will be assessed in February 1997.

(4) There is no reason to revert to previous allocations, particularly as this may jeopardise the agreement with the ALHMWU and, in particular, achievement of the Q-Clean Enterprise Agreement.

1109. Police Numbers

Mr LIVINGSTONE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (29/10/96)—

With reference to information earlier provided on staffing resources for the Corporate Services Program of the Queensland Police Service which advised that this program has 459 sworn police officers and 759 other staff members for a total of 1,218—

What are the numbers of police attached to each of the following operations and what is the numbers of staff members attached to each of the following (a) Human Resources, (b) Information Management Directorate, (c) Administration Directorate, (d) other departments, (e) the Criminal Justice Commission, (f) the Commissioner's Office, (g) the Commissioner's Inspectorate, (h) the Professional Standards Unit, (i) the Media and Public Relations Branch, (j) the Queensland Police Academy and (k) in each Regional and District Office and what capacity exists for some of these police to be released for operational duties as commended by the Bingham Report?

Mr Cooper (22/11/96): The attached schedule outlines the number of police and staff members attached to the above locations.

It should be noted that not all these personnel are necessarily proportioned to the Corporate Services Program.

In line with the "Public Sector Workforce Management Policy", for reporting purposes, the Queensland Police Service has proportioned its resources on the basis of six strategic programs:

1. Public Order and Safety;
2. Personal Safety;
3. Property Security;
4. Road Safety;
5. Operational Support; and
6. Corporate Services.

Only a small percentage of Regional and District Office personnel are apportioned to the Corporate Services Program. The remaining percentage is apportioned across the remaining five programs. Similarly, the Police Academy staff are proportioned across programs 1 to 5 only.

The Government has given a real commitment to increase the operational police strength of the Queensland Police Service throughout the State. This objective will be achieved through the maximisation of police recruitment through increased recruit intakes and the civilianisation program.

The Service's capacity to train recruits has been enhanced through the establishment of a Townsville campus of the Police Academy.

Cabinet has already approved a revised staffing implementation plan for the Service which will see an acceleration of the civilianisation program. 340 positions will be civilianised before 30 June 1998 in Police Communications Centres, Property Rooms and computer training facilities across the State and in general administrative support functions in both headquarters and regional centres.

The civilianisation of these 340 positions over the next two years will see the release of a substantial number of police officers back to operational duties and avert the need to fill such positions by bringing police in "off the street" in order to have this essential work performed.

The acceleration of this civilianisation effort maximises the short-term increase in operational police pending the mid to longer term benefits of increased police recruitment.

	Police Officers	Staff Members
HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION		
Human Resource Management Branch	13	72
Industrial Relations Branch	2	12
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT BRANCH		
(Police Academy)	82	103
ADMINISTRATION DIVISION	41	145
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT DIVISION	41	319
OTHER DEPARTMENTS		
(N.C.A., A.B.C.I, etc)	38	0
CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION	83	0
COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE AND OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER		
COMMISSIONER'S INSPECTORATE	12	23
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS UNIT	20	11
MEDIA AND PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH	23	4
REGIONAL OFFICES		16
(see notes 1 & 2)		
Metro North	48	47
Metro South	16	29
South Eastern	13	25
Southern	16	18
North Coast	11	19
Central	10	15
Northern	10	17
Far Northern	10	18

	Police Officers	Staff Members
DISTRICT OFFICES (see notes 2 & 3)		
Metro North	-	-
Metro South		
Oxley District	6	3
South Brisbane	7	3
Wynnum	3	1
Southern		
Charleville	2	1
Dalby	2	2
Ipswich	4	3
Roma	2	1
Toowoomba	3	1
Warwick	2	2
South Eastern		
Gold Coast	7	4
Logan	5	4
North Coast		
Bundaberg	2	1
Gympie	2	1
Maryborough	2	1
Redcliffe	4	2
Sunshine Coast	4	2
Central		
Gladstone	2	1
Longreach	2	1
Mackay	4	2
Rockhampton	6	2
Northern		
Mt Isa	3	2
Townsville	5	3
Far Northern		
Cairns	7	2
Innisfail	2	2
Mareeba	2	2

Notes:

(1) Some regional office police personnel are positioned throughout the region, at district/divisional offices or stations.

(2) Metro North is organised on a divisional or cluster basis and has no districts. Some of the police personnel attached to its regional office undertake duties performed at district level in other regions.

(3) District office police personnel include, in larger centres a District Officer (Superintendent), District Duty Inspectors, (Sergeant) support functions, and in smaller centres a District Officer (Inspector) and a (Sergeant) support functions.

(4) Figures shown are actual staffing numbers as at 31.10.96.

1110. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Files; Native Title Land Surveys

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Environment (29/10/96)—

With reference to a recent report in the Weekend Australian where his department's Heritage Director admitted there had been a reduction in access to Aboriginal cultural heritage files for anthropologists and consultants as well as to permits for land surveys as a result of native title issues—

- (1) Are Mr Wellard's claims true?
- (2) Has the Minister or members of his staff issued Mr Wellard with this instruction; if not, is this way of doing things now departmental practice; if so, who devised it?
- (3) Is he aware of the high degree of unease this practice is causing throughout industry generally but particularly the mining industry?
- (4) Does he believe this disruption to the mining industry is a price to be paid in order to counter Aboriginal land claims?
- (5) Does he intend to enshrine this new practice in legislation; if so, when?
- (6) Is he aware of the level of disquiet in his own department over this change?

Mr Littleproud (26/11/96):

1. Mr Wellard did not make any claims. He sought to inform the journalist of the current situation in regard to permits and of the legal situation regarding both the Native Title Act 1993 (Cwlth) and the Cultural Record (Landscape Queensland and Queensland Estate) Act 1987. The reporting of Mr Wellard's advice suffers from the absence of the contextual information in which it was given.

2. No. Mr Wellard and his staff have expended considerable effort in reviewing and establishing new administrative procedures founded on detailed interpretation of the Cultural Record Act. This has been assisted by advice from the Crown Solicitor, by the advice of Counsel and Senior Counsel, and by case law.

3. Yes. The concerns of the Queensland Mining Council have been relayed to departmental officers and Mr Wellard has met with the chief executive of the Queensland Mining Council and has discussed these issues with the QMC's Environment Committee.

4. No. The disruption of the mining industry is an unfortunate product of the need to obey the laws of Queensland. The Cultural Record Act is complex. The Department of Environment is doing everything it can to assist industry but it must also recognise the legitimate rights and aspirations of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of Queensland.

5. No, except where the new procedures offer certainty to industry and protect the rights of indigenous people.

6. Those departmental officers with responsibilities in this area understand the challenges involved in managing cultural heritage issues in Queensland and the reasons for changes to procedures.

1111. Queensland Treasury Corporation

Mr BEATTIE asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (30/10/96)—

With reference to her answer to Question on Notice No. 636 in which she stated "A Government should not prop up its Budget by milking public enterprises of their retained earnings" and noting the Treasurer, to use her own words, "milked" the Queensland Treasury Corporation of all of its profits this year—some \$55m which was double the dividend paid in 1995—leaving it no earnings to retain and further noting that \$40m of the QTC dividends provided half of her \$83m down-payment on the Sunshine Motorway debt—

Isn't this yet another case of 'one rule for the Treasurer and another for the rest' where she has milked her own public enterprise for no better reason than to give herself a free ride?

Mrs Sheldon (28/11/96): The Queensland Treasury Corporation Act 1988 explicitly provides (Section 15) that "all profits made by the Corporation shall accrue to the benefit of the Consolidated Revenue Fund". The use of QTC's retained surpluses to retire debt is part of sound and prudent financial management.

1112. Public Housing, Maryborough

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (30/10/96)—

With reference to the changes in format for the reporting of approximate waiting times for public housing and the deletion of waiting times over 30 months and as the waiting list for the Wide Bay-Burnett area office as at 1 September showed a full extent of wait times including some to 99 months and the waiting list for the same area as at 1 October showed a cut-off of wait times in excess of 30 months—

Is he attempting to corrupt the reporting system of waiting lists for public housing by changing the format of the list to hide excessive waiting times in Maryborough?

Mr Connor (29/11/96): No. My policy is to direct public housing to locations where it is most needed.

1113. Health Tripartite Forum; Mr M. Miller

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Health (30/10/96)—

With reference to his handling of matters concerning the now defunct State Tripartite Forum as Minister for Health—

(1) What compelled him to approve \$50,000 expenditure from his Ministerial Grant-in-Aid fund to prop up budgetary over-runs of the STF considering he was, at the time of giving his approval for this expenditure, aware of the existence of serious financial irregularities in the STF's finances?

(2) Will he explain what was and who gave the advice which caused him to expend the entire remainder of his grant-in-aid fund for the 1995-96 of \$50,000 to the office of Mick Miller as chair of the STF, or was he acting on his own volition?

(3) Based on legal advice he says he has sought from Crown Law and Queensland Health in this

matter, is it possible that some or all of the funds which he paid out of his grant-in-aid fund could be the subject of future legal action for the purposes of recovering taxpayer's money?

Mr Horan (29/11/96): A Service Agreement covering the period 1 July 1995 to 30 September 1995 was signed by Queensland Health and the STF pending the outcome of a review of the STF by Dr Peter Brennan. The review report was delayed until February 1996. The STF required budgetary supplementation to allow it to continue to operate whilst the review recommendations were considered. On 18 March 1996 I approved the allocation of \$50,000 from the grant-in-aid fund to the STF budget. The Chair of the STF was requested to keep expenditure to a minimum and exercise budgetary restraint. On 25 March 1996 Mr Dennis Appo raised a number of serious allegations regarding the conduct of the employees of the STF. A special investigation into these allegations was conducted by officers of the Queensland Health Internal Audit Branch during the period 27-31 May 1996.

The Executive Director, Executive and Legal Services recommended the allocation of \$50,000 from the grant-in-aid fund to the STF by Ministerial Submission dated 13 March 1996. The STF received budgetary supplementation from the grant-in-aid scheme in 1992/93, 1993/94 and 1994/95.

1114. Mines and Energy Department, Contract with Ernst Young

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (30/10/96)—

With reference to the contract to Ernst Young to advise him on the organisational and procedural audit of the Department of Mines and Energy and as this contract, in excess of \$88,000, was awarded by him without seeking any additional quotes—

(1) Why didn't he seek additional quotes for a study, for which there was no urgency?

(2) Did Ernst Young donate to the National Party campaign funds for the 1992 and 1995 elections?

(3) Does he agree that action such as this could be perceived as grounds for corruption?

Mr Gilmore (27/11/96):

(1) The audit was commissioned as a matter of urgency and Ernst & Young were chosen because of their industry specific knowledge and past consulting experience in the mines and energy sector. These factors combined with the specialist skills of their Regional Co-ordinating Partner, would allow effective completion of the audit within the short timeframe.

(2) Yes.

(3) No. I remind the Honourable member that donations to political parties are declared to the Electoral Commission in accordance with the Act. They are matters of public record and I invite the honourable member to repeat his accusations outside the House.

1115. Fishing in National Parks

Mr FOURAS asked the Minister for Environment (30/10/96)—

With reference to the matter of fishing on national parks—

- (1) Is he intending to continue consultation with Sunfish to determine those streams in national parks which have traditionally been fished?
- (2) Does he intend to excise those streams or parts thereof that have been traditionally fished from the national parks they are in?
- (3) How does he intend to replace these excised streams within the national park estate?
- (4) Does he intend to exclude fishing from those streams that have not been traditionally fished?
- (5) Will the Stanton/Lavarack report on national park fishing form the basis of the decision-making on this issue?
- (6) Will this apply equally to commercial and recreational fishing?
- (7) Does he intend to amend the Nature Conservation Act regarding this issue?
- (8) Does he intend to include inland parks and freshwater fish in these plans?

Mr Littleproud (26/11/96):

- (1) Yes. Other groups will also be involved.
- (2) No final decision has been made on this matter.
- (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8). See (2).

1117. Suncorp/Metway/QIDC Merger

Mr HAMILL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (30/10/96)—

With reference to the various consultants and experts engaged to advise the Government and its instrumentality's with respect to the proposed merger of Suncorp, QIDC and Metway Bank—

What is the cost to date of these consultancy's to (a) Suncorp, (b) QIDC and (c) other departments and agencies of the Queensland Government?

Mrs Sheldon (28/11/96): No consultancy costs have been incurred by Suncorp or QIDC.

An amount of \$1,442,807 has been outlaid by the Government for specific advice in the following areas: taxation; valuation; legal; financial; communications; HRM; market research.

These expenses will be recouped from the proceeds of the float of the Government's interest in the merged group.

1118. Government Employee Housing

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (30/10/96)—

With reference to the Coalition's publicly stated policy position prior to the July 1995 general election and February 1966 By-election that no Government employee housing would be sold and a Coalition Government committed to the continued

construction and upgrade of existing Government employee housing—

- (1) What, if any, policy directive has he given to the department regarding the sale and construction of Government employee housing?
- (2) Will he list all sales of Government employee housing which have been finalised since February 1996?
- (3) What funding allocations have been provided for the continued construction of Government employee housing?
- (4) Where and when are these houses to be constructed?
- (5) What action has he taken to ensure no further sales of Government employee housing occurs?

Mr Connor (29/11/96):

- (1) The Government Employee Housing Scheme is under review.
- (2) The list of Government Employee Housing sales that have been finalised since February 1996, is listed in Attachment 1.
- (3) & (4) Funding and construction is subject to the findings of the Review.
- (5) One of the first actions of the interdepartmental committee was to put on hold the rationalisation program commenced by the former Government.

Attachment 1

GEHS Sales Since February 1996

House and Land

Address	Centre	Owner Department	Sale Finalised
33 Monash Street	Clermont	DPWH	12 Sep 96
7 Dover Street	Pialba	Education	12 Sep 96
6 Green Street	Stanthorpe	DPWH	19 Sep 96
29 Eleventh Avenue	Theodore	DPWH	19 Sep 96
54 Monash Street	Moura	DPWH	30 Oct 96
57 Dawson Highway	Clermont	DPWH	14 Oct 96
Total Number 6			
Vacant Land Sales Cnr Jeffries & Archer Streets	Rockhampton	DPWH	09 Apr 96
Total Number 1			
Houses Sold for Removal			
15 Banksia Avenue	Andergrove	Education	13 Mar 96
McKinlay	McKinlay	Education	13 Mar 96
1 Yamba Road	Parkhurst	Education	21 Mar 96
54 Drayton Street	Dalby	Education	26 Mar 96
23 McIntosh Creek Rd	Jones Hill	Education	04 Apr 96
O'Shanesey Street	Gracemere	Education	09 Apr 96
Goodwood Road	Thabeban	Education	22 May 96
Burnett Heads Road	Burnett Heads	Education	22 May 96
School Street	Samford	Education	03 Jul 96
Gillam Street Glennie Heights	Education	03 Jul 96	
24 Mary Street Malanda	Education	03 Jul 96	
Total Number 11			

1119. Unemployment, Woodridge and Logan City

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry (30/10/96)—

With reference to the high level of unemployment in Woodridge and Logan City—

- (1) What specific steps has the Government taken to reduce unemployment in the Logan City?
- (2) What specific projects are being planned for Logan City?

Mr Davidson (27/11/96): This Government aims to increase employment and improve the living standards of Queenslanders by facilitating business and industry in expanding, diversifying and strengthening the Queensland economy. It is through the private sector, and increasingly the small business and services sectors, that employment outcomes are being achieved and support services are designed to meet the needs of business and industry at all levels.

To assist the establishment of industry in the Woodridge and Logan City area, my department provides fully serviced and appropriately zoned land with lot sizes from 2,000 sq.m. to 8 ha. at the Marsden Industrial Estate to cater for general and heavy industry. Further employment opportunities for Logan City residents are generated by firms established on my department's Beenleigh and Yatala Estates.

The Springwood office of my department currently provides local access to the range of support services for business and industry, including programs to improve business management skills for existing business and new business intenders. Over the last 12 months, 1290 business people have attended Management on the Move seminar series, and 561 people have attended the Your First Step seminar series for those looking to enter small business, including a number of unemployed.

Further direct support to individual small business has been provided through 564 one-to-one consultations. Also, 56 small business operators have received subsidies for development of business plans. In addition, in the last ten months over \$140,000 has been awarded for business improvement programs under the NIES/AusIndustry scheme.

In May 1996 a grant of \$20,000 was made through my department's Main Street Program to assist the revitalisation of the Woodridge Central retail area. The program involves business operators, building owners, the Logan City Council and the community in identifying ways of enhancing the built environment, improving the management skills of traders and promoting the area as a shopping destination. In October 1996, a \$22,300 grant was made to the Logan Regional Economic Development Board for a Management Skills Development Program.

Also, support has been provided for The Better Business Centre at Logan Institute of TAFE which provides courses on a wide variety of business topics. Of particular note is the Women for Success Small Business Programs administered by the Centre. In addition, as a pilot program based at Logan, a Women In Business Development Officer is about to be appointed to work with multiplier agencies to further develop the range of services to women in business.

In a major expansion of our commitment to the Logan area the services provided by the Springwood office are to be further broadened over coming months to provide a comprehensive service to all levels of business. It is expected that this new Business Centre will be operational in early 1997.

In addition, I have appointed Ms Regina Dolan from Logan City as a member of the inaugural Small Business Council of Queensland.

1121. Public Housing Rent Increases

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (30/10/96)—

With reference to a letter I wrote to him on 19 August on behalf of several seniors living in public housing whose weekly rent jumped a minimum of \$11.50 per week because he failed to use his authority and discretion and direct his department to carry out its policy and phase the increase in over a minimum two year period and noting that he had his personal secretary acknowledge my letter on 21 August—

Is he preparing a response to my correspondence as promised by his personal secretary on 21 August, or is he so ashamed and embarrassed by this matter which has shown his incompetence as a Minister, that he is hoping the matter will go away?

Mr Connor (29/11/96): The correspondence has been responded to.

1122. Public Housing, Redcliffe Electorate

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (30/10/96)—

With reference to his answer to Question on Notice No. 839 relating to public housing in the Redcliffe Electorate where he claims there has been no cessation of construction of public housing in the Redcliffe Electorate—

(1) Will he detail all projects undertaken since 1 March including addresses of these projects?

(2) Will he also provide the locations of the proposed 17 dwellings due to be constructed in 1996-97?

Mr Connor (29/11/96): As at 1 March, 7 dwellings were under construction in the Redcliffe electorate:

2 x 2 bedroom cluster style dwellings, Woody Point;

1 x 1 bedroom and 4 x 2 bedroom attached houses, Woody Point.

Since 1 March, 17 dwellings in the Redcliffe electorate comprising 2 x 2, 2 x 3 and 1 x 5 bedroom detached houses and 10 x 1 and 2 x 2 bedroom seniors units.

1123. Health Tripartite Forum

Mrs EDMOND asked the Minister for Health (30/10/96)—

With reference to his election promises which he says he made public outside the Townsville General Hospital in relation to expanding the State Tripartite Forum by establishing a further four regional offices—

(1) What proof, other than his word that he mentioned it as part of a press conference in

Townsville, can he provide the Parliament to substantiate his claim that this election promise was totally above board and open to public scrutiny and part of Coalition policy?

(2) Will he table a press statement for the Parliament from when he was Opposition Health Spokesman to verify the statements he has made in the House regarding his election deals in this matter?

(3) How much was this commitment going to coast Queensland Health and what were to be the staffing levels and recurrent costs involved?

Mr Horan (29/11/96): As detailed to Parliament, a press conference was held in front of the Townsville General Hospital with details given to media at this conference. If the Member for Mount Coot-tha has any evidence whatsoever to the contrary, then she should put up or shut up. This Government's commitments to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Health are as clear now as they have ever been. The Coalition Government is working in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to make real progress in improving the health of indigenous Queenslanders. As part of this commitment to funding for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, initiatives in the 1996/97 financial year include:

An additional \$2 million to extend the network of primary health care services to cover approximately 30,000 people living in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in central and western Queensland,

\$2.5 million to improve access to medical services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in isolated communities, and

\$535,000 to develop district plans which identify gaps and opportunities in health service provision for aboriginal and torres strait islander communities. Part of this funding will be used to develop a specific health plan for health services in Torres Strait and to improve data collection and analysis. This will ensure that indigenous health initiatives are coordinated and that the best possible use is made of resources and available funding.

Further, the abolition of the STF enabled the Coalition to fulfil its electoral commitment to partnership with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities through the establishment of the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Council.

1125. Burnett River, Mining Project; Monto Resources Pty Ltd

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Environment (30/10/96)—

With reference to the application by Monto Resources Pty Ltd to mine 15 km of the river bed of the Burnett River for ilmenite—

(1) Why hasn't the Government requested an environmental impact study be undertaken on this very sensitive mining project?

(2) Is it the practice of the Government to allow major mining activities in Queensland river beds without an Environmental Impact Study?

(3) Was an approach made to the Government to relax its guidelines so that an EIS was not required; if so, who made the approach?

Mr Littleproud (26/11/96): This matter is the responsibility of the Minister for Mines and Energy, to whom this question should be directed.

1126. Queensland Masters Games

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry (30/10/96)—

With reference to an application by Rockhampton to host the next Queensland Masters Games—

What is the status of this application and has this application been, or is it likely to be, successful?

Mr Davidson (29/11/96): At this stage there has been no call for submissions for the staging of the next Queensland Masters Games.

I have been informed that the Queensland Events Corporation has not received any application from Rockhampton with respect to the staging of any future Queensland Masters Games.

1127. Mining Project, Burnett River; Monto Resources Pty Ltd

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Natural Resources (30/10/96)—

(1) Is it true that Monto Resources Pty Ltd had the Natural Resources Department submission to the Mining Warden's Court thrown out on a technicality?

(2) Does he have confidence in his department and share the major concerns the department has regarding the Monto Resources/Burnett River project to mine for ilmenite?

(3) Has Monto Resources made direct contact with him regarding the environmental consequences of their river bed mining?

(4) Will he give an undertaking to the people of Queensland that he won't allow the Burnett River to be vandalised by this project?

Mr Hobbs (26/11/96):

(1) My department lodged an objection on Friday 11 October to the granting of MLA80040 over the State Forest 54 on the grounds of damage to the forest estate.

The Mining Wardens Court in a hearing convened on Thursday 24 October struck out the department's objection on procedural grounds. As yet the Mining Warden has not handed down the written determination and reasons for this action.

(2) My department has two roles in this matter:

as an Advice Agency to the Environmental Management Overview Strategy (EMOS) process which is administered by the Department of Mines and Energy; and

as the custodian of State Forest 54.

In respect to the EMOS process, officers of my department have lodged a submission with the Department of Mines and Energy regarding the potential impacts of the mining operation on the physical integrity of the river.

In respect to State Forest 54, officers of my department lodged an objection to the mining of the Burnett River within the Forest Estate, on the grounds of damage to the conservation and forest values of the area.

The actions of my department have increased the Department of Mines and Energy awareness of the environmental sensitivity of this mining proposal and the resource management concerns to be addressed in Monto Resources EMOS document. I share the concerns raised by my departmental staff and fully support the actions they have taken.

(3) No—Monto Resources have not made direct contact with me.

(4) The legislative responsibility for Mining Lease Application 80040 comes under the Mineral Resources Act which is administered by the Minister for Mines and Energy. I am confident that the Minister and his department will take into account the views of my department in arriving at a decision on the application.

1128. Police Station, Palm Beach

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (30/10/96)—

With reference to the purchase of a site for the location of the proposed Palm Beach Police Station—

(1) Are claims made by the Chair of the Law and Order Sub Committee at the Elanora Chamber of Commerce meeting during the week ending 26 October that the site preferred by senior police is the Gold Coast Highway property owned by property developer Max Shearer, accurate?

(2) Does the Police Service prefer this site?

(3) Are there any other sites that the Police Service is considering?

Mr Cooper (22/11/96):

(1) The Queensland Police Service considered a number of sites in the Palm Beach area, including the one owned by Mr Max Shearer.

(2) The Service does not prefer the site owned by Mr Shearer.

(3) The Service has a preference for a block of land at the intersection of the Gold Coast Highway and Hawaii Avenue which is currently under the control of the Queensland Government. The Service is negotiating the acquisition of this site with the Department of Public Works and Housing.

1129. Whale-watching Licences

Mr NUNN asked the Minister for Environment (30/10/96)—

Given that no sane, clear-thinking, rational Government would do anything to harm the Hervey Bay Whale Watching Industry, an industry renowned world-wide as a leader in responsible eco tourism which has been carefully fostered by the Government, the Conservation Movement and the Whale Watch fleet operators—

Will he give an assurance that no inducements were offered in respect of five permits to Moreton Bay operators with flagrant disregard to the advice from his departmental officers and also with, according to Moreton Bay operators, none of the guidelines which apply to Hervey Bay operators?

Mr Littleproud (29/11/96): There were four permitted operators in Moreton Bay for the 1996 whale watching season. All permits were issued by departmental staff and no inducements were offered.

Whale watching permits issued for Moreton Bay contain a number of conditions to control the activity including:

specified area adjacent to Cape Moreton;

adherence to the Department of Environment Code of Ethics for Commercial Whale Watching in Moreton Bay Marine Park;

restrictions on methods of approach, distance from and direction of approach to whales including not within 100 metres, not within 300 metres of pods with calves, only approach from the landward side, etc.;

provision of a sound educational program; and

provision of adequate seating, protection from the elements and viewing space for passengers.

1130. Privatisation of TAB

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (30/10/96)—

With reference to consideration being given by the Coalition Government to the privatisation of the Queensland TAB—

(1) What impact will privatisation of this service have on small country race clubs?

(2) In particular, will this move impact on small clubs in the Fitzroy Electorate, i.e. Ridgeland, Duaringa, Dingo, Blackwater/Bluff, and Middlemount?

Mr Cooper (26/11/96):

(1) The gambling industry is facing a wide range of competitive challenges stemming from rapidly changing technology. These include pay/interactive TV, internet activities, the introduction of new technologies and the changing nature of betting and gaming and the venues which market and operate these products. Consequently, the Government has identified a need to address a wide range of issues associated with its involvement within the gaming and betting industry in Queensland.

The Commission of Audit has identified the TAB as an entity which could be corporatised in accordance with the Government Owned Corporations Act 1993. The Government is therefore presently examining options involving structural reform so that the conditions and structure under which the TAB operates allow it to operate as commercially as possible in an increasingly competitive environment.

Options for future development of the TAB will take into account potential changes to the Racing and Betting Act 1980 with regards to the TAB and

powers and responsibilities of the Minister for Racing. In particular, the Government acknowledges the dependence of the racing industry on the TAB distribution system and will ensure the process of implementation of structural reform involves close consultation with the industry.

In relation to the specific question asked, the Government has not decided on the future structure of the TAB which may or may not involve corporatisation or privatisation. It is therefore not possible to answer a question concerning impacts of privatisation of the TAB when such a course has not been fully considered or any recommendations made. However, it is emphasised this Government is fully aware of the importance of the TAB distribution system and the racing industry dependence upon it. Consequently steps to be taken in this process of developing a better commercial and competitive basis on which the TAB can operate will involve close consultation with the industry.

(2) As detailed above, it is not possible to predict impacts of privatisation on small race clubs until all factors are fully considered by Government. Options in relation to the conditions and structure under which the TAB operates include both corporatisation and privatisation. The process of determining a preferred outcome will involve close consultation with the racing industry.

1131. Police Powers

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (30/10/96)—

With reference to the continued updating of the Operational Procedures Manual and the development of the pocket sized version of the First Response Handbook and as both the second Parliamentary Criminal Justice Committee, in its report on police powers, and the report of the Bingham Inquiry identified that lack of knowledge by police on their actual powers, as opposed to an actual lack of powers, was a major problem for the Police Service, and police officers in the field—

Will steps, in addition to the manual and handbook upgrades, be undertaken to ensure that police officers have adequate knowledge of their powers; if so, what will be the cost in 1996-97 of these steps?

Mr Cooper (22/11/96): Yes, instruction during the recent recruit training program comprehensively covers the relevant powers.

Also, the Police Service has a number of mechanisms in place to ensure that police officers have an adequate knowledge of their powers. Since 1991, pay point progression within a rank can only be achieved by acquiring competencies relevant to practical policing and other key areas relevant to modern day policing. During current negotiations with the Police Union, the Police Service is proposing to expand this process and require officers to successfully complete designated developmental Programs prior to being eligible for promotion. This includes the recent implementation of the Constable Development Program and the Management Development Program which both

provide an integrated developmental process for officers to progress from the rank of Constable through to Commissioned ranks. As well, the Investigations Training Program concentrates on developing the investigative skills of police with the primary focus being plain clothes officers.

All of these Programs concentrate on the knowledge and skills utilised by police in a broad range of operational situations, which includes enhancing their ability to understand the various powers which are available to them, as well as identify what course of action is the most appropriate in a given context.

Those parts of the above Programs directed towards the provision of a greater knowledge of police powers have not been separately costed. A broad estimate of that cost is \$500,000 per annum.

1132. Internet in Schools; Education Network Australia

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education (30/10/96)—

With reference to articles appearing in The Australian newspaper on 5 October "Computers get poor marks in classroom" and 15 October "Education Network initiative abandoned"—

(1) Is Queensland the only State in Australia which does not have a target date for connecting all schools to the internet?

(2) Does Queensland still support the establishment of the Education Network Australia (EDNA); if not, why not?

(3) Given the criticism of the Federal decision by Mr Moodie that "some of the biggest losers will be students in remote areas" what is the Queensland Government doing to convince the Federal Government to restore this initiative?

Mr Quinn (29/11/96):

(1) The Global Classroom Program was established in 1996/97 and will connect all Queensland schools to the Internet by 1999.

(2) The Queensland Government has supported consistently the EdNA initiative.

(3) Individual states and territories are continuing to develop and implement their own strategies for establishing a telecommunications infrastructure to connect schools to the Internet. The issue of affordable Internet access to remote areas is significant. Currently many Queensland schools pay STD rates to connect to the Internet and in many areas the service is poor. Providing the technology to enable access to the Internet does not solve this problem. However, the Department of Education is gathering data on a range of options which will hopefully address these issues.

1134. Police Beat, Beachmere

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (30/10/96)—

When will the Police Service establish a 'Police Beat' policing operation in Beachmere?

Mr Cooper (22/11/96): The Queensland Police Service has not identified any requirement for a 'Police Beat' policing operation at Beachmere at this time and there is therefore no current intention to establish one there.

1135. Transport and Main Roads Ministry, Employees in Townsville/Thuringowa

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (30/10/96)—

(1) How many people were employed within his portfolio responsibility, based within the boundaries of Townsville/Thuringowa as at (a) 30 June 1995 and (b) 30 June 1996?

(2) How many of the salaried staff were classified as AO8 or higher as at (a) 30 June 1995 and (b) 30 June 1996?

(3) How many of those salaried staff were classified as permanent as at (a) 30 June 1995 and (b) 30 June 1996?

(4) How many salaried staff were classified as temporary as at (a) 30 June 1995 and (b) 30 June 1996?

(5) How many people other than SES officers were on contract as at (a) 30 June 1995 and (b) 30 June 1996?

(6) How many full-time wages employees were on the payroll as at (a) 30 June 1995 and (b) 30 June 1996?

(7) How many part-time wages employees were on the payroll as at (a) 30 June 1995 and (b) 30 June 1996?

Mr Johnson (27/11/96):

(1) Department of Transport and Main Roads—(a) 482; (b) 496

These figures included salaried, wages and casual employees presented as a headcount.

Queensland Rail—(a) 1227; (b) 1196

Townsville Port Authority—(a) 100; (b) 104

(2) Department of Transport and Main Roads—(a) 11; (b) 11

Queensland Rail—(a) 7; (b) 6

Townsville Port Authority—(a) 4; (b) 4

(3) Department of Transport and Main Roads—(a) 122; (b) 116

These figures are a headcount of the employees with a permanent employment status.

Queensland Rail

With regard to part (3), Queensland Rail's Employee Relations Information System cannot capture the description of past employees i.e. part-time, permanent etc. Therefore statistics for these particular enquiries cannot be obtained.

Townsville Port Authority—(a) 7; (b) 8

(4) Department of Transport and Main Roads—(a) 3; (b) 5

These figures are a headcount of the employees with a temporary employment status.

Queensland Rail

With regard to part (4), Queensland Rail's Employee Relations Information System cannot capture the description of past employees i.e. part-time, permanent etc. Therefore statistics for these particular inquiries cannot be obtained.

Townsville Port Authority—(a) -; (b) -

(5) Department of Transport and Main Roads—(a) 4; (b) 5

Queensland Rail—(a) 5; (b) 5

Townsville Port Authority—(a) 6; (b) 7

(6) Department of Transport and Main Roads—(a) 191; (b) 184

These figures represent the wages employees who work full-time. These figures exclude casuals.

Queensland Rail

With regard to part (6), Queensland Rail's Employee Relations Information System cannot capture the description of past employees i.e. part-time, permanent etc. Therefore statistics for these particular inquiries cannot be obtained.

Townsville Port Authority—(a) 93; (b) 96

(7) Department of Transport and Main Roads—(a) 0; (b) 0

These figures represent the part-time wages employees excluding casuals.

Queensland Rail

With regard to part (7), Queensland Rail's Employee Relations Information System cannot capture the description of past employees i.e. part-time, permanent etc. Therefore statistics for these particular inquiries cannot be obtained.

Townsville Port Authority—(a) 0; (b) 0.

1136. Integrated Valuation and Sales System

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Natural Resources (30/10/96)—

With reference to his answer to Question 977 in respect to the funding of the IVAS system—

(1) Due to faults and inadequacies in the program, what was the cost to his department, above normal operating expenses, to produce valuations using the IVAS program for 1995-96?

(2) What does he estimate the additional cost will be for 1996-97?

(3) Does he deny that the program is so poorly regarded by Treasury that they refuse to use IVAS for the administration of Land Tax?

(4) Is he aware of the cost to Treasury of their own program to determine Land Tax collections for revenue purposes because of the inadequacy of IVAS?

(5) What refunds have been paid up to 30 June to private sector bulk purchasers of IVAS data after complaints of inaccuracies and omissions?

Mr Hobbs (25/11/96):

- (1) IVAS successfully produced the 1996 revaluation. There was no unforeseen expenditure incurred.
- (2) The only additional cost in 1996/97 will be some \$25000 associated with preparing individual advices to landholders of valuations in accord with the recommendations of the recent review of the State's valuation system.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) My department has always provided the valuation data to the Office of State Revenue for the calculation of Land Tax. The new Land Tax system intends to extract all of the valuation data as well as a large proportion of its property data from IVAS. The Office of State Revenue has also requested nightly updates of data.
- (5) Up to 30 June 1996, only one refund has been paid to a purchaser of bulk data. This refund of \$533.00 was for a summary of sales statistics.

1137. Oil and Tyre Levy

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (30/10/96)—

With reference to recent media reports of a delay in introducing the much maligned new oil and tyre levy—

- (1) If the 1 January introduction date is not to be met then what is the new introduction date?
- (2) How are the levies to be collected and distributed to the department?
- (3) Are imported second hand tyres to be covered by this levy?
- (4) What countries are these imported tyres coming from and in what numbers annually, both to Australia and Queensland?
- (5) Is this importation scheme a de-facto waste tyre disposal scheme for the country of origin?
- (6) How will the levy collections and spending be accounted for?
- (7) What justification is his department using in its negotiations with Treasury for an increase in car registration as an alternative to the oil and tyre levy?
- (8) What is the alternative rise in car registration fees that would produce the same annual revenue for the department?
- (9) Has he received advice that waste batteries should also be levied in an attempt to reduce their impact on the environment?
- (10) Does he intend to pursue this option with Treasury; if so, what level of fee are we likely to see imposed on batteries?
- (11) As the oil and tyre levy was intended to return some \$8m for the second half of 1996-97, how does he intend to make up any shortfall in the Environment Department budget as a result of delays in introducing the levy or does he intend to cur the department budget; if so, which areas will be cut and to what extent?

Mr Littleproud (29/11/96):

- (1) The issue of waste management and waste tracking was ignored by the Labor Government, but is a major challenge being addressed by the Coalition Government. The environmental franchise scheme with a disposal levy on tyres and oil is a Coalition major initiative addressing this environmental problem. Establishing such a scheme cannot be done overnight and we are determined to get it right. This involves intense consultation with key stakeholders. The need to maximise the level of industry support and meet requests for further consultation means we will delay implementation of the tyre levy and oil levy until negotiations are finalised.
- (2) The pre-disposal levy will be collected from consumers by retailers and remitted by those retailers to an industry body established under the Environmental Protection Act on a monthly basis. The industry body will remit a portion of that fee to the Government.

For industry efficiency reasons the scheme will provide for the levy collected at the retail level to be voluntarily remitted by:

- (a) the wholesaler if an agreement exists between the wholesaler and retailer to allow the wholesaler to remit on the retailers behalf, or
- (b) the manufacturer if a similar agreement exists between the wholesaler and the manufacturer.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) The Department of Environment does not have this information. However, it may be available from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.
- (5) The importation of second hand tyres, in addition to providing cheap tyres which must be suitable for legal fitment, provides retread stock for the retread industry. In order to receive a rebate the imported tyres will first have to have been sold by a franchised tyre retailer. Therefore, the scheme will not be a de-facto waste tyre disposal scheme for imported tyres.
- (6) Audit systems will be in place as part of the franchise schemes. Both the industry body and the Government will be externally audited and be required to produce audited reports.
- (7) The Department of Environment is not negotiating with Treasury for an increase in car registration fees as an alternative to the tyre and oil levy.
- (8) Refer (7).
- (9) No.
- (10) Refer (9).
- (11) The department is budgeting on the basis that the funds needed for its operational budget will be available.

1138. Mr P. Connolly, QC, Payment of Legal Fees

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (30/10/96)—

Has he paid the legal fees owed to Peter Connolly QC in respect of the legal opinion he gave the Minister's solicitors, or is it anticipated that the remuneration of Connolly QC would be taken care of as part of those legal fees to be paid by the Government?

Mr Cooper (28/11/96): Mr Connolly's fee has been paid in full. Whether or not it might come within the scope of any indemnity for costs which may be given depends upon the terms of the indemnity which is not within my area of Ministerial responsibility. If I am advised that it is within the terms of such an indemnity, I shall claim reimbursement. I have not participated, and will not participate, in any Cabinet consideration of the terms of any such indemnity or its applicability to my circumstances.

1139. Compensation for Families of Homicide Victims

Mr FOLEY asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (30/10/96)—

With reference to concerns expressed by the Homicide Victims Support Group in Townsville in relation to payment of compensation under the Criminal Offences (Victims) Act to families of homicide victims—

(1) Why has he failed to consult effectively with the families of homicide victims to address their concerns?

(2) Will he take steps to expedite the payment of families of homicide victims of the thousand dollars provided under the Act in relation to damage caused by the crime?

(3) Why has he failed to prepare and distribute widely to victims of crime pamphlets outlining the fundamental principles of justice and criminal compensation entitlements under the Criminal Offences (Victims) Act?

(4) What action will he take to train prosecutors, police, corrective services officers and other relevant public officials of their responsibilities to victims under the Criminal Offences (Victims) Act?

Mr Beanland (27/11/96):

(1) The "concerns" raised by the Homicide Victims Support Group in Townsville were matters raised by Mr Reg Deakes. Officers of the department have been contacted by the Homicide Victims Support Group in Brisbane and advised that the views or concerns of Mr Deakes were not necessarily reflective of the views of their organisation. I understand that Mr Deakes has since advised officers of the department that he has resigned from the Homicide Victims Support Group. Apart from the matters raised by Mr Deakes no other "concerns" have been raised by the Townsville group. I have consulted extensively with the various victims' support groups and have attended meetings with members of Citizens Against Road Slaughter (CARS), Homicide Victims Support Group and VOCA.

(2) Upon taking office, I immediately entered into administrative arrangements to expedite payments

by allowing appropriate departmental officers to arrange payment of the \$4,000 towards funeral costs and the \$1,000 towards "other expenses for damage caused in the course of the relevant crime's commission". Unfortunately the wording of the legislation drafted by the Labor Government is vague and does not provide staff with any guide as to how applicants establish and prove their claim or what expenses properly constitute a claim. Such officers have to ensure that there is adequate material to support the claim and ensure that there are no competing claims.

(3) Pamphlets and application forms for families and dependants of homicide victims are distributed by investigating police officers. The Director of Public Prosecutions has since 1995 distributed a pamphlet titled "Rape and other Violent Assaults". Another appropriate pamphlet is currently being prepared for the assistance of other victims. In order to provide a document that will be of real benefit, consultation with the victims support groups and investigations of material available in other jurisdictions is being undertaken.

(4) Court Registry staff and other relevant public officials have been trained in the obligations under the legislation. The Director of Public Prosecutions is in the process of expanding his office's victims' services. Questions with respect to what steps the Queensland Police Service or the Queensland Corrective Services Commission are taking should be directed to the appropriate Minister.

1140. Funeral Services

Ms SPENCE asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (30/10/96)—

With reference to the ongoing monopoly of funeral services in Brisbane and Statewide by large American firms—

(1) Is he aware of the situation?

(2) Who are the firms?

(3) What percentage ownership of Queensland funeral services does each hold?

(4) Are they continuing their acquisition of independent funeral services?

(5) Is he aware that pensioners are being charged up to \$5,500 for a normal cremation in Brisbane?

(6) Is he aware costs in excess of \$3,000 are being charged to inter loved one's ashes in memorial walls at crematoriums together with a small plaque costing in excess of \$500?

(7) Is he satisfied that these charges are fair and appropriate; if not, what action is he taking to ensure that pensioners particularly and others on low incomes are not being unfairly exploited by these companies?

(8) Is he satisfied that the monopolies that now exist are in the best interest of consumers?

Mr Beanland (27/11/96):

(1) Yes. I am aware that two American owned companies have moved into the funeral business in Australia, including Brisbane and Statewide.

(2) The firms are Service Corporation International Australia Pty Ltd and Stewart Enterprises Australia Pty Ltd.

(3) They are believed to own in excess of 60% of all funeral directors in Queensland and Service Corporation International Australia Pty Ltd controls the two major Brisbane crematoria.

(4) I believe that they are continuing their acquisition of independent funeral services.

(5) The average cost of normal funeral services plus cremation in Brisbane is \$2400 to \$2500.

(6) The basic cost of a niche in a Brisbane crematorium is \$750. The price increases as extra options are taken. The cost of a double plaque is \$580 but built into the cost is the perpetual care of the gardens.

(7) The average costs of funeral services and cremations in Brisbane appear to be reasonable. If a person wishes to pay more for various options, that is their choice.

(8) No monopoly currently exists in the funeral business. I understand that the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission is aware of these acquisitions.

1142. Selection Process for Senior Public Servants

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Premier (30/10/96)—

(1) Will he explain why his Government abandoned the fair and equitable selection process for senior public servants?

(2) Why did he abolish a system which was open to all applicants, regardless of political or social status, and which judged applicants according to appropriate selection criteria?

(3) Why did he implement a process of appointing National Party contacts from a previous era when the Public Service was regarded, and used, as a political tool of Government?

Mr Borbidge (29/11/96):

(1) This Government has not abandoned fair and equitable selection processes for senior public servants. The Recruitment and Selection processes used in the filling of senior positions have been in accord with the existing Public Sector Management Standards and guidelines introduced by the former Government.

The positions were filled on the basis of merit as required under the current legislation, namely, the Public Service Management and Employment Act 1988.

The honourable member opposite should also note that the new Public Service Act introduced by my Government contains the definition of merit in legislation for the first time—further evidence of this Government's conviction to have fair and equitable employment practices enshrined within the Queensland Public Service.

(2) Not relevant in view of my answer to Question 1.

(3) Not relevant in view of my answer to Question 1.

1143. Threat to Police Officer by Prisoner

Mr LIVINGSTONE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (30/10/96)—

With reference to a recent case in the District Court of Brisbane in which a Wacol prison inmate, Mark Neville Dunn, was convicted of making a written threat to kill the policeman who originally arrested him on charges relating to cheque misuse—

(1) How is it possible that a prison inmate can produce such written material and avoid detection within the prison system?

(2) How is it possible for the same prisoner to mail this offensive material out of the prison without detection?

(3) How is it possible for a Wacol prison inmate to obtain the postal address of his arresting officer?

(4) What surveillance is conducted of outgoing mail from Wacol?

(5) How many other instances of this sort of offence has occurred in Queensland's prison system in recent times?

(6) What security classification was this prisoner at the time these threatening sketches were prepared and mailed?

(7) What action has he taken to ensure there is no repetition of this offence?

(8) Does he support the police officer involved seeking criminal compensation for the severe distress suffered by him and his family?

Mr Cooper (22/11/96):

(1) A prisoner could have opportunity to write or produce written material of the nature raised in this case without being detected, particularly where there was no prior evidence to indicate there was a concern with a particular inmate.

Supervision of inmates on the compound during out of cell time is carried out by a number of Custodial Correctional Officers who also perform other duties including cell searches. The level of supervision, while appropriate to maintain security of the centre, does not permit officers to oversight every activity of every prisoner. Similarly, during periods of lock down prisoners are subject to appropriate levels of supervision, for security purpose, but this level does not enable officers to oversight activities of individual prisoners where that activity purports to be a legitimate one such as letter writing.

Random and targeted searches are conducted of inmates' cells. During these searches, written correspondence such as personal letters and envelopes are searched for the secretion of illegal articles. However, the major focus of cell searching is on security related issues rather than written material.

(2) As provided for in the Corrective Services Regulations of 1989, letters to and from prisoners are checked for contraband. Prisoners are, however, permitted to write to and receive mail from certain persons identified in the Regulations and Commission's Rules without physical checks for contraband being conducted by staff. The letter from Dunn to the arresting officer may have been

processed under this latter category. A remaining possibility is that the letter was smuggled out of the prison and posted by some other person. Exactly how the letter in question got out of the prison is not known.

(3) Dunn may have had the necessary information prior to entering the correctional system. However if he did not, prisoners incarcerated in Wacol Correctional Centre have access to telephone directories located in Officers' Stations and places of employment within the Centre.

In addition, they have access to external associates through telephone communication, social visits and written correspondence and the information could have been obtained from any such source.

(4) Prisoner mail, both inward and outward, is processed in accordance with the provisions of the Corrective Services Regulations 1989. Mail is received at a central location and is processed by an Administrative Assistant. Physical checks are conducted of that mail not exempt from checking, to ensure that the item contains no contraband. Prohibited, restricted or other inappropriate items found in the mail are processed in accordance with approved procedures.

(5) While it could have occurred previously, the Queensland Corrective Services Commission is unaware of any other incident where a threat to kill the arresting officer has been made through the mail by a prisoner undergoing a sentence of imprisonment.

(6) Dunn was received at the Wacol Correctional Centre on 12 January 1996 as an Open security classification prisoner.

(7) The processing of prisoners mail is provided for through the provisions of the Corrective Services Act and Regulations, Commission's Rules and General Manager's Rules. These procedures have been in place for some years. There have been no changes to the processes in place as a result of this incident. Given the volume of mail processed in each of the Correctional Centres across the State, the low incidence of offences committed via this medium does not warrant any change in existing practices.

The Corrective Services Regulations empower a General Manager to issue a written order that a particular prisoners mail be subject to censorship. This power is generally not invoked unless there is some prior information or intelligence that such action should be initiated. In the case of Dunn there was no prior indication that his mail should be subject to censorship. His mail is now subject to censorship.

The Queensland Corrective Services Commission takes all reasonable action to prevent undesirable matter entering or leaving the system.

(8) The matter of criminal compensation is one for consideration of the courts.

1144. Bruce Highway-Mango Hill Road Crossing

Mr HAYWARD asked the Premier (30/10/96)—

With reference to his reported decision to overturn strong advice from the Transport Department and

allow a road to cross the Bruce Highway to Mango Hill—

(1) Why was such a decision made against Transport Department advice?

(2) Was there any contact between him and the Mango Hill developer prior to the decision; if so, were any commitments made by the developer to him personally or his Government if he approved the road?

(3) Did the developer make any contribution to the Coalition parties for the last State or Federal election?

Mr Borbidge (29/11/96):

(1) Following representations by Pine Rivers Shire Council and Lend Lease, detailed negotiations were held which enabled an understanding to be reached which was acceptable to all parties.

(2) Negotiations were carried out by departmental officers.

(3) I have no involvement in fundraising undertaken by the Coalition Parties. Such a question should be directed to the responsible party organisations.

1145. Diesel Refuelling Depot, Whyte Island

Mr LUCAS asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (30/10/96)—

With reference to his letter concerning the Whyte Island refuelling facility of 22 October to Wynnum residents Mel and Maureen Holz, in response to their letter of 12 September in which he stated "the Government's position on the facility is to have it remain at this current location"—and further that—"the facility does not pose a threat to the surrounding environment"—

(1) As he told a protest rally at the Lytton boat passage on 10 June 1995 that he was appalled that the environmental impact assessment study had not been done and that he was greatly concerned that an exhaustive consultation process had not taken place, (a) what environmental impact assessment has been undertaken since the commencement of the Borbidge/Sheldon Government, and by whom and (b) what public consultation has the Government or Queensland Rail undertaken into the Whyte Island refuelling facility?

(2) As his answer to Question on Notice No. 27 from the former Member for Lytton, the Hon. Tom Burns, advised that the Government "can still find the optimal location for this facility" and "the present Government can give no timetable on when works will be undertaken at Whyte Island", what process has been undertaken to examine other possible sites for the Whyte Island refuelling facility, and by whom since the installation of the Borbidge/Sheldon National/Liberal Government?

(3) As Jenny Mansell (the Liberal candidate in the Lytton By-election) in a press release dated 17 May to the local newspaper the *Wynnum Herald*, stated "It is wonderful news for the people of Lytton and the environment that the Coalition Government will move the Whyte Island refuelling depot, and will continue discussions with Queensland Cement in order to end

the coral mining in the Bay", (a) at what point did he make a decision to move the Whyte Island refuelling depot and (b) did such statement by Ms Mansell represent Coalition policy in the Lytton By-election?

(4) As the Premier was quoted in a front page article in the Wynnum Herald on 11 September in launching the Liberal candidates By-election campaign, that an "urgent inquiry" would be conducted and further "if it comes out that it shouldn't have been put there, then it will have to go", (a) what inquiry process was established as a result of the Premier's policy statement to the people of Lytton and (b) if such an inquiry has not yet been conducted, when is it proposed that such an inquiry with full public consultation will be established?

(5) (a) When did the Government take the decision to have the facility remain at its current location and (b) given that the Premier (in his then capacity as Opposition Leader) stated in the *Courier-Mail* on 27 May 1995 that he will quit politics if the Coalition broke any election promises, when will the Minister tender his resignation from politics as a result of the appalling way in which the National/Liberal Coalition Government has misled the voters of Lytton in a cynical attempt to secure their support prior the Lytton By-election?

Mr Johnson (27/11/96):

(1) (a) In early 1995 I was disappointed over the Labor Government's decision to construct a refuelling facility at Whyte Island, particularly in the absence of complete environmental assessments. When the Coalition attained power in February 1996 the facility had been completed and was operational. The first priority then became to ensure the facility is subject to stringent management safeguards. Accordingly, certification of the Environmental Management System is being sought by Queensland Rail.

QR has made application to Quality Assurance Services to certify the Environmental Management System against ISO 14001 (a standard internationally recognised for Environmental Management Systems).

(b) This facility has been the subject of continuous correspondence between local residents, interest groups, Government Agencies, Queensland Rail and the Minister for Transport. All requests for information and queries have been provided and addressed. Therefore, a formal public consultation process is considered to be unnecessary and would serve no constructive purpose.

(2) Queensland Rail has reviewed the original decision to site the facility in its present location, and has confirmed that it is located in the most appropriate position without impacting on the efficient operation of the Fisherman Islands Terminal and minimising noise impacting on residences adjacent to rail lines if sighted elsewhere in the greater Brisbane area.

(3) As indicated in question 1(a) above, the first priority was to ensure the facility was subject to stringent management safeguards. A quality assured Environmental Management System is being sought and if major concerns with the facility are identified

and are not capable of being suitably addressed, then the ultimate solution would be to remove the facility.

(4) (a) The Premier would have been referring to the quality assurance process mentioned in (3) above. This is an independent audit currently being conducted with the results of this audit to be available in early 1997.

(b) As also outlined earlier a public consultation process would not be of benefit to any of the interested parties as they have been kept abreast of this issue.

(5) (a) The decision to have the facility remain at its current location was taken following Queensland Rail's confirmation that the chosen site is the most appropriate, given all the circumstances. It is also contingent on the facility being operated within best environmental practice.

(b) The Coalition's commitment in Opposition in relation to the Whyte Island refuelling depot referred to halting construction of the facility authorised by the Labor Government. By the time the Coalition attained power in late February 1996, the facility has been built and thus it was not possible to give effect to undertakings to halt its construction.

1146. Mooring Permits

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (30/10/96)—

(1) Has his department made all mooring permits invalid and must all holders of a mooring number reapply and pay a new application fee?

(2) Does this ruling apply to all moorings throughout Queensland?

(3) Will mooring permits which were approved in 1995 now be invalid and will applicants be required to go through the lengthy process again and pay more application fees?

(4) How many moorings currently exist in Queensland?

(5) How much money does the department expect to receive as a result of this change of rules?

(6) Does he concede that this is a revenue making exercise for the Government?

(7) How can he justify invalidating permits which were only recently approved?

(8) What changes, if any, have been made to the application process?

(9) How much revenue will (a) the new application fee and (b) the new yearly tax on current Government approved moorings net the Government?

(10) Will this revenue be used to police illegal mooring, particularly in the Brisbane River, where boats illegally moor behind residences in my electorate polluting and fouling the river.

Mr Johnson (27/11/96):

(1) The Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994 which was introduced in June 1994 by the previous Labor Government, contains a sunset

clause which limits the validity of approvals for buoy moorings granted under the previous legislation. Consequently, all moorings approved prior to 1 January 1996, expire on 31 December 1996. Holders of these older moorings must reapply for their mooring and pay the prescribed application and renewal fees:

(2) Yes, this legislative provision applies to all buoy moorings within Queensland waters which were approved under old legislative provisions.

(3) Yes, moorings approved in 1995 will become invalid at the end of this year, however, it is not anticipated to be a lengthy process and the new fees are considered to be reasonable considering the level of service.

(4) The total number of moorings actually in existence is not known. Previous legislative and administrative processes did not provide for the allocation of registration numbers to legitimate moorings, therefore illegal moorings were difficult to identify.

(5) The revenue generated by the changes will depend entirely upon the actual number of moorings which are registered. At this time it is estimated that total revenue for a full year will be less than \$250,000.

(6) No, this is not a revenue making exercise. These changes are designed to ensure that Queensland waterways are well managed and that those responsible boat owners who register and maintain their mooring are not disadvantaged by owners of illegal moorings.

(7) In addition, there are costs associated with managing the buoy moorings. Queensland Transport is examining ways to ensure that an appropriate computer based management system is developed to assist in this regard. Queensland Transport has been managing this issue through the Regional Harbour Masters.

(8) The application and approval processes have been revised under the new regulations and are being reviewed in light of experiences implementing the new regulations. The major change which has been introduced is a regulatory requirement for the approval of port authorities to be obtained for all moorings within port authority areas.

(9) It is estimated that the new mooring registration system will not be revenue positive for several years. The costs of processing applications, development of a new database to record moorings throughout the State and ongoing policing activities are expected to outweigh the initial revenue base.

(10) Policing of moorings will be carried out throughout the State on a need basis. The particular problems relating to pollution highlighted in the question may be better addressed under the marine pollution legislation.

1147. Noise Barriers, Deagon

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (31/10/96)—

With reference to comments made by two of his senior officers during the Parliamentary Estimates

Committee Hearings in relation to funding for noise amelioration on the Gateway Arterial Road at Deagon and, in particular, I draw his attention to comments made by Messrs Golding, Muir and Wharton (which can be found on pages 477 and 478 of *Hansard*) (31/10/96)—

(1) Will he give a commitment that the unspent portion of the initial \$1.2 million allocated by the previous Federal Labor Government, which has been estimated to be \$922,000, will be spent on noise amelioration on the Gateway Arterial Road at Deagon?

(2) Will he provide myself as the State Member representing the residents of Deagon with a copy of the plans indicating the area to be provided with noise amelioration?

(3) Will he indicate when the work will begin and what is the expected completion date?

(4) Will the western side of the arterial road also be furnished with a noise barrier fence?

(5) Will he give an assurance that the money will not be diverted to other areas within his department?

Mr Johnson (27/11/96):

(1) The original estimated cost of noise amelioration works at Deagon was \$1.2 million which included provision for widening part of the roadway embankment to accommodate the barriers. It is now evident that widening of the roadway embankment is not required and some savings will be realised after all of the work that was anticipated in seeking Federal Funding has been completed.

Design of works not yet completed is expected to be finalised in approximately seven weeks and final cost estimates will be available then.

(2) I will arrange to make copies of plans available when the design is finalised.

(3) Work is anticipated to commence in March/April 1997 following completion of design and awarding construction contracts.

(4) Barriers on the western side of the road will be considered as part of the current design process.

(5) If funds remain after completion of the required works, application will be made to the Federal Government for re-allocation to other high priority sites on this road.

1148. Redevelopment of Roma Street Rail Yard Site; Super Stadium

Mr BEATTIE asked the Premier (31/10/96)—

With reference to his Government's ill-fated plans to site a super stadium at the Roma Street railyards —

(1) Did the Gold Coast based Media Five Architectural firm, headed by Desmond Brooks, prepare architectural drawings of a possible super stadium for Brisbane?

(2) Why were these drawings specifically for the Roma Street Railway site if, as he says, this site was never considered by his Government for this stadium?

- (3) When did he, or members of his Government, first view these plans?
- (4) Why were they commissioned if there was no intention to site the stadium at Roma Street?
- (5) Have representatives of the Media Five group just returned from attending a major international conference on stadiums held in North America?

Mr Borbidge (2/12/96): I am advised that the Department of the Premier and Cabinet has no knowledge of any proposal from, or State Government commissioning of, "Media Five" or Desmond Brooks for a possible stadium on the Roma Street site.

1149. Export of Live Reef Fish to Asia and Japan

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (31/10/96)—

With reference to the relatively recent practice of exporting a variety of live reef fish to Asia and Japan where they command premium prices—

- (1) Will he provide details, that is, weight/quantity/species/value of the live fish exported to those areas over the last 12 months?
- (2) What is the expected effect of the introduction of special ships to transport live fish to these destinations compared with the previous practice of air transport?
- (3) Is there any intention by the Government to restrict the export fishing effort to ensure adequate stocks for amateur fishermen and professionals supplying the local market?
- (4) Approximately what percentage of fish exported are taken from the Townsville section of the Great Barrier Reef waters?

Mr Perrett (2/12/96):

1. Yes

The final destination for the vast majority of live fish product is Hong Kong.

During the 12 months ending 30 September 1996 live reef fish exports from Queensland totalled 409 tonnes, almost all of which was coral trout. Small quantities of barramundi cod, maori wrasse and other cods were also exported.

2. The Queensland Fisheries Management Authority is in the process of developing, in consultation with industry and other management agencies, a new policy to take into account the recent decision by international air navigation safety authorities to ban the carriage of compressed oxygen on international flights. If special ships to transport live reef fish become a necessary alternative, they will be subject to stringent conditions whilst in Australian waters to protect Queensland's reef fish stocks.

3. An analysis of reef fish stocks using catch and fishing effort statistics from the commercial fishing sector and from recreational fishing clubs was recently undertaken for the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority by the Cooperative Research

Centre for Sustainable Use of the Great Barrier Reef, based at James Cook University, Townsville.

Results of the analysis show that overall our reef fish stocks are sustainable and in a relatively healthy position at this time.

Commercial fishing activity for reef fish is restricted by limitations on numbers of licences. There is no intention to decrease the numbers of commercial line fishing licences at this time, particularly given the relatively healthy state of reef fish stocks.

There is no intention to restrict export fishing effort in particular. Such action would be an unjustifiable restraint of trade given that sustainability of stocks is not threatened. Like many other industries, Queensland's fishing industry is export oriented with a significant proportion of its total production directed to Asian markets over the past 20 years.

4. Data are not available to provide a reliable indication of the proportion of fish taken live off the Townsville section. Catch data does not adequately discriminate between fish landed "whole" rather than "live". The Townsville region yielded approximately 22 percent of Queensland landings of Coral Trout for the first half of 1996.

1150. Police Staffing, Maryborough

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (31/10/96)—

- (1) Is he aware of conflicting reports in the Maryborough media regarding an increase in the number of constables for the Maryborough Police Station?
- (2) As the Maryborough Chronicle reported on 29 October under the heading "No extra police for Fraser Coast" that none of the 15 extra police constables to be stationed across the North Coast District would go to Maryborough and the Heritage Herald which reported on 30 October under the heading "Extra police for region" that police numbers in Maryborough will increase by 15 from 29 November, will he confirm which of the media reports is correct?
- (3) Because there is an urgent need for additional police at the Maryborough Police Station, will he confirm to the citizens of Maryborough, when exactly Maryborough would receive additional police?

Mr Cooper (28/11/96): The article from the *Heritage Herald* referred to by Mr Dollin actually stated that Police numbers in Maryborough will increase from November as 15 constables begin service in the North Coast Region. In any case, this article was incorrect, as none of the officers graduating in November are being allocated to Maryborough. The reason for this is that Maryborough is currently not an accredited training area for first year constables. Accreditation is currently being sought, and the Assistant Commissioner, North Coast Region, expects that the Fraser Coast will receive additional officers from the October intake which is due to graduate in April 1997.

While the article referred to from the *Maryborough Chronicle* did say that Maryborough would not receive any of the officers graduating in November, it also stated that the District Officer expected the area to receive additional constables from the next group to be sworn in. This is consistent with the Assistant Commissioner's expectations detailed above.

Other action is being taken to provide the Maryborough Police District with additional police. The District's approved strength, which is currently 88 officers, is to be increased to 101 by June 1997. In the short term, the District can expect a staff increase, with positions at Hervey Bay for an additional five officers to be advertised in the Queensland Police Gazette by January 1997.

This Government is committed to the employment of an additional 2,780 police by the year 2005. As these officers become available, they will be allocated throughout Queensland in accordance with identified needs and priorities.

1151. Information and Telecommunication Services

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (31/10/96)—

With reference to references in his Ministerial Program Statement to whole-of-Government benefits being achieved through the commercial focus of CITEC and in the absence of any cohesive statewide telecommunications plan, a plethora of groups are investigating a whole-of-Government approach to information and telecommunication services including (a) Government Information Technology contract, (b) Qld Purchasing and sales, (c) Information Policy Board, (d) CITEC, (e) Q-Tel, (f) (Electricity) Qld Transmission Supply Corporation, (g) Treasury, (h) Premier's Department, (i) Crown Law and (j) his own Director-General—

What, if any, efforts are being made to develop an integrated, whole-of-Government approach to this issue?

Mr Connor (2/12/96): The Information Planning Board established by this Government on 30 September 1996 is responsible for coordination of Government information activities and whole-of-Government telecommunications policy. Within this policy framework, my department will be responsible for the development and implementation of new telecommunications arrangements.

1152. Public Works and Housing Department Land

Mr MACKENROTH asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (31/10/96)—

With reference to the period 1 February to 31 October—

- (1) Will he provide a list of all vacant land including postal address and size of land purchased, or which contracts have been entered into to purchase, by his department?
- (2) For each parcel of land, what is the purchase price?

Mr Connor (2/12/96):

(1) & (2) In the reference period from 1 February to 31 October 1996 my department has purchased 70 parcels of land under the Housing Program, at a cost of \$12.2M. Additional land purchases for the department are detailed.

(1) Address—Area

Edmonton—6.119ha
Wallaville—1.641ha
Morayfield West—5.994ha
Coomera—12.625ha
Calamvale—5.52ha
Milton—1.617ha
Quilpie—0.01618ha

(2) Address—Purchase Price

Edmonton—\$590,000.00
Wallaville—\$33,203.54
Morayfield West—\$585,000.00
Coomera—\$1,935,000.00
Calamvale—\$1,350,000.00
Milton—\$3,600,000.00
Quilpie—\$10,000.00

Address	Land Size sqm	Contract Price
Toowoomba	952	38000
Cannonvale	1003	70000
Bli Bli	700	52000
Sumner	683	58000
Aitkenvale	809	82000
Maroochydore	607	190000
Nundah	814	114000
Labrador	1148	188000
Labrador	916	190000
Biggera Waters	1470	335000
Sherwood	809	185000
Red Hill	1844	480000
Wynnum	2415	270000
Cleveland	911	157500
Kedron	809	170000
Capalaba	3142	260000
Mooloolaba	1092	228500
Rockhampton	873	23000
Horn Island	1012	35000
Edmonton	734	61000
Bundaberg	704	30000
Gayndah	845	13500
Thursday Island	9406	440000
Maroochydore	607	190000
Southport	1012	150000
Kuluin	615	52000
Banyo	39,730	675000
West Gladstone	800	50000
Andergrove	1009	49500
Mareeba	2024	138000
Currumbin	3488	540000
Booval	1012	74000
Southport	1224	320000
Fortitude Valley	1032	610000
South Townsville	1032	110000
Mountain Creek	2612	250000
Indooroopilly	1012	300000

Address	Land Size sqm	Contract Price
Paradise Point	1012	310000
Indooroopilly	809	220000
Toowong	2246	720000
White Rock	736	62000
Eimeo	909	65000
Horn Island	1006	28000
Mt Isa	966	48000
Bundaberg	601	30500
Gayndah	2007	15000
Cannonvale	1012	39780
Kuluin	638	52000
Bli Bli	600	52000
Alderley	1432	157000
Walkerton	800	44500
Labrador	1148	185000
Ascot	847	145000
Corinda	792	178500
Chermside	587	96500
Southport	1294	320000
Sherwood	809	180000
North Ward	2223	359000
Cleveland	1952	330000
Taringa	1209	325000
Paradise Point	1012	320000
Palm Beach	404.5	135000
	404.5	130000
Wellington Point	1376	165000
White Rock	846	72000
Mareeba	810	37000
Horn Island	1006	28000
Bundaberg	933	40000
Bundaberg	600	32000
Edmonton	720	55000
Gatton	1080	30900

1153. Heritage Laws

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (31/10/96)—

With reference to his recent failure to exercise his powers to protect two heritage buildings in Windsor—

- (1) Why did he allow to lapse the procedure put in place by the previous Labor Government for notice to be given to the State of any heritage buildings under threat?
- (2) How many buildings awaiting assessment for listing under the Heritage Act have now been demolished while awaiting assessment?
- (3) What action is he taking to ensure there are no further attacks on Queensland's heritage while the buildings await assessment for heritage values?
- (4) What is the current number of sites awaiting assessment by the department?
- (5) What action is being taken to reduce the backlog?
- (6) In what way is the Heritage Act "not working properly" given that he has unfettered powers to protect cultural heritage under section 58 of the Act?
- (7) Who is reviewing the Heritage Act and what consultation is occurring as part of the review?
- (8) What changes to the Act are being considered?

Mr Littleproud (29/11/96):

(1) There has never been a procedure in place for notice to be given to the department of threats to places not included in the heritage register.

(2) Since the proclamation of the Queensland Heritage Act 1992 on 21 August 1992 some 462 applications have been made under S.24 seeking the entry of places in the heritage Register. Twelve places subject to S.24 applications have been demolished prior to the completion of the assessment process, four since the change of Government in February, and eight during the term of the Labor Government.

(3) On 30 October 1996 I delegated my powers to Cr Jim Soorley, Lord Mayor of the City of Brisbane, to make "stop orders" under s.58 of the Queensland Heritage Act 1992 within Brisbane and to institute legal proceedings under s.64 if a "stop order" is contravened. I am willing to delegate these powers to assist other Local Governments.

I have also discussed with my colleague the Honourable Di McCauley, Minister for Local Government and Planning, options for including additional powers in the relevant Local Government legislation to prevent unauthorised demolitions.

(4) Three hundred and twenty s.24 applications are awaiting assessment by the Heritage Council. Approximately 270 were awaiting assessment when Labor lost Government.

(5) Assisting the Heritage Council to reduce the backlog of S.24 applications is a priority of the department. The Heritage Council has reviewed its policy and procedures for processing S.24 applications to assist the reduction of the backlog.

(6) There is a lack of provision in the Queensland Heritage Act 1992 to protect a place during the period between receipt of a S.24 application by the Heritage Council and the Heritage Council making a formal resolution on the application.

The use of my "stop order" powers upon receipt of each S.24 application is not always warranted or practical. However, I have directed the department to scan all nominations for buildings of obvious heritage significance and recommend stop orders if appropriate.

(7) The Queensland Heritage Act 1992 is being reviewed by my department. Appropriate stakeholders will be consulted as required.

(8) A number of amendments to the Queensland Heritage Act 1992 are under consideration. However, final decisions have not been made as to what amendments will be recommended.

1154. Pacific Highway

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (31/10/96)—

With reference to the Government up-grading of the Pacific Highway—

- (1) Are all work and tenders on schedule?
- (2) Will he outline all contracts let to date and the schedule of work and its current time frame?

Mr Johnson (27/11/96):

(1) The Pacific Motorway project between the Logan Motorway and Pappas Way, Nerang is still on schedule to achieve an opening date of March 2000.

In relation to the current six-lane widening of the Pacific Highway in Logan City by John Holland Construction and Engineering Pty Ltd, the current date for completion under the contract provisions is 8 January 1997. However, the contractor is currently accelerating activities through use of extended work hours in a concentrated effort to complete the works on the main carriageways by Christmas 1996.

Achievement of the objective is highly dependent upon the weather conditions between now and mid December 1996.

The current contract will be completed with only minor amendments as a result of the eight lane proposal recently announced.

(2) Early site works at the Coomera, Albert and Logan Rivers and on service roads are planned to commence in February 1997.

Four major contracts will be let for the eight-lane works between the Logan and Smith Street Motorways. The first of these four major contracts is planned to be awarded in September 1997. These contracts will be staged over the life of the project to minimise disruption to motorists.

A further two major contracts will be awarded for the remaining six-lane section between the Smith Street Motorway and Pappas Way, Nerang. The first contract will replace the three sets of traffic signals with interchanges and underpasses/overpasses. The second contract will complete the six-lane motorway.

1155. Government Motor Vehicles

Mr FOURAS asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (31/10/96)—

What levels of savings to Government are expected to be achieved after the abolition of the provision of motor vehicles to officers at SES 1 level or its equivalent as a result of the new provisions of the Public Service Act 1996?

Mr Connor (2/12/96): It is not proposed to abolish the provision of vehicles to existing SES1 officers, although vehicles will not be provided in the future for officers appointed to the proposed equivalent levels replacing SES1.

1156. Collins Place

Mrs BIRD asked the Minister for Environment (31/10/96)—

With reference to the proposed realignment of Grey Street at Southbank and proposed new hotel and swimming stadium construction on the site—

- (1) Is the historic Collins Place Building likely to be impacted on by any of these developments?
- (2) Is Collins Place on the Queensland Heritage Register or nominated to it; if not, does it have heritage significance?

(3) Has the Heritage Council received an application to demolish the building; if so, has the matter been considered by the council and what was the decision?

(4) Does the Southbank Corporation or the Police Service own the building?

(5) Will he give the people of Brisbane a guarantee that he will protect Collins Place using the powers available to him as Minister for Environment?

Mr Littleproud (26/11/96):

(1) It should be noted that the Honourable the Premier of Queensland is the Minister responsible for this site.

My department has discussed with the Southbank Corporation the proposed realignment of Grey Street, which affects the north western corner of the Collins Place site. My department has indicated support in principle for the proposal.

(2) Collins Place is entered in the Heritage Register established under the Queensland Heritage Act 1992.

(3) No.

(4) The building is owned by the Southbank Corporation according to the latest information of my department.

(5) Any proposed development by the Southbank Corporation in relation to Collins Place will need to be submitted to the Heritage Council for its consideration. The Queensland Heritage Act 1992 does not make provision for my involvement in this process.

1157. Public Housing

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (31/10/96)—

(1) As the public housing scheme has worked so well for 50 years, how can he justify such major changes to our system in Queensland?

(2) Will public housing continue to be located in quality locations i.e. inner city suburbs?

(3) Where will funds for more public housing come from for those areas where the private market cannot provide adequate housing?

(4) Will he give an assurance that this will not drive up private rents?

(5) Is he aware that unscrupulous landlords increased private rental prices when rent assistance was introduced?

(6) Is it correct that future Federal Governments could easily decrease the level of subsidy?

(7) Can the private market give the same level of customer service as the department especially for elderly people, the disabled, extended families, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and migrants?

(8) How will the subsidy be paid?

(9) Is he aware that some people have difficulty in managing large amounts of money and that cash should not be a considered option?

- (10) Will the subsidy be paid on the basis of bedroom eligibility?
- (11) What allowances will be made where children have moved out leaving a parent/s in a two or more bedroom unit?
- (12) As there will be no more money coming into the system who will be the winners and who will be the losers in changing the system?
- (13) How much of the metropolitan land owned by the department has been sold off?
- (14) Will he provide details of this land, where it is and how much was received from the sales?
- (15) How much land is proposed for future sale and where?
- (16) What has happened to the proceeds from these sales?
- (17) With the proposed introduction of priority housing, has the department consulted with the relevant unions on behalf of their staff?
- (18) How many extra staff will be employed in this area?
- (19) What grades will the staff members be and how many staff will be provided to area offices?
- (20) If the level of staff provided is less than the work generated, will additional staff be provided?

Mr Connor (2/12/96):

- (1) The Commonwealth has proposed reforming the current approach to public housing. I have expressed publicly, concerns I have and on behalf of my Queensland constituency regarding the Commonwealth reforms which were announced by the previous Labor Government in December 1995.
- (2) This Government's policy is to continue having housing in areas where it is needed.
- (3) The reforms are based on the Private sector becoming the major provider of low cost housing. The need for increased public housing will depend on the final nature of the reform arrangements.
- (4) Rent levels depend on supply and demand.
- (5) Rent levels depend on supply and demand. Information supplied by the Commonwealth suggests that the introduction of rent assistance in 1984 caused no upward pressure on rent levels.
- (6) The level of subsidy and any movement in them will be a matter for the Commonwealth Government.
- (7) Yes, but in addition public housing will continue to provide access to housing for the client groups specified.
- (8) The Commonwealth has proposed payment of subsidies would be available through the Department of Social Security.
- (9) Yes.
- (10) & (11) The Commonwealth has proposed that rent subsidies would be paid on a similar basis to Department of Social Security rent assistance, subsidy will be related to need. The detail on how this would impact on individual households is yet to be suggested by the Commonwealth.

(12) The purpose of the reforms is that there will be no losers.

(13) From 1 March 1996 to 30 October 1996, forty-five (45) blocks of land have been sold throughout the Brisbane metropolitan area.

(14) Details of lots sold are as follows:

1 lot at Winnifred Street Kuraby—\$420,000

14 lots at Taigum residential estate—\$791,500

30 lots at Coopers Plains Joint Venture residential estate—\$1,079,113

(15) The sale of a number of sites is currently being considered.

The sale of existing residential estates at Taigum and Coopers Plains will continue.

(16) Proceeds from the sale of land is re-applied to achieving Housing Program outcomes under the terms of the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement.

(17) Yes.

(18), (19) & (20) Resourcing issues have not yet been finalised.

1158. Traffic Lights, Beenleigh-Kingston Road

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (31/10/96)—

With reference to the major traffic dislocation occurring on Beenleigh/Kingston Road during peak period each morning as a result of the removal of a right turn traffic light arrow into Loganlea Road from Beenleigh/Kingston Road and as traffic turning right at the next intersection to regain access to Loganlea Road has to do so against the high volume of peak traffic proceeding towards Beenleigh resulting in major traffic dislocation each morning which is disadvantaging residents and businesses—

Will he provide a temporary traffic light facility at the intersection of Alowra Street and Beenleigh/Kingston Road, or a police officer on special duties to direct traffic to alleviate this major traffic problem?

Mr Johnson (27/11/96): The traffic plan prepared by the contractor provides for a diversion via Allora and Short Streets while the Brisbane-Beenleigh/Loganlea Roads intersection is being reconstructed.

Traffic diversion was required as new works on the bridge approaches need to be constructed over the existing roadway.

Provision of temporary traffic signals to improve the operation of the right turn is not warranted as:

The time required to design and install such signals is a significant portion of the remaining five weeks of diversion.

The provision of temporary signals is unlikely to reduce queues and delays, as the detection of turning vehicles and the time lost to traffic in changing signal displays results in a reduced total throughput of vehicles although right-turn performance may improve.

Police control will be provided when on-site assessment indicates safety and performance will be enhanced as a result.

All opportunities to accelerate the works and hence reduce the duration of the closure are being examined.

1159. Hunting in National Parks and Conservation Parks

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Environment (31/10/96)—

With reference to the Nature Conservation Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 1996 and, in particular, to the new Section 91 (1) which deals with eradicating or controlling wildlife other than native wildlife in a protected area—

- (1) Does this mean he intends to allow private individuals or groups to hunt in national parks and conservation parks; if so, which individuals or groups does he have in mind?
- (2) Would they include representatives from the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia?
- (3) Would bow-hunters be allowed to hunt in our national parks?
- (4) Would representatives of the Firearm Owners Association be allowed to shoot in our national parks?
- (5) Will he give an assurance that no park visitor will be, in any way, endangered by this proposal?
- (6) Why would individuals or groups interested in hunting adopt a feral animal eradication philosophy, when this would only restrict or remove justification for further hunting in our parks—in short, wouldn't they be more likely to selectively cull only?

Mr Littleproud (26/11/96): The new Section 91 of the Nature Conservation Regulations 1994 vests with the Chief Executive Officer certain powers in relation to the control or eradication of non native wildlife.

This present Regulation serves only to clarify the capacity of the Chief Executive to carry out his responsibilities under the Regulations.

Clearly the power is vested in the Chief Executive Officer in both existing and previous Regulations and as such is clearly not a Ministerial matter.

1160. Workshops Strategy

Mr ELDER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (31/10/96)—

What changes has he put in place to the workshops strategy initiated under the former Labor Government?

Mr Johnson (27/11/96):

Response

Background

As you are aware, the Workshops Strategy provided for the creation of two "Centres of Excellence"; one at Rockhampton and one at Redbank near Ipswich.

The Strategy provided for the consolidation of activities undertaken at the old Ipswich Workshop and at the Banyo Workshop into the Redbank "Centre of Excellence" supported by a \$35 million investment. At this juncture, Banyo Workshop has closed and approximately 50% of Ipswich activities and staff have been transferred to Redbank with the winding up of activities at Ipswich Workshops to occur late 1997 as planned.

The Strategy also provided for investment of \$21 million for the Rockhampton "Centre of Excellence", now 80% complete complemented by the new depot at Stuart which is now in full operation to support all wagons and rollingstock component overhauls and repairs in the north of the State.

The role of Townsville Workshops was, post 1996, to provide for ongoing maintenance of passenger rollingstock such as the Kuranda and heritage carriages. The North Yard was planned to close in June 1996 and the balance of remaining staff were for transfer to South Yard leaving a total of around 150 staff in South Yard.

In early 1994, Queensland Rail took a number of initiatives aimed at supporting the needs of the staff in Townsville. Firstly, Queensland Rail implemented a vocational training scheme to allow staff to train for jobs for which opportunities existed, either within Queensland Rail or externally. Secondly, a policy of not deeming staff 'surplus' except where staff wished to use the description of 'surplus' to access employment opportunities in other areas of Queensland Rail, or elsewhere. This initiative considered the personal impact the changes to the Workshops would have on staff.

Thirdly and most importantly, Queensland Rail initiated a program to build heritage carriages in South Yard, to provide meaningful employment for staff and also to provide Queensland Rail with a world-class Heritage Theme Train. The first of twenty of these carriages is due for delivery in December this year, with the balance due for completion in late 1998. This program will of course realise the objective of supporting staff in meaningful employment. The Heritage Train program has been complemented by a program to upgrade the Kuranda carriages to meet current safety and operational standards. In addition, wagon repair work including a program to repair WHO wagons in the North Yard and general wagon repair in South Yard were put in place.

Intermediate Strategy Changes (September 1996)

A current initiative to develop South Yard Workshops at a cost of \$7.9 million will allow for the closure of North Yard in December 1997 and the progressive transfer of North Yard staff and activities to South Yard commencing in June 1997. The development of South Yard will provide capacity for the Workshops to support medium to heavy repairs of wagons and repair components such as wheels, bogies and brake equipment.

It is worth noting that the Development Plan for Townsville has been signed off by both Unions and staff and work on the design of the South Yard upgrade has commenced in earnest using shop floor

task teams, a process successfully used in the development of Redbank and Rockhampton.

The initiative is consistent with the Coalition Government's election commitments stated in the Coalition Transport Policy and other rail policies and initiatives with respect to North Queensland. Particular comments include:

ageing rollingstock shall be upgraded consistent with the requirements of national transport, and recognition shall be given to the need to locate workshops in country towns; and

retention of Townsville as the major service and maintenance facility for Queensland Rail in North Queensland.

Future Direction

Queensland Rail, in response to internal and external changes, including the advent of the national competition policy, will implement a mid-term review of the Workshops with a view to establishing where Workshops will be positioned in the future.

Workshops Group have seen a large growth in their manufacturing activities, well beyond what was envisaged in the Workshops Strategy. Workshops have been successful in the manufacture of a large number of container wagons for National Rail Corporation and are currently manufacturing an order for 150 x 100 tonne coal wagons for Queensland Rail's Coal and Minerals Group and 100 container wagons for Queensland Rail's Freight Group.

The success in attaining this work is a direct result of the efficiencies which the development investment at Redbank has delivered, and it is expected that the Workshops Group will continue to improve efficiencies and continue to secure ongoing orders from Queensland Rail for coal and freight wagons. The first of the new generation 100 tonne VSH coal wagons will be delivered in December this year, ahead of schedule.

Under consideration in the mid-term review will be a specific focus on Queensland Rail's ability to provide additional support beyond the original Strategy for external rail projects via the Redbank "Centre of Excellence" giving potential for cascading maintenance type work to Townsville beyond 1998.

1161. Queensland Health, Employee Pay Cuts

Mrs EDMOND asked the Minister for Health (31/10/96)—

With reference to the recent controversy surrounding the Government's decision to try and impose a shabby back door pay cut on nurses by cutting afternoon shift rates entitlements in breach of the award—

- (1) Who gave the authority for this breach of the award to be imposed on the nursing profession and will nurses be reimbursed for wages lost?
- (2) How many nurses were affected?
- (3) Will he be pursuing this pay cut by continuing the Queensland Health submission lodged with the Industrial Relations Commission to vary the terms of the award?

(4) What is he doing as Minister to address serious issues of concern to Queensland Health employees including nurses and other dedicated personnel which has caused considerable industrial unrest?

(5) How much longer does he intend to let the hospitals dispute go on before he realises that staff morale is at an all time low thanks to Government inaction over basic workplace issues which hospital staff have repeatedly stated was having an adverse impact on patient care?

Mr Horan (29/11/96): I am advised that an anomaly was brought to the department's attention in relation to the shift allowances for nurses under the Nurses (Queensland Public Hospitals) Award. The anomaly apparently resulted in part-time nurses receiving superior entitlements to their full-time counterparts. This inadvertently arose as a result of Award changes following the introduction of a 38 hour week for nurses. Following legal advice, the department attempted to rectify the anomaly by seeking to clarify the Award provisions.

(1 & 2) There was no breach of the Award; rather, the current Award provisions are ambiguous. Agreement has now been reached to ensure the status quo remains until the issue is formally clarified within the Award.

(3) The existing application to vary the Award will be amended following consultation with the Queensland Nurses Union to ensure consent agreement is reached.

(4) I have personally met with the AWU and ACTU-Q to hear and address their Enterprise Bargaining concerns, and to seek their assistance in rebuilding Queensland Health. These meetings have been very fruitful and have formed the basis of ongoing contact between the public health sector unions and my department.

(5) Queensland Health and the health unions are in active and bona fide negotiations on a number of issues, including the extent of any wage increase and the enterprise achievements.

1162. University of Queensland, Ipswich Campus

Mr HAMILL asked the Minister for Education (31/10/96)—

With reference to the proposed campus of the University of Queensland at Ipswich—

- (1) Has the Government offered the site of the Challinor Centre to the university for their new campus?
- (2) What value has been placed on that site?
- (3) What funds are being made available by his department to acquire the Challinor site?
- (4) Is he seeking any additional funds to acquire the Challinor site for the University of Queensland?
- (5) Will he honour the commitment of \$11.75m of State funds to assist the University of Queensland develop its Ipswich campus?

- (6) Over what period will the \$11.75m be made available to the university?
- (7) When will the first instalment of these funds be provided to the university, and what sum?

Mr Quinn (29/11/96):

(1) & (2) The State Government has yet to consider the suitability of the Challinor Centre for University purposes and the cost of making it available for such a purpose.

(3) & (4) Until the Government has had an opportunity to consider the desirability of the project, as a whole, and its associated costs, it is premature to speculate about the precise arrangements required to fund the assignment of the site to the University of Queensland.

(5) The honourable member would be aware that the State Government has already confirmed its commitment to the provision of \$11.75 million for the development of a university campus in Ipswich.

(6) & (7) The overall contribution of \$30 million, by the State Government to the capital development of universities, is to be paid over the years 1996-1999. The flow of funds to the University of Queensland will depend on the decision concerning the site, the timing of the availability of Commonwealth capital funds, and the final plan of the University for construction, or refurbishment of the site. These are matters which are still to be negotiated.

1163. Denison Street Rail Line, Rockhampton

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (31/10/96)—

With reference to the recent upgrade of the main line in Denison Street, Rockhampton—

- (1) Will he instruct his department to completely seal the section of line of which the ballast is currently exposed and being used by louts to vandalise local premises and terrorise neighbours?
- (2) Will he instruct his department to pay due compensation to any business which has suffered a downturn in business as a result of disruption caused by the upgrading of the Denison Street line, particularly the newsagency business, Archer Park News?

Mr Johnson (27/11/96): I draw the member's attention to Question on Notice No. 1061 which refers to the very same subject and my response to that Question. There has been no change to the situation since that reply was given.

1164. Mines and Energy Department, Staff Morale

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (31/10/96)—

With reference to Estimates Committees hearings in which I asked him to confirm that 50 per cent of his senior staff were receiving counselling and to both his and his Director-Generals rejection of that

proposition and to the findings of his \$90,000 plus investigation into his department by Ernst Young—

In view of their findings is he now prepared to accept that morale is at an all time low and is he prepared to take actions by removing his politically appointed Director-General post haste?

Mr Gilmore (27/11/96): The Employee Assistance (Counselling Service) provided by the department to assist staff in either personal or work related matters is a confidential service and the department is unable to ascertain the number of senior staff receiving counselling.

In regard to the findings by Ernst & Young in the Organisational and Procedural Audit report (Stage 1) no reference is made to morale of staff, nor is any assessment of morale offered.

All SES positions are filled through a merit selection process in accordance with the Public Sector Management Commission (PSMC) "Standard for Recruitment and Selection". This selection process was used in the appointment of the Director-General, Dr R W Day.

1165. Q-Build and Q-Fleet, Relocation

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (31/10/96)—

With reference to the re-organisation of his department—

- (1) How much money will be spent in 1996-97 on accommodation relocation expenses resulting from the move in the Department of Housing related units, Q-Fleet and Q-Build to the old Commonwealth Government Building in Ann Street?
- (2) How much has this move cost taxpayers?
- (3) When were the moves of Q-Fleet, Q-Build and the Department of Housing first placed on the list of accommodation changes?
- (4) Would these changes now be necessary from the point of view of accommodation space in light of planned downsizing on the Department of Housing units?
- (5) What will the vacancy rate be in 80 George Street as a result of these moves?
- (6) Will the rents which were previously paid into the consolidated revenue of the State now be paid to the Federal Government?
- (7) Does he have an active policy of returning money to the Federal Government whenever possible?

Mr Connor (2/12/96):

(1) There will be no State Government money spent on accommodation related relocation expenses for the move of Q-Fleet and Q-Build to 295 Ann Street. Any business-related costs resulting from the change in location will be contained within existing operational budgets.

(2) There has been no cost to taxpayers for this move.

(3) The moves of Q-Fleet, Q-Build and the Department of Housing were identified as part of a review of CBD Accommodation which was carried out in April 1996.

(4) The relocation of Q-Fleet and Q-Build are necessary, not only to achieve the integration of the Department of Public Works and Housing, but also to complement the accommodation needs of other departments.

(5) There will be no vacancies in 80 George Street as a result of these moves.

(6) Yes.

(7) No.

1166. Property Disposal

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (31/10/96)—

With reference to his intention to dispose of surplus properties as part of strategic asset management planning—

(1) Will he provide details of any surplus properties identified for disposal?

(2) On what basis and criteria are properties to be judged suitable for disposal?

Mr Connor (2/12/96):

(1) The commercial properties controlled by my department and identified for disposal are detailed in the attached list (refer Attachment 1).

The list of surplus residential properties is included in a further list (refer Attachment 2).

(2) Typically, there are a number of reasons why commercial property assets under the control of the Department of Public Works and Housing are judged suitable for disposal. The criteria used singly or in combination to assess properties for disposal are:

the age and condition of the property and the ongoing maintenance investment required to keep the property in a sound and useful condition;

the functional suitability of the property and the capital investment required to upgrade the property to a level suitable for Government office accommodation or other Government use;

the current use of the property compared with its highest and best use;

the level of demand for use by Government Agencies in the delivery of Government services; and

the benefit to the Government and the community in retaining the property in Government ownership compared with alternative private sector ownership.

For residential properties, houses which have fallen vacant and have been declared surplus by the controlling department are offered to other departments. Where no department expresses a need, they are declared as surplus to the whole-of-Government and offered for disposal.

Attachment 1

SCHEDULE OF COMMERCIAL PROPERTY ASSETS CONTROLLED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HOUSING AND LISTED AS SURPLUS FOR DISPOSAL

Government Address	Land Register Identifier	Property Address
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1479—Brisbane		
9911—Brisbane		
11968—Brisbane		
10891—Brisbane		
1487—Brisbane		
8750—Brisbane		
10485—Cairns		
10681—Emerald		
10890—Ingham		
10935—Ipswich		
11176—Millaa Millaa		
47410—Newstead		
11384—Paluma		
11467—Rocklea		
9544—Roma		
6494—Townsville		
5749—Townsville		
11849—Townsville		
11776—Townsville		
11865—Townsville		

Registration in transition—Hervey Bay

Registration in transition—Hervey Bay

Attachment 2

SURPLUS GEHS PROPERTIES

Centre	Owner	Department
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Babinda	DPWH	
Cairns	DPWH; DPWH; DPWH; DPWH	
Childers	DPWH	
Cooroy	DPWH	
Cunnamulla	DPWH	
Georgetown	DPWH	
Greycliffe	EDUCATION	
Jandowae	DPWH	
Kolan South	DPI	
Mackay	DPWH; DPWH; DPWH; DPWH; DPWH; DPWH; DPWH; DPWH	
Millmerran	DPWH	
Monto	DPWH	
Nanango	DPWH	
Pallarenda	DPWH	
Richlands	EDUCATION	
Richmond	DPWH	
Rockhampton	DPWH; DPWH	
Springsure	DPWH	
Stanthorpe	DPWH	
Toowoomba	DPWH	
Toowoomba	EDUCATION	
Townsville	DPWH; DPWH	
TOTAL NUMBER	—34	

Vacant Land For Sale

Centre	Owner	Department
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Bundaberg	DPWH	
Pomona	DPWH	

TOTAL NUMBER—2

Houses To Be Sold For Removal
Centre—Owner Department

Bundamba—EDUCATION
Mackay—POLICE
Maryborough—EDUCATION
Gin Gin—EDUCATION
Walkerston—EDUCATION
TOTAL NUMBER—5

1167. Ministerial Office Accommodation

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (31/10/96)—

With reference to the increase of \$1.606m in office design and fit-out in the 1996-97 Budget—

- (1) Will he give a full account of the increased \$1.606m providing the location of offices causing the increase, which of these are Ministerial accommodation and the individual costs associated with each project?
- (2) What is the policy on the approval process necessary for Ministers to upgrade their personal office accommodation?

Mr Connor (2/12/96):

(1) The Budget Estimates were finalised in May 1995. It was estimated that the total expenditure on office fitouts would be \$38.165M in 1995/96.

In response to Agencies' actual fitout requirements, the actual expenditure achieved was \$39.771M, which represents a variance of \$1.606M. Because the original expenditure estimate was not based on a schedule of projects, it is not possible to identify specific projects which contributed to the expenditure variance.

(2) This policy is no different from the approval policy of the former Government.

1168. Dam No. 7, Mount Morgan

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Natural Resources (31/10/96)—

With reference to pages 318 and 319 of the Estimates Committee Hearing of 24 September, where reference is made to dam safety and the Dam Safety Unit of the department and given that his department is cooperating with the Federal Government to provide funds to increase the height of the Dam No. 7 wall at Mount Morgan—

- (1) What inspections and testing of the wall structure stability has his department carried out on Dam No. 7 to determine its ability to handle the proposed increased storage?
- (2) Who would accept responsibility if the wall was to fail, causing loss of life and damage to the infrastructure of Mount Morgan?

Mr Hobbs (26/11/96): There is no process for co-operation between my department and the Federal Government to provide funds to increase the height of the Dam No 7 wall at Mount Morgan as there is no particular joint assistance scheme which covers the project.

State funding support for such a proposal could come from the Department of Local Government and Planning through a proposed Small Communities Assistance Program.

I understand the Shire Council is developing an application for funding under the National Landcare Program for such a project. However, under the current program guidelines, it is unlikely that this would be an eligible project.

The Council's consulting engineers have not yet submitted their final report on the dam safety review but departmental officers are aware of the situation through discussions with the consultants.

The proposal will ultimately need to satisfy my department's dam safety requirements.

Regarding responsibility, the owner of the land on which a referable dam is constructed is responsible for any loss of life or property damage if the dam were to fail. Although the No 7 dam was originally constructed by the Mount Morgan mine operator, Mount Morgan Shire Council is now the trustee over the land on which the dam and storage are located and is to this extent the owner.

The control of referable dams provided for under the Water Resources Act is intended, of course, to ensure that failures do not happen.

1169. Coal Seam Methane Project, Moura District

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (31/10/96)—

With reference to CONOCO's coal seam methane gas extraction work in the Moura district—

- (1) Is the level of unease between the mining company and local landowners now at flashpoint?
- (2) In recent times have roads in the area been deliberately blocked with bulldozers and have power or telephone poles been deliberately felled in attempts to disrupt the drilling work?
- (3) Has the compacted nature of the coal resulted in a higher density of drilling than initially planned with a resultant greater disturbance to grazing land?
- (4) Has he received requests to intervene in this issue in an attempt to defuse it; if so, from whom?
- (5) What response has he made to those requests?
- (6) Has he visited the area; if not, why not?
- (7) Did he glean anything from his visit to coal seam methane projects in the USA that may be of use in addressing this matter?

Mr Gilmore (27/11/96):

(1) Relations between CONOCO, while not being the best, could not be described as at a flashpoint. The company has recently completed negotiations with landowners over compensation for properties affected by the petroleum leases. In areas outside the Petroleum Lease, landowners have also agreed to compensation for areas affected by exploration.

(2) During the past months there was one occasion when negotiations between one landholder and the company did breakdown due to a misunderstanding but this matter was resolved within the day. There has been a couple of acts of vandalism and one of these has been investigated by the police.

(3) The porosity and permeability of the coal in the targeted seams does vary throughout the area. Because the coal seam methane industry, in Queensland, is still very young the quality of the coal within the Moura area is not completely known. The results of work carried out during this year will allow CONOCO to determine the number of wells needed during future drilling programs to adequately and effectively recover the resource. CONOCO may have initially referred to a number of wells needed based on optimistic forecasts using data from CONOCO's past experience in the USA.

(4) The Minister and Mrs McCauley received a number of requests from both the landowners and the company about the issue.

(5) After speaking with CONOCO about the issue, Mr Gilmore, Mrs McCauley and Dr Bob Day attended a meeting of landowners and CONOCO representatives at Moura on 17 September 1996. At this meeting CONOCO indicated that the matter would not be placed in the hands of the Mining Warden at present but that the company would continue negotiating with landowners. As well, a committee comprising representatives from interested stakeholders would be set up to investigate company—landholder relations and a code of practice for the industry.

(6) Yes.

(7) What we learned was that coal seam methane projects had become a major source of gas production. Also coal mining and methane gas extraction can proceed simultaneously, with urban agricultural activities, including irrigation, being conducted in harmony with coal seam methane extraction. In summary the visit demonstrated that coal seam methane extraction can coexist in a multiple land use framework with appropriate landowner cooperation. Evaluation of the legislative frameworks under which coal seam methane extraction takes place in the United States will also be of benefit to the future development of the coal seam methane industry in Queensland.

1170. Police Station, Sunnybank

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (31/10/96)—

With reference to recent reports in local newspapers from senior police officers that crime in the Sunnybank area has escalated since the early part of 1996 and given the very real concerns by police and residents in my electorate about this increase in crime—

Is he now prepared to honour his election promise that a police station will be built in Sunnybank in his first term of office; if not, what strategies will he put

in place in 1996-97 to address the increase in crime in the Sunnybank electorate?

Mr Cooper (28/11/96): Policing of Sunnybank is currently undertaken by police from the Upper Mount Gravatt complex, which comprises general duties police officers, the Criminal Investigation Branch, the Juvenile Aid Bureau, Scenes of Crime officers, the Regional Community Relations Coordinator and the Crime Management Unit.

It has been recognised by the Queensland Police Service that there may be a need for a police station in the Calamvale/Sunnybank/Runcorn area; however, because of other priorities across the State, a new police establishment at Sunnybank is not included on the current Police Service Capital Works Program. At the same time, the need for a new police establishment in the Sunnybank area will continue to be assessed, along with other priorities, as part of the Police Service planning process.

On 3 May 1995, the Sunnybank Police Shopfront was established in the Sunnybank Shopping complex. It is staffed with two police officers and an administrative officer. A further constable's position has been allocated to the Shopfront. The success of the Shopfront can be gauged by a decrease in the offences of unlawful use of motor vehicle and stealing from vehicles in the Sunnybank area since its inception.

A slight increase in property related offences for the period January to October 1996, compared to the same period last year, is being addressed with the increase in staff at the Shopfront.

An additional Neighbourhood Watch is to commence in the Sunnybank area on 30 November 1996. This will be the 20th Neighbourhood Watch for the Upper Mount Gravatt Police Division, the majority of which are located in and around the Sunnybank area. The Neighbourhood Watch areas highlight the joint commitment between the people of Sunnybank and the Upper Mount Gravatt Police in addressing crime. It is envisaged this initiative will assist greatly in combating property crime in the Sunnybank area.

1171. Wynnum State High School

Mr LUCAS asked the Minister for Education (31/10/96)—

With reference to the proposed upgrading of the home economics block at Wynnum High School—

- (1) Had the \$651,529 upgrade project, secured by the former Federal and State Labor Governments proceeded through the design and costing phase to the point where school staff were being consulted on colour schemes and fitout details?
- (2) When was the project eliminated from the State's Capital Works program?
- (3) How much money had been spent on the project at that stage?
- (4) With respect to a letter dated 8 July to the Principal of the high school, from Richard Williams, Director-Facilities and Services Directorate, in his department and an article in

the Wynnum Herald on 25 September, where a spokesman for the Minister indicated that: "a final decision on the upgrade of the school's home economics block would be made in about six weeks" (a) what are the range of design options being considered and (b) has a final decision been made; if so, what is the nature of the upgrade and its expected cost, and what consultation has taken place with school staff in relation thereto; if not, when will the decision be made?

- (5) Bearing in mind that occupational health and safety issues have been previously identified by the department's occupational health and safety staff, including students being required to carry hot water in buckets, what steps have been taken to urgently resolve these matters pending his decision on the upgrade?

Mr Quinn (29/11/96):

- (1) & (2) The upgrade of home economics facilities at Wynnum State High School was nominated originally as part of the 'Planning for New Major Projects' allocation of the 1995-96 Capital Works Program, of the Department of Education, with an estimated budget allocation of \$660,000.

The project originally proceeded to a preliminary (schematic) design stage, in September 1995, but did not proceed further due to a projected budget overrun of \$330,000, which was 50% more than the expected budget allocation. Consequently, a development report detailing other possible project options was sought from the Department of Public Works and received in March 1996.

During compilation of the original preliminary design, tentative discussions may have taken place regarding colour schemes and fit out details.

In June 1996 the department recommended this project be discontinued, in its proposed form, due to:

cost escalation; and

the cluster concept for convergence education with neighbouring schools including Wynnum North State High School which already had good quality home economics facilities.

- (3) Expenditure on the project, as at 30 June 1996, was \$16,584.00.

(4) The project was re-instated as a planning project on the 1996-97 Capital Works Program by the Director, Facilities and Services Directorate. The scope of this project was to conduct option studies to determine the most cost effective way of upgrading the existing kitchens, to achieve the provision of two (2) x 18 student-place kitchens, a food store and a dining room.

A final decision has not yet been made, as the options are still being investigated by external planning consultants, who have been engaged by the department. Preliminary consultation has been undertaken with the school and it is expected that a preferred option, which satisfies the needs of the school and budget of the department, will be finalised shortly.

(5) The school has been advised that any immediate health and safety concerns should be conveyed to Metropolitan East Regional Office for assessment and possible inclusion on the annual school maintenance program.

1172. Astrebla National Park; Gas Pipeline

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Environment (31/10/96)—

With reference to recently published plans to run the gas pipeline from south-west Queensland to Mount Isa through the stock corridor between Astrebla and Diamantina National Parks—

- (1) Is Stanbroke Pastoral Company in agreement with this proposal?
- (2) Will the pipeline be above or below ground?
- (3) Do plans exist to run other pipelines in this corridor or to use it for any other purpose other than stock transfer?
- (4) Will the corridor be kept as close as possible to its natural condition to allow terrestrial fauna to cross between the two parts of the parks; if not, how does he intend to achieve the intent of the purchase of Astrebla National Park as a vital adjunct to Diamantina National Park in the protection of the bio-diversity of the Channel Country of south-west Queensland?
- (5) Has the Queensland Department of Environment constructed a light aircraft landing strip adjacent to No. 2 bore in Astrebla National Park; if so, was this the most appropriate location for this strip accepting that bilby burrows are prevalent in the area?
- (6) Is there any possibility of bilbies burrowing on the airstrip at a future time?
- (7) Are bilby numbers in Astrebla National Park increasing or decreasing?
- (8) Are all cattle now out of Astrebla National Park; if not, why not?

Mr Littleproud (29/11/96):

(1) I am unaware of any specific concerns held by the company in relation to the proposed pipeline. The route location is a matter to be negotiated between the proponent and individual landholders.

(2) The pipeline will be below ground.

(3) To my knowledge there are no current plans to run other pipelines in this corridor.

(4) While there will be some disturbance along the full length of the pipeline during construction the vast majority of the disturbed land will be returned to its prior use on the completion of the construction of the pipeline.

(5) Department of Environment staff have not constructed any landing strip but have refurbished one of two existing airstrips on Astrebla Downs National Park.

The provision and maintenance of such an airstrip can be considered a mandatory requirement of the department given the number of staff working in the area and Work Place Health and Safety obligations.

(6) The nearest existing Bilbies occur in excess of 4 km from the airstrip in habitat that is quite different to where the strip has been established. The strip is located on a stony rise adjacent to a bore head and where extensive disturbance from cattle had previously occurred.

(7) Bilby numbers appear to be stable at the present time. Regular monitoring will continue to track the population's responses to changes in the environment.

(8) Stanbroke Pastoral Company mustered Astrebla Downs late in 1995 as part of the formal acquisition of the area by the department removing all but 30-40 head of cattle. Local rainfall and a series of flood events in Diamantina River have hampered the removal of the remaining cattle this year.

A further 18 head of cattle were removed by Department of Environment staff about 3 weeks ago and Stanbroke Pastoral Company removed a further group of 10 since then.

1173. Friendly Society Private Hospital, Bundaberg

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Health (31/10/96)—

With reference to the Health Department's second refusal to allow the Friendly Society Private Hospital in Bundaberg to establish a second renal unit in Bundaberg—

- (1) Who in the Health Department has rejected this application?
- (2) Was it the same personnel who rejected the first application by the Friendly Society Private Hospital for a renal dialysis unit?
- (3) In view of the information provided by nephrologist Dr Ashley Irish that the Bundaberg Base Hospital could not meet local needs, will he intervene to allow the private hospital to meet the needs of the public of our region?
- (4) Why do the bureaucrats of the Health Department want to force people from our region, with extra associated costs, to travel to Nambour or Brisbane for dialysis treatment?
- (5) If the State Government supports the development of cost effective private hospital services, will he overturn his departments decision and approve the renal dialysis unit for the Friendly Society Private Hospital?
- (6) Will he also intervene to support further developments and expansion of the services provided at the Friendly Society Private Hospital?
- (7) Will he give a commitment that the State Government will not allow the Health Department to continue refusing the development of health services at Bundaberg private hospitals and will he approve appropriate licenses for these hospitals for expanded health services?
- (8) Will he ensure the achievements of the Bundaberg Base Hospital are recognised and the appropriate increase in specialists and skilled personnel are employed to provide

enhanced services for the community of the Bundaberg region?

Mr Horan (2/12/96): I am advised that the application from the Friendly Society Private Hospital (FSPH), Bundaberg, to establish a renal unit has not been rejected.

I am disappointed that you have asked a question with so many parts, which breaches the spirit of the Standing Orders and which creates an unnecessary burden on the staff of Queensland Health. However, for the benefit of the people of Bundaberg, I provide the following information.

Under Section 64 of the Health Act 1937 the Chief Health Officer (CHO) is vested with the responsibility and authority to make determinations in relation to the licensing and erection of private hospitals in Queensland. The CHO must approve the use of rooms within licensed private hospital for special use. Therefore, all private sector applications to increase licensed bed capacity or to introduce specialist clinical services have must have approval of the CHO.

I am advised that the application from FSPH to establish a renal unit has not been rejected, but rather deferred by the CHO, so as to take account of Statewide planning for end stage renal failure services, currently under way. This deferment took place with the agreement and acceptance of FSPH.

In answer to part (8) of your question, yes.

1174. Police Service, Operational Shift Allowance

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (31/10/96)—

With reference to the 19 per cent operational shift allowance paid to members of the Queensland Police Service—

- (1) What is the criteria by which payment of the allowance is determined?
- (2) How many members of the Queensland Police Service receive this allowance?
- (3) How many of these members are officers in charge of stations or sections?

Mr Cooper (28/11/96):

(1) Non-commissioned officers and constables have access to the 19% allowance provided such officers equitably participate in a two or three shift roster over seven days per week on a permanent arrangement or in a temporary capacity for a period exceeding 28 days.

(2) In total, 4487 members of the Queensland Police Service receive the allowance.

(3) Of the members who are in receipt of the allowance, 144 are officers in charge of stations or sections.

1176. Brisbane Festival and Brisbane Biennial

Mr FOLEY asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (31/10/96)—

With reference to her announcement of a merger between the Brisbane Festival and the Brisbane Biennial—

- (1) Isn't she concerned that every second year Brisbane will be without the benefit of a major arts festival, with resultant loss of entertainment for Queensland residents and loss of jobs for Queensland artworkers and musicians?
- (2) Has she consulted with the Queensland Events Corporation in relation to the proposed merger; if so, what was the feedback from the corporation?
- (3) What view was expressed by the organisers of the Brisbane Biennial in relation to the proposed merger?
- (4) In terminating the Brisbane Biennial as a separate entity, did she take into account the close association in the public mind between the Brisbane Biennial and the Member for Logan, Mr Wayne Goss who, as Arts Minister, established the biennial?
- (5) Is the proposed merger another attempt by the Government to make further cuts to recurrent Government expenditure on the arts in Queensland?

Mrs Sheldon (28/11/96):

- (1) No. Box office and sponsorship of up to \$3 million would be required each year if two festivals were maintained. I do not believe this is achievable on Brisbane's current population.
- (2) The details of the proposed merger have still to be settled and I will be consulting with the Queensland Events Corporation as part of the process.
- (3) I have advised the Chairs of both the Brisbane Festival and the Brisbane Biennial that the new combined festival must preserve the fine music excellence of the Brisbane Biennial to ensure the international reputation developed so far is maintained. The Board and management of the Brisbane Biennial have expressed a willingness to work co-operatively with the new festival to achieve the Government's objectives.
- (4) The Brisbane Biennial will be staged in 1997 and will be an exceptional event. The origin of the festival was not a matter I considered in formulating my decision.
- (5) No. I have a fundamental belief that two major international festivals are not sustainable in a city of Brisbane's size for the foreseeable future and that it would seriously affect the viability of both if an attempt was made to retain the two festivals.

1177. Shun Tak Holdings

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Economic Development and Trade and Minister Assisting the Premier (31/10/96)—

With reference to his answer to a Question Without Notice on 29 October in which he said that tax concessions had been offered to Shun Tak Holdings to do business in Queensland—

- (1) What are the terms of the contract which, according to his media release, he sealed on his overseas trip?
- (2) Who are the parties to the agreement?
- (3) What probity checks were undertaken?
- (4) What agency of Government negotiated the agreement?
- (5) Will he table the agreement?

Mr Slack (10/12/96):

- (1) In Hong Kong I appeared in support of the two Queensland firms who have signed contractual agreements to conduct exploratory work in Queensland on Shun Tak's behalf. The terms of these contracts are naturally commercial in confidence. The Queensland Government is not party to any agreement involving Shun Tak.
- (2) The two companies that have formal agreements with Shun Tak are Dialog Computer Consultants and the Queensland Industry Development Corporation (QIDC). Shun Tak Holdings are also liaising with another Queensland company regarding a potential agreement in the future.
- (3) Shun Tak Holdings Ltd, as one of the largest companies in Macau and Hong Kong, and as one of the 33 constituent stocks of the Hang Seng Index, have satisfied my Department that they are financially capable of fulfilling any commercial agreements entered into with Queensland firms. Parliament is assured that should the Queensland Government consider entering into a formal agreement with Shun Tak in the future, the usual commercial and probity checks into the company's background would be conducted by officers of the Department of Economic Development and Trade, prior to any agreement being signed.
- (4) The Department of Economic Development and Trade facilitated the meetings between a Shun Tak Holdings representative and representatives of both QIDC and Dialog. The subsequent agreements were negotiated directly between the parties to the agreements, and these negotiations did not necessitate Departmental involvement.
- (5) There is no agreement between Shun Tak Holdings and the Queensland Government, and consequently there is nothing to be tabled in Parliament.

1178. Acacia Ridge Police Station

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (31/10/96)—

When will work be completed at Acacia Ridge Police Station to enable the officers to carry out their duties in an appropriate workplace?

Mr Cooper (22/11/96): The contract for the construction of the replacement Acacia Ridge Police Station was awarded to McMasters Qld Pty Ltd on 25 September 1996.

It is anticipated that the new facility will be completed in April 1997.

In the interim, the former police residence (more recently utilised as office accommodation by the Juvenile Aid Bureau) has been refurbished and is being used as a temporary police station for the period of construction.

1179. Queensland Health Promotion Council

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Health (31/10/96)—

- (1) What is the status of the Queensland Health Promotion Council?
- (2) Has the council been dissolved; if so, on what basis did he take this decision?
- (3) Has this council been defunded and by how much in the 1996-97 State Budget?
- (4) Were any community based projects affected by this decision; if so, what were they and what services would they have provided to the community?
- (5) Will he outline how the funds taken away from the Health Promotion Council will be utilised within the Department of Health or elsewhere and document same for the information of the House?
- (6) If the Queensland Health Promotion Council is to remain intact with a reduced capacity to fund community based injury prevention and health promotion programs, what guarantees will he give to reassure Opposition Members that the council's independence will be retained?

Mr Horan (2/12/96):

- (1) The term of the inaugural Council expired in March 1996. A new Council will be formed shortly and this new Council will have a more strategic focus. The administrative rôle of the Council will move to Performance Management Branch.
- (2) No.
- (3 & 5) As the function of the Council has changed from one of providing grants to that of advising on marketing and public health strategies, its charter now encompasses all health promotional activity and expenditure within Queensland Health.
- (4) No. Existing Health Promotion Council commitments to previously funded programs will be honoured and these funded projects will continue in accordance with their signed service agreements/conditions of grant.
- (6) The new Queensland Health Promotion Council will be an advisory committee and as such will be appointed to provide independent advice.

It will provide a high level of marketing expertise, in addition to providing recommendations on national public health strategies and strategies for working with other sections of the community to improve public health. The marketing of high priority public health issues including injury, nutrition, smoking, cancer, cardiac disease, and diabetes will be priorities for the new Council.

1180. School/Community/Sports Hall, Nudgee Electorate

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Education (31/10/96)—

With reference to the urgent need for a school/community/sports hall which would service schools, community groups and clubs in Banyo, Nudgee and surrounding districts—

- (1) Will he and his department contribute financially and/or in kind (e.g. by the provision of suitable land) in conjunction with other Government departments towards the construction of such a facility?
- (2) Will he authorise officers of his department to enter into negotiations with other relevant departments and authorities (e.g. Brisbane City Council) to facilitate agreement to construct this facility?

Mr Quinn (29/11/96): (1) & (2) The Government operates funding schemes to assist Government schools and communities, in general, to undertake projects which include hall complexes.

The Department of Education administers a subsidy scheme which provides financial assistance to Parents and Citizens Associations. The scheme is called the School Improvement Assistance Scheme (SIAS) and assistance is available on a dollar for dollar basis up to pre-determined maximum limits (e.g. a secondary hall attracts up to \$200,000 subsidy).

The Department of Emergency Services and Office of Sport operate a funding program for Community Recreation Centres, through which financial assistance may be sought by communities contemplating the establishment of facilities for sport and recreation activities. If the best location for the Community facility is considered to be a school site the Department of Education will give consideration to donating the land for this purpose.

Access to funding under both schemes, mentioned above, is initiated by way of formal application.

1181. Birthday Mountain, Aboriginal Land Claim

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Natural Resources (31/10/96)—

With reference to the long standing land claim before the Aboriginal Land Tribunal for the area known as Birthday Mountain near Coen on Cape York Peninsula—

- (1) Why has there been such a long delay in determining an outcome on this claim?
- (2) When can the claimants expect a decision from him in respect of this claim?

Mr Hobbs (25/11/96): The Land Tribunal has heard and reported on this matter in February 1995.

Since the Land Tribunal's report and hearing there have been technical issues which required finalisation such as:

boundary survey matters which required amendments to exclude a Reserve for Memorial Purposes as agreed at the Land Tribunal hearing and,

further consultation with people particularly concerned with the land.

I will advise you in due course when a final decision is made in this matter.

1183. Prison, Rockhampton

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (12/11/96)—

With reference to answers he has provided previously regarding the construction of a new prison at Rockhampton—

- 1) Is this project part of the \$151m three-year program recently agreed to "in principle" by Cabinet; if not, will the above program have any effect on the date of commencement/completion of the above project; if so, will he again outline the proposed completion time lines for the above project?
- (2) Is he prepared to provide me, as local Member, with ongoing briefings regarding this project?

Mr Cooper (3/12/96):

(1) As was indicated previously to the member for Rockhampton the infrastructure plan for the Queensland Corrective Services Commission and the election statements of this Government indicated a replacement correctional facility will be provided for the Rockhampton Correctional Centre by the year 2000. Given the potential construction time for a new facility this would mean that funds would need to be committed in 1997/98 to allow for planning and site works. The commitments for Capital Works in this current budget which will lead to expanded cell stocks in Southern Queensland are quite independent of any changes that need to be made in relation to Rockhampton. As I indicated in my previous response to Mr Schwarten in July, the project is planned to commence in 1997. Funding for the project has not yet been approved. However, it is intended that the project will be completed by the year 2000.

(2) As with all projects of this nature there will be various forms of community consultation. I am sure that the Honourable member will be involved in advice on the project as it proceeds.

1186. Department of Natural Resources and Department of Primary industries Employees, Townsville/Thuringowa

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Natural Resources (12/11/96)—

- (1) How many people, including those transferred from DPI, were employed within his portfolio responsibility based within the boundaries of Townsville/Thuringowa as at (a) 30 June 1995 (including those then employed by DPI) and (b) 30 June 1996?

- (2) How many of the salaried staff were classified as AO8 or higher as at (a) 30 June 1995 (including those then employed by DPI) and (b) 30 June 1996?
- (3) How many of those salaried staff were classified as permanent as at (a) 30 June 1995 (including those then employed by DPI) and (b) 30 June 1996?
- (4) How many salaried staff were classified as temporary as at (a) 30 June 1995 (including those then employed by DPI) and (b) 30 June 1996?
- (5) How many people other than SES officers were on contract as at (a) 30 June 1995 (including those then employed by DPI) and (b) 30 June 1996?
- (6) How many full-time wages employees were on the payroll as at (a) 30 June 1995 (including those then employed by DPI) and (b) 30 June 1996?
- (7) How many part-time wages employees were on the payroll as at (a) 30 June 1995 (including those then employed by DPI) and (b) 30 June 1996?

Mr Hobbs (5/12/96): The following information has been provided as if all the questions related to the parameters predicated in the first question ie. within the boundaries of Townsville and Thuringowa.

1995 figures required some estimations as, predating the amalgamations which formed the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Primary Industries underwent significant structural changes. The translations of staff to restructured functions within DPI and the subsequent translation of staff to DNR did not always translate to full positions. For example, the response to Q1(a) includes officers whose positions remained with DPI but at the time were performing some duties that have since translated to DNR.

1. (a) 117; (b) 100
2. (a) 3; (b) 3
3. (a) 90; (b) 77
4. (a) 22; (b) 22
5. (a) 0; (b) 0
6. (a) 0; (b) 0
7. (a) 5; (b) 1

1187. Mines and Energy Department, Office Refurbishment

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (12/11/96)—

With reference to the refurbishment of the department's office situated at 61 Mary Street—

- (1) Will he detail the total cost of this work and what it entails?
- (2) Will he document the costs of refurbishments of the other regional offices?

Mr Gilmore (10/12/96):

(1) The only planned refurbishments being contemplated by the department for its office at 61 Mary Street in 1996/97 are those designed to relocate staff within the department's organisational structure. These plans are aimed at achieving improved efficiency and better service for clients. The costs of these relocations are being undertaken within the annual minor capital works program which has an overall budget of approximately \$500,000. The relocations will not include new furniture or furnishings.

(2) It is likely that recommendations arising from the Moura Report will have implications for accommodation related matters in several regions. It is not possible to quantify these implications until the report has been examined in full.

1188. Mines and Energy Department, Staff Sick Leave

Mrs WOODGATE asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (12/11/96)—

How many sick days have been taken in the past six months by staff of his department and what is the figure for the previous six months?

Mr Gilmore (10/12/96): The number of sick days taken in the past six months by staff of DME is 1575 days.

The number of sick days taken during the previous six months is 1287 days.

1191. Woodlands Shopping Centre Precinct, Government Services

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Education (12/11/96)—

Is the Department of Education considering a proposal to sell approximately one acre of its land on which the Northern Beaches High School is being constructed, to the owners of the adjacent Woodlands Shopping Centre; if so, what will be the effect on plans announced by the previous Government to establish a police station, fire station and other Government services in the precinct?

Mr Quinn (29/11/96): The Department of Education is considering the transfer of a portion of land to the owners of the adjacent Woodlands Shopping Centre. In consideration for the transfer, the shopping centre will construct a car park for shared use with Government agencies and will also address drainage problems associated with the land.

The construction of this car park will support and enhance the school, as well as the proposed Government precinct development. The area proposed to be excised does not affect adversely the proposed location of this development.

1197. Queensland Mining Warden

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (12/11/96)—

With reference to the Queensland Mining Warden—

What increases, if any, to his budget were contained in the 1996-97 Queensland State Budget for the Queensland Mining Warden?

Mr Gilmore (10/12/96): The 1996/97 budget allocated to the Queensland Mining Warden is \$328,000. This amount compares favourably with the 1995/96 budget of \$774,000 which also included one-off funds required by the Warden's Court to finalise costs incurred by the Warden with respect to the Inquiry into the Moura Mine disaster, including the payment of legal expenses and fees payable to expert witnesses.

1198. Police Resources, Logan Police District

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (12/11/96)—

With reference to an increase in the funded strength of police numbers for 1996-97 of 139—

(1) When does he intend to put into effect his commitment of 5 January 1995 that the Logan Police District needed 150 extra police to bring the police population ratio to the State average of one officer per 516 people?

(2) How many additional officers will be allocated to the Logan Police District in 1996-97?

Mr Cooper (3/12/96):

(1) The Coalition Government has given an undertaking to increase the strength of the Queensland Police Service by 2780 police officers over the ten year period commencing from the 1995/96 financial year. This increase includes an additional 800 police officers in the three year period from 1996/97 through to 1998/99. This financial year, the overall strength of the Service is to be increased by 139 police positions.

The impact of any increases as a result of this allocation is unlikely to be felt prior to June 1997 due to the time involved in recruiting and training additional officers.

(2) The distribution of additional positions in the 1996/97 financial year will be made having regard for the operational policing and direct service delivery needs for the State to ensure an equitable distribution across all Police Districts. Accordingly, the Logan Police District will be allocated an additional 11 police positions from the 1996/97 total allocation. This allocation will be supplemented by an allocation of eight Communications Room Operators to the Logan District which will enable the release of additional police to full operational duties, thus further enhancing the overall operational capacity of the District.

1199. Totalisator Administration Board

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (12/11/96)—

(1) What action can he take to ensure that the Totalisator Administration Board maintains its outlets in smaller communities, which would

otherwise suffer closure under its new policy of closing agencies and offices which fail to increase turnover and do not provide plush surroundings?

- (2) Specifically, will he seek reconsideration of the decision to close the Salisbury office, which has been located in Cripps Street in the centre of the suburb for many years and which closure would seriously disadvantage petitioners who consider that other offices are not accessible to them?

Mr Cooper (5/12/96):

(1) TAB profits and taxes on betting turnover contribute substantial amounts to the racing industry and the State Government respectively. In 1995-96, a record \$51.8M was paid out to race clubs to fund prize money and a further \$22.5M provided to the Racing Development Fund which funds improvements to the infrastructure of the racing industry. The TAB also earned taxes of over \$75M for the State Government which funds programs that deliver services for the people of Queensland including roads, schools and hospitals.

Consequently, the TAB cannot operate unprofitable agencies without having an adverse effect on the racing industry and the wider public. The TAB has assured me that it is very aware of the importance of its customers and will always attempt to provide easily accessible services to customers consistent with prudent commercial constraints.

(2) With respect to the closure of the Cripps Street, Salisbury, TAB agency I wish to advise the following:

The agency had been trading from this site for over twenty years. The nature of retailing has changed significantly over that time and the TAB, like all other major retailers, has had to alter its retail distribution strategy in order to meet the changing requirements of its business.

TAB services are now retailed through a broader channel with services provided through hotels, clubs, telebetting, home betting terminals as well as the traditional standalone TAB. The change in retailing distribution in the general Salisbury area had seen the Salisbury TAB agency turnover decline significantly over the years to a point where customer demand had fallen to sales equivalent 1986 levels when the rest of the TAB had grown by some 130.52%.

I am informed that turnover at the Salisbury agency before closure was \$26,000 per week while minimum turnover required by the TAB to operate an agency is \$45,000 per week. With such a dramatic fall in turnover, the TAB advised that it was simply not viable for this agency to remain open.

In restructuring its retail presence in Salisbury, the TAB has recognised the need to provide customer choice of retail sites. I understand TAB facilities have recently been significantly upgraded at Coopers Plains and Moorooka, to improve the quality of service available to customers who wish to use the traditional TAB office, while facilities at the Salisbury Hotel are scheduled to be upgraded for customers who prefer a PubTAB. These three outlets are just

3km, 3.7 km and 1.7 km respectively from the old Salisbury TAB site. Of course, an option for customers experiencing difficulty in accessing TAB services at any of these locations is to use the TAB's very successful Telebet facility.

1201. Corrective Services Commission, Staff Reductions

Mr LIVINGSTONE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (12/11/96)—

With reference to the three month review the Queensland Corrective Services Commission is currently conducting into the operations of juvenile detention centres in preparation for their transfer to QCSC and noting the staffing number of 275 for this work is an estimate only, involving, as it does, a loss of 34 jobs—

- (1) As the Government has made much of getting tough on juvenile crime which one would presume will lead to more youths being detained at Her Majesty's pleasure, how does he justify even estimating dropping staff numbers at a time when his client numbers are rising?
- (2) If he does drop staffing numbers is he prepared to give a guarantee that there will be no reduction in the rehabilitation programs that were on offer to offending youths under the previous Government?
- (3) Will he give a guarantee that the estimated loss of 34 staff is not reflected in a hit list of unwanted employees circulating within QCSC?

Mr Cooper (10/12/96):

(1) Mr Livingstone is advised that the Queensland Corrective Services Commission is continuing the review into juvenile detention operations within Queensland as I indicated to the House some time ago. This government has made it very clear that it intends to get tough on juvenile crime and has done so since taking office. The introduction of the Juvenile Justice Amendment Act 1996 goes part of the way towards achieving that aim. The review currently being conducted by the Queensland Corrective Services Commission will provide an overview of particular circumstances as they prevail at the time the Queensland Corrective Services Commission assumed responsibility for the juvenile detention function within Queensland. It would be quite inappropriate to even estimate the impact of the review in terms of staffing numbers at this time. It will be necessary for me to be briefed by the Board of the Queensland Corrective Services Commission once the review is completed at the end of December 1996.

(2) As I have already indicated to Mr Livingstone, I am unable to clarify the circumstances relating to staffing numbers until such time as I have had an opportunity to be briefed upon the outcomes of the review currently being conducted by the Queensland Corrective Services Commission. I am advised that the relevant rehabilitation programs on offer to detainees at each of the three Detention

Centres are in accordance with individual case management plans. The case management plans represent the needs of individual detainees to not only address and correct their offending behaviour but also to provide them with whatever remedial opportunities are necessary in order to minimise them re-offending. At the same time, it provides them with the opportunity to make a positive contribution towards re-integration into society. The review currently being conducted by the Queensland Corrective Services Commission addresses the appropriateness or otherwise of programs being conducted at particular centres, the transfer of responsibilities and future needs.

(3) The suggestion of a hit list of unwanted employees circulated within the Queensland Corrective Services Commission is unknown to me. Perhaps if the Honourable Mr Livingstone could provide me with a copy of the alleged hit list of unwanted employees I could perhaps have the Queensland Corrective Services Commission research this material and provide a more adequate response if one is necessary.

1203. Kangaroo Harvesting Licences

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Environment (12/11/96)—

With reference to recent media coverage of increases in kangaroo harvesting licenses and dealers licenses—

- (1) Does he intend to raise the price of kangaroo tags; if so, what are they at present and what does he propose to raise them to?
- (2) To what uses will these monies be put and in what percentage?
- (3) If research is one of these uses, will these studies be confined only to macropods or used more broadly?
- (4) How much was collected from the sale of kangaroo tags in the last 12 months?
- (5) How much is anticipated to flow from the sale of tags at the new price?
- (6) What consultation has occurred with the kangaroo industry and rural groups on this price hike?
- (7) Will shooters and dealers working for the human consumption trade in kangaroos also be experiencing license fee increases in future; if so, to what extent and at what time?

Mr Littleproud (6/12/96): (1) to (7) Since there were no such increases, the question is based on a false premise.

1205. Justice Papers

Mr WELLS asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (12/11/96)—

With reference to his department's publication "Justice Papers" which is a vehicle for the dissemination of information to the Justices of the Peace and Commissioners for Declarations of Queensland—

Will he undertake to publish at least one Justice Papers this calendar year, or is this useful publication being sacrificed as part of the funding cuts necessary to pay for the review of the Criminal Justice Commission and other such wasteful reviews?

Mr Beanland (3/12/96): Funds have been set aside for the publication of a "Justice Paper" in March. It was not appropriate that the "Justice Papers" be published any earlier due to the changes that were required to be made to the Justices of the Peace and Commissioner for Declarations Act 1991. A letter will be forwarded shortly to 38,000 Justices of the Peace who had not sought to change to one of the new categories of office. The letter details amendments to the Act that were necessary because so few Justices of the Peace had participated in the new system. The amendments also eradicated many anomalies and improved a number of administrative procedures which inhibited the administration of the legislation. The letter will provide Justices of the Peace with updated issues which directly affect their status of office.

1207. Local Governments, Agreements Regarding Parking

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Local Government and Planning (12/11/96)—

With reference to section 44BA of the Traffic Act which now provides local Governments with the power to enter into arrangements with shopping centre managers and owners of other private parking areas to enforce parking provisions, e.g. disabled parking areas, and as the Department of Local Government and Planning is to develop a local law in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 to enable local Governments to enter into such agreements—

Has the model for this local law been developed and what is the time frame for its implementation?

Mrs McCauley (26/11/96): My department is currently developing a model local law on regulated parking as an alternative to each local government having to formulate and make its own local law to deal with this matter. The model local law is presently in draft form and addresses the issue of regulated parking in private parking areas.

The draft is to be discussed with representatives of the Departments of Main Roads and Transport in the near future to ensure the content satisfies their needs.

It is anticipated the model local law on regulated parking will be available for adoption by local governments in early 1997.

1210. Electricity Market

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (12/11/96)—

With reference to the Queensland retail market for electricity—

- (1) What proportions of the market are projected to be lost to interstate retailers for 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01?

- (2) What will be the revenue losses to Queensland's QTSC for each of the years listed?

Mr Gilmore (10/12/96):

(1) Movements in market share cannot be projected as neither the final market composition nor the timetable for the introduction of varying levels of contestibility are known.

(2) Revenue outcomes are unable to be predicted for the reasons given in Part 1, however, the QTSC Group is developing strategies to enhance Queensland's competitiveness and to gain market share in the National Electricity Market outside of Queensland.

1216. Oil and Tyre Levy

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (12/11/96)—

With reference to the twice changed tyre and oil taxes—

- (1) What was the estimated 1996-97 and 1997-98 revenue from (a) tyre tax and (b) oil tax at (a) the time of the Budget and (b) the present time, and what is the explanation for the difference?
- (2) How much of projected tyre levy revenue will be paid to industry and how will it be spent?
- (3) Does the tyre levy apply to second-hand tyres?
- (4) Will similar levies be introduced to address similar waste problems of glass, plastic and paper; if not, why not?
- (5) How are oil and tyres different?
- (6) Why are off-road farm and mining vehicles exempt from tyre or oil levies when the Treasurer indicated they were prepared to pay?

Mr Littleproud (6/12/96): (1) to (6) The negotiations for the Environmental Franchise Scheme are continuing. The interests of all stakeholders are being considered, and details of the scheme will be announced once these are finalised and receive Cabinet approval.

1217. Wooroora Dam

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Natural Resources (12/11/96)—

With reference to plans to construct the Wooroora Dam on Blunder Creek just downstream of its junction with Oaky Creek in Far North Queensland—

- (1) As there are no current plans to supply an existing, or future, hydro electric power station in the area from the Wooroora Dam, to what purpose will the dam waters be turned?
- (2) How many landholders have indicated a desire to access these waters for irrigation purposes, for what area of land and for what crops?
- (3) Where are these farmers currently accessing irrigation water?
- (4) Are there any proposals to service domestic supply with this water; if so, where and to what numbers of consumers?

- (5) What stage of planning is this proposal at?
- (6) Has work commenced on an environmental impact study; if so, who is lead agency for it, and which consultant is undertaking the study?
- (7) Has he received any approaches from the private sector to construct the dam; if so, from whom?

Mr Hobbs (5/12/96): There are no current plans by my department to develop Wooroora Dam. However I understand that the Water Infrastructure Task Force has received a submission which includes such a proposal. The Task Force will consider this proposal along with all others it has received and make its recommendations to the Government based on the relative merits of each particular proposal.

1218. Police Presence at Public Meeting, Townsville

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (13/11/96)—

With reference to a public meeting held in Townsville on 4 November to protest at proposed changes to the Workers' Compensation Legislation which was attended by a police officer from the Scenes of Crime Squad equipped with a video camera and by two private security guards with very large Alsatian dogs, clearly with the intention to intimidate those citizens present—

- (1) Who authorised the presence of the video camera and the guard dogs?
- (2) Given that the meeting was properly conducted and that organisers had obtained the necessary permits, why was such action by the police considered necessary?
- (3) Will he give an assurance that, as no crime was committed, any video film taken of those present has been destroyed?

Mr Cooper (3/12/96):

(1) A Commissioned Officer of the Police Service attended the protest rally at the Suncorp Plaza and authorised a member of the Scenes of Crime to attend and be in the area should any incident occur. The officer was further directed not to operate the video camera unless an incident involving police occurred. This strategy was intended to record any offences committed. As no incidents occurred, no video recording of any person was undertaken.

The guard dogs at the rally were not police dogs. It is understood that their handlers were members of a private security company. Police had no knowledge that they were being deployed at the rally nor did Police authorise such a strategy.

(2) Police have a responsibility to ensure the safety of the Premier of the State and indeed all citizens. It was deemed necessary to plan a response to the rally, should it have become uncontrollable and offences committed.

Contrary to Mr McElligott's remarks, no permits (Council or Police) were issued to the organisers to conduct the rally. Because of this fact, the intent,

size and duration of the rally was unknown, thus precipitating the police response. In the determination of precautionary strategies, police were also mindful of the recent unrest caused as a result of the rally at Parliament House, Canberra.

(3) As previously stated, no video was taken of the event.

1220. School Cleaners, Maryborough Electorate

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Education (13/11/96)—

- (1) Is he aware that some school cleaners in the Maryborough electorate have been confused and distressed after receiving three separate offers from the Department of Education in relation to Voluntary Early Retirement packages?
- (2) Is he also aware that there was a substantial reduction in the amount offered to these cleaners over a period of approximately one month—in some cases up to \$3,500?
- (3) Is he also aware that a departmental officer used a threatening line to some cleaners by suggesting that they take the final offer or they can forget about their redundancy package and the cheque that goes with it?
- (4) Does he believe this a satisfactory way to handle the retirement of people who have devoted themselves to their jobs, schools and communities where they worked?

Mr Quinn (29/11/96):

(1) The calculation of Voluntary Early Retirement packages for school cleaners has been a complex and time-consuming process that, in some cases, involved close consultation with individual cleaners and their Union. This consultation was a direct result of the fact that specific information relating to some cleaners had to be updated, or added to the Human Resource Management System of the Department of Education.

The department, and the Union, worked closely with cleaners during this period to ensure that concerns were addressed and decisions supported.

(2) Yes, in some cases there were variations in the sum initially offered to cleaners and the amount paid to cleaners. These variations were due to the factors mentioned above, and were both positive and negative.

(3) No, but I can assure the honourable member that any formal complaint will be investigated.

(4) There has been no obligation on the part of any cleaner to accept a Voluntary Early Retirement package. However, the honourable member would have to agree on the fact that more than 1,200 people missed out on a VER and that this, in itself, would signify the overwhelming acceptance of this offer.

1223. Connolly/Ryan Inquiry into Criminal Justice Commission

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (13/11/96)—

With reference to the Commission of Inquiry into the future role, structure, powers and operations of the Criminal Justice Commission—

- (1) What is the total expected cost of this Commission of Inquiry?
- (2) What is the expected cost of fees for Commissioner Connolly for conducting this inquiry?
- (3) What is the expected cost of fees for Commissioner Ryan for conducting this inquiry?
- (4) What is the expected cost of fees for counsel assisting the Commission of Inquiry?
- (5) With reference to the advertisement in the *Courier-Mail* of 26 October advising of the establishment of the Inquiry Legal Representation Office, what is the budget that has been provided to this office and how much of this budget can be allocated to provide legal representation for persons appearing before the Commission of Inquiry?

Mr Beanland (6/12/96):

- (1) This is unknown. As it is an independent Commission of Inquiry with wide terms of reference, the cost will depend on the length of the inquiry, the extent of hearings and the use of experts, where necessary.
- (2) The cost will depend on the length of the Inquiry. Commissioner Connolly QC will receive \$3 000 per day.
- (3) The cost will depend on the length of the Inquiry. Commissioner Ryan QC will receive \$3 000 per day.
- (4) This is unknown for the reasons stated in answer to (1) above. In any case, the Government will be required to fund the costs involved.
- (5) This cost is inextricably linked to the length and extent of the Inquiry and the number of persons examined by Counsel Assisting. The cost of representation will ultimately be borne by the Queensland Government.

1227. Better Schools Program; School Facilities, Bulimba Electorate

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Education (13/11/96)—

- (1) Will his department continue with the Better Schools Program as instigated by the Goss Labor Government; if not, why not?
- (2) What is being done to bring up to date the sub-standard class rooms, teaching facilities and administration complexes which currently exist in schools built pre-1960?
- (3) When will the class rooms, teaching facilities and administration complexes at (a) Bulimba, (b) Morningside, (c) Norman Park, (d) Murarrie, (e) Seven Hills, (f) Cannon Hill, (g) Hemmant State Schools and (h) Balmoral State High School be brought up to the present standard as required for teachers and children?
- (4) How much has been allocated for upgrading of classrooms, teaching facilities and

administration complexes at (a) Bulimba, (b) Morningside, (c) Norman Park, (d) Murarrie, (e) Seven Hills, (f) Cannon Hill, (g) Hemmant State Schools and (h) Balmoral State High School?

- (5) Have any funds been allocated in the 1996-97 Budget to do works and for what purpose at (a) Bulimba, (b) Morningside, (c) Norman Park, (d) Murarrie, (e) Seven Hills, (f) Cannon Hill, (g) Hemmant State Schools and (h) Balmoral State High School?

Mr Quinn (29/11/96):

(1) The honourable member would be aware that the Coalition Government has repeatedly stated its committed to the continuation of the Building Better Schools Program.

(2) The objective of the Building Better Schools program is to provide the best possible learning environment for students by redressing the disadvantages associated with continued use of old and inadequate facilities.

From a total budget for Building Better Schools of \$265 million, \$83.65 million has been allocated to the Classroom Upgrade Element. Further, the 1996-97 and 1997-98 Capital Works Program of the Department of Education includes projects that will upgrade administration facilities at 98 school across the State at an approximate cost of \$17.37 million.

(3) Classrooms at Bulimba State School are being upgraded in 1996-97. Classrooms at Seven Hills and Cannon Hill State School will be upgraded in 1997-98. Classrooms at Morningside, Norman Park and Hemmant State Schools will be upgraded in 1998-99. Murarrie State School has not been identified as a priority for classroom upgrade, whilst no classrooms have been identified for upgrade at Balmoral State High School, as secondary schools were not included as part of the Building Better Schools Classroom Upgrade program.

(4) The cost of classroom upgrades at the Bulimba State School is \$407,989. Funding required for classroom upgrades at Seven Hills, Cannon Hill, Morningside, Norman Park and Hemmant State Schools is yet to be addressed.

In 1994 a new administration block was constructed at Murarrie State School, whilst the 1996-97 Capital Works Program includes upgrading of the administration facilities at Bulimba State School.

(5) Funding has been allocated in the 1996-97 budget for classroom work and the provision of an additional shade structure at Bulimba State School. Funding has also been allocated for security related works at Balmoral State High School.

1230. Justices of the Peace Volunteer Program

Mr LUCAS asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (13/11/96)—

With reference to the many civic minded Queenslanders who have undertaken the work and study to become admitted as Justices of the Peace (Qualified) and the wish of many of them to use their talents and skills to serve their community—

- (1) Through how many Court Houses was the JP Volunteer Program, established by the Goss Labor Government, conducted?
- (2) With respect to the JP Volunteer Program conducted through the Maroochydore Court House, how many persons used the facilities, offered at no cost to them by the committed Justices of the Peace (Qualified) volunteers who provided their services there?
- (3) Was a meeting conducted on 15 May at the Wynnum Court House to discuss setting up a Justices of the Peace Volunteer Program for the Wynnum district?
- (4) Were the persons present Michael Bertram (Chairman of the JP Council), Kevin Doncaster (Registrar of the Wynnum Court), Joanne Miller (Executive Officer, JP Division), Bob Dunston (Coordinator for the Maroochydore JP Court House program) and local JP (Qualified) people from the Wynnum district, namely Bob Graham, Keith Jarrett, and Laurel Norris?
- (5) Was the outcome of this meeting to establish a Justice of the Peace Volunteer Program to be conducted from the Wynnum Court House?
- (6) Was he aware that these public spirited volunteer Justices of the Peace (Qualified) would be providing their services free of charge at the Wynnum Court House for those members of the public and the community who needed to avail themselves of the JPs services?
- (7) Did the public spirited volunteer Justices of the Peace (Qualified) prepare and edit (at no cost to the department or community) a practical manual to ensure consistency in service delivery of the highest standards?
- (8) Is he aware that on 23 July, a meeting was held at the Wynnum Court House to which the approximately 60 local Justices of the Peace (Qualified) were invited?
- (9) Is he aware that of that number, some 37 local Justices of the Peace were prepared to provide their services, free of charge, to the department and to the community by participating in a Justices of the Peace Volunteer Program?
- (10) When did he take the decision to disband the Justices of the Peace Volunteer Program?
- (11) Will he confirm that in a letter dated 24 September from his senior Ministerial policy adviser, David Fraser, to local Justice of the Peace (Qualified), Keith Jarrett, the sole reason provided for his decision to discontinue the JP Volunteer Program, was that: "... persons working in a voluntary role would be exposed to risks while carrying out their functions within the precincts of a Court House"?
- (12) How many, if any, physical threats were received by volunteers during the course of the Justices of the Peace Volunteer Program.
- (13) If, as his policy adviser has stated, his reason for the termination of the Justices of the Peace Volunteer Program was the security concerns with respect to volunteers, why does he

believe it is appropriate that Court staff be treated any differently with respect to such concerns?

- (14) Will he apologise to, and refund any monies paid by those Queenslanders who, in good faith and with a willingness to help their fellow Queenslanders, undertook Justices of the Peace (Qualified) training courses and who have had their attempts at serving the public clearly rebutted by his demonstrated lack of appreciation in cancelling the JP Volunteer Program?

Mr Beanland (6/12/96):

(1) A Pilot Project was established at Maroochydore. At no time had it been decided that the program would be extended to other areas. Unfortunately, when the Goss Government established the JP Volunteer Pilot Project, it failed to recognise some important issues arising from placing volunteer groups in a Magistrates Courts environment. Factors such as safety issues, independence, space availability, security, etc., were not fully considered.

(2) During the period December 1995 to April 1996 some 1,467 documents were signed or issued by the group. It should be noted that it is an offence for a JP under the Justices of the Peace and Commissioners for Declarations Act 1991 to seek any form of remuneration for carrying out their community role. Any Justice of the Peace carrying out his or her community role does so at no cost to the person who seeks their services whether they carry out that role in a Court House or elsewhere. Accordingly such services could have been provided elsewhere at no cost to the community.

(3) I understand that a meeting was organised at the Wynnum Court House to discuss establishing a JP Volunteer Group at the Wynnum Court. Senior officers of my department, however, were not made aware that the meeting was to take place. Unfortunately, arrangements were put into place even though no approval had been given to extend the program further to other Court Houses.

(4) I am informed that those persons were present.

(5) I understand that persons present at the meeting agreed to this effect.

(6) It should be noted that there are 63,000 Justices of the Peace carrying out a voluntary role in Queensland who do not seek nor are they entitled to remuneration for the community service they provide. Such services are available from a variety of venues.

(7) I understand that a Manual was prepared by Justices of the Peace at Maroochydore. However, the manual did not receive any official sanction from the department. The efforts of the Justices of the Peace in Maroochydore are greatly appreciated and they should be congratulated on their efforts during the pilot program. It is unfortunate that more consideration was not given to the complexities of establishing such a program in its initial implementation.

(8) Yes.

(9) I am aware that a number of Justices of the Peace were prepared to take part in the project. Of course, it is always pleasing to this Government to see so many people committed to providing a community role. All Justices of the Peace provide their services free of charge to the community.

(10) A review of the role of Justices of the Peace to be undertaken by the Queensland Law Reform Commission was approved by Cabinet in July 1996. It was not considered appropriate that the volunteer pilot program be extended or continued until the review is finalised. The decision to cease the pilot program was made in August 1996 after taking into consideration a number of issues which had not been previously resolved.

(11) Exposing Justice of the Peace Volunteers to danger by allowing them access to a Court House was a major concern which had not been given proper consideration by the previous Government. Whilst some tasks performed by Justices of the Peace merely involve witnessing documents, there are other instances such as satisfying the grounds for the issue of a Peace and Good Behaviour Summons, witnessing Domestic Violence Applications or issuing a Mental Health Warrant which may expose the Justice of the Peace and Court staff to unanticipated danger.

These situations contrast with other support volunteers who provide an advisory and support role to persons appearing before the Court.

There were other issues which related to the non-extension of the pilot program. Justices of the Peace act in an independent role. It may be perceived that the independence is eroded by association with the Court and staff. In the case of Maroochydore, the space occupied by the Justices of the Peace was urgently required by departmental staff who had been relocated from another area. As the Queensland Law Reform Commission is reviewing the role of Justices of the Peace, any extension or continuation of the program would be inappropriate until this independent body had completed its review.

(12) I am unaware of any physical threats.

(13) Court house staff are not treated any differently in relation to safety concerns. Counters separate staff from members of the public and access areas are secured. Obviously, in the case of staff working in the court room itself, where dangerous persons may be before the court, members of the Queensland Police Service are generally in attendance and provide a security presence. In the higher Courts, Bailiffs and Court Orderlies provide security. Staff working in Magistrates Courts, through many years of experience dealing with various members of the public, are aware of the potential dangers and have developed appropriate security strategies to deal with difficult situations.

(14) The efforts of those Justices of the Peace involved in the pilot program are very much appreciated by this Government. Similarly, so are the efforts of the rest of the 63,000 persons registered as Justices of the Peace in this State who on a daily basis provide a service to the people of Queensland.

The \$20.00 paid by Justices of the Peace to undertake training will be of benefit in fulfilling their role whether they carry out that role at home or in the precincts of a Court.

1231. Sandmining, North Stradbroke Island

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (13/11/96)—

With reference to his Ministerial Statement on 12 November concerning sand mining on North Stradbroke Island and recognising the continuing uncertainty created by his statement for mining on North Stradbroke Island—

- (1) Is there any proposal by the Government to cease mining activities on the island?
- (2) Has the department of Mines and Energy sourced substitute minerals in Queensland should mining activities cease?
- (3) Is there a strategy in place for employment opportunities in the area should mining cease?

Mr Gilmore (10/12/96):

(1) There is no proposal by the Government to cease mining activities on North Stradbroke Island. However, there is an absolute intention to see that responsible mining will be carried out on the Island and the issuing of Notices To Show Cause, when warranted, supports that intention.

(2) The Department of Mines and Energy is currently processing a mining lease application by Monto Resources Pty Ltd for the mining of mineral sands in the Burnett region. This project is not seen as a substitute for the mining of mineral sands on North Stradbroke Island. It is regarded as a project which will further strengthen Queensland's reputation as a reliable supplier of mineral sands products.

(3) The Notice To Show Cause issued on 6 November 1996 relates to only Mining Lease 1121 (the Gordon Mine). Should Stradbroke Rutile Pty Ltd's response to the Notice To Show Cause be unsatisfactory, the Minister may, under the provisions of Section 308 of the Mineral Resources Act, either cancel the Mining Lease or impose a penalty. Stradbroke Rutile Pty Ltd has until 27 November 1996 to respond.

Accordingly, the Minister is not in a position at this time to indicate whether the response is satisfactory or unsatisfactory. If the response to the Notice To Show Cause is assessed by the Minister as unsatisfactory and the mining lease is cancelled, there are other leases on North Stradbroke Island held by Stradbroke Rutile Pty Ltd which could be mined in addition to those held by other interests. Each mining project will be assessed on its merits and, apart from the Gordon Mine, are not tied to the Notice To Show Cause issued against Mining Lease 1121.

Mineral reserves on the Island are substantial enough to fulfil mining needs for a significant number of years to come. Hence, there is no need for an immediate strategy for mining employment opportunities in the area.

1234. Justices of the Peace (Qualified)

Mr WELLS asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (13/11/96)—

- (1) Is he aware of widespread concern, expressed by many inquiries to his department, at the fact that the dates of JP(Qual) exams have not yet been published?
- (2) When will he publish these dates in local newspapers across Queensland?

Mr Beanland (6/12/96):

(1) I do not know where the Member obtained this information. There have not been many inquiries to the Justice of the Peace Branch concerning examination dates for next year. There were far more inquiries by Justices of the Peace who did not know what the status of their office would be on 1 November 1996. It was apparent from these inquiries, that many JPs were oblivious to the requirements of the previous Government's program or chose not to participate, taking into consideration that more than 50% of registered JPs had not acted. Of course, the Government has rectified that situation with the recent amendments to the Justices of the Peace and Commissioners for Declarations Act 1991. Justices of the Peace who do make inquiries in relation to Justice of the Peace (Qualified) examinations are informed of the 1997 dates which have already been negotiated with TAFE and will be published next year.

(2) The examination dates will be advertised in early February 1997 and in the middle of the year. It is not necessary to advertise each examination date throughout Queensland. In the past this resulted in considerable expense, when it was apparent that those persons seeking or holding appointment as a Justice of the Peace had the ability to take note of the examination dates when they were initially published. TAFE Colleges, where the majority of examination candidates sit, advise their students of the dates of the examinations in any case. The Justice Papers also indicate the dates for examinations. Further, the Justice of the Peace Branch produces a Fact Sheet which details the examinations dates and venues.

1238. Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Region, Water Supply

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Natural Resources (13/11/96)—

With reference to serious ongoing concerns in numerous islands in the Torres Strait and in the five communities of the Northern Peninsula area regarding water supplies—

- (1) Can he detail any plans within his department to upgrade or maintain community water supplies in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula area?
- (2) Is he aware of concerns on Badu Island that a recent upgrade of their water supply completed in 1995 is already failing to meet the island's water needs; if so, what can be done to resolve these concerns?

- (3) Is he aware of the failure of the Kubin Island Council water supply currently being supplemented by emergency supplies and what steps are planned to address the long term water needs of this community?
- (4) Will he provide increased water storage in the five Northern Peninsula area communities to provide greater security of water supply in the communities during supply interruptions?

Mr Hobbs (9/12/96):

1. The Department of Local Government and Planning and the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care control the necessary funds to upgrade community water supplies in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area. My Department supports these departments in their role as requested and also provides operation and maintenance support via an Asset Management Unit (AMU) based in Cairns.

2. I am aware that the recent upgrade by the Torres Strait Regional Authority of the Badu Island bore water supply is now only providing one third of supply requirements. I understand that the Island Co-ordinating Council's consulting engineers are preparing a detailed report on future sources. The Asset Management Unit has assisted on this matter and water restrictions have been applied. Arrangements have been made to use a non-potable supply for washing purposes and the barging of potable water is about to commence.

3. I am also aware of the failure of the Kubin Island Council water supply on Moa Island. Officers of my Department's AMU have arranged for the delivery of water by barge to the Kubin community. The barging of supplies to the other community on Moa Island, the community of St. Pauls, has also commenced as that community is also experiencing water shortages. The barging of water to some of the small islands in times of drought has been a solution to supply shortages for many years.

It is my understanding that investigations to address long term water supply requirements on Moa Island have been completed. The findings of these investigations are currently being evaluated along with the needs of other islands. The Department of Local Government and Planning with the support of my Department is undertaking this work with a view to making recommendations to the State Government in the near future.

The Mabuiag Island water supply is also suffering shortages and is currently being serviced by the Asset Management Unit's mobile desalination plant. This island's water supply has been upgraded and will be operating normally following the wet season.

4. The Department of Families, Youth and Community Care is the current owner of the water supply infrastructure on the Northern Peninsula Area and is, I believe, in conjunction with the Department of Local Government and Planning investigating future infrastructure needs and management options.

1240. Tree-clearing Permits

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Natural Resources (13/11/96)—

With reference to the explosion in the approval rate for tree clearing permits in the 10 months to September—

- (1) Did the approval rate jump by more than 100 per cent in this time?
- (2) Was he aware of this and does he support it; if not, what has he done to curb it?
- (3) Which shires and which vegetation/land types are most affected by this increase?
- (4) Will this increase see an extra 76,000 hectares of native bushland lost in Central Queensland alone, and 74,000 hectares in the Charleville district?
- (5) Did he make a public pledge to a Cattleman's Union conference in late August that landholders will be able to clear at least 80 per cent of their properties?
- (6) Doesn't such a pledge made a mockery of the work of the Government's tree group?
- (7) Is he intending to heed the QCC call for a moratorium on the issuing of further tree clearing permits until the State tree group has reported?
- (8) Which tree clearing guidelines are being used by his department in issuing these new permits?

Mr Hobbs (5/12/96):

1. For the first 6 months of 1995, there was total confusion brought about by the previous Government's release of the Draft State Guidelines with the result that few permits were granted. So there is little point in comparing the early part of 1995 with 1996. A better comparison is with the last part of 1995 and the first part of 1996. The level of approvals for clearing of previously uncleared areas for the State was almost the same for the last 6 months of 1995 and the first 6 months of 1996 (107,800ha compared with 105,300ha). It should be emphasised that this is approvals only and not actual clearing.

2. The purpose of the tree clearing guidelines is to identify the limits of clearing on each land type rather than to control the rate of clearing in any particular year. Thus, there is no need to 'curb' the issuing of permits—all applications are being assessed thoroughly and in line with this Government's policies. These permits were issued also in line with the previous Government's policies.

3. Many of the permits are for the Central Highlands, where those issued for native bushland (previously uncleared) are almost totally for eucalypt types and are not for brigalow types.

4. Across the Central Queensland Shires, the permits issued do allow for substantial clearing, but there will not be 'an extra . . . 74,000 hectares of native bushland lost in the Charleville district'. Of the area approved for clearing in that area from 1/1/96 to 31/10/96, the majority has been for regrowth control, with the next most extensive area being for fodder.

5. No 'pledge' was given to the Cattleman's Union conference last August.

6. This question is based on a false premise and is therefore irrelevant.

7. There already is a moratorium on the clearing on endangered and vulnerable vegetation types identified by the Department of Environment.

The role of the State Trees Group and the whole local guidelines process is to provide a ceiling to the amount of clearing that can be done and to ensure that any clearing is soundly based from both production and conservation perspectives, as required by the Land Act.

8. Any permits that have been issued to date in 1996 have taken into consideration the Preliminary Policy established in December 1995 and specific decisions made by the State Trees Group when applications were evaluated. New local guidelines have not yet been formally endorsed.

1241. Police Sergeants, VERs

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (13/11/96)—

With reference to the Bingham Report's recommendation on police sergeants being offered Voluntary Early Retirement—

- (1) As any scheme of this kind must involve substantial one-off costs, what amount has been allowed for this cost?
- (2) If no allowance has been made in 1996-97, when and how will it be funded?
- (3) How many sergeants will be offered VERs in 1996-97?
- (4) How will the drop in police establishment numbers as a result of these VERs, be addressed, to ensure that the promised increase in police numbers is achieved?

Mr Cooper (3/12/96): The Bingham Review recommendation suggests that consideration be given to implementing a voluntary early retirement and retrenchment scheme for officers with more than 25 years service or who are within 5 years of retirement. Such a scheme would replace the existing "special arrangements".

At this stage no investigations have begun into the feasibility of such a scheme. Detailed discussions would need to be conducted with Treasury, the Government Superannuation Office, the Office of the Public Service and the respective unions before any firm proposals could be prepared. The need for legislative amendments would also need to be looked at.

Needless to say, it is far too early to be able to provide any information in response to these questions at this point.

1243. Police Resources, Gold Coast Region

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (13/11/96)—

With reference to police numbers—

- (1) What is the police to population ratio in the Gold Coast region?

- (2) What is the State average police to population ratio?
- (3) What is the police to population ratio in all other police regions in the State?
- (4) What is the police to crimes ratio in the Gold Coast region?
- (5) What is the State average police to crimes ratio?

Mr Cooper (3/12/96):

- (1) As at the 30 June 1996, the police (Sworn Officers) to population ratio for the South Eastern Police Region and its districts were:

South Eastern Region 1:697

Logan District 1:781

Gold Coast District 1:674

- (2) As at 30 June, 1996, the Queensland police (Sworn Officers) to population ratio was 1:525.

- (3) As at 30 June 1996, the police (Sworn Officers) to population ratio for all other police Districts and Regions was as follows:

Far Northern Region 1:469

Cairns 1:502

Innisfail 1:494

Mareeba 1:450

Northern Region 1:537

Mount Isa 1:337

Townsville 1:613

Central Region 1:611

Gladstone 1:722

Longreach 1:298

Mackay 1:762

Rockhampton 1:551

North Coast Region 1:831

Bundaberg 1:969

Gympie 1:682

Maryborough 1:878

Redcliffe 1:878

Sunshine Coast 1:834

Southern Region 1:663

Charleville 1:240

Dalby 1:491

Ipswich 1:689

Roma 1:415

Toowoomba 1:970

Warwick 1:639

Metropolitan North Region 1:583

Brisbane Central 1:377

North Brisbane 1:1046

Metropolitan South Region 1:786

Oxley 1:832

South Brisbane 1:732

Wynnum 1:1059

(4) As at 30 June 1996, the police to crimes ratio (ie total Person, Property and Other Offences) for the South Eastern Police Region and its districts were:

South Eastern Region 1:92

Logan District 1:90

Gold Coast District 1:99

(5) As at 30 June 1996, the police to crimes ratio (ie total Person, Property and Other Offences) for Queensland was 1:57.

1244. Police Resources, Redcliffe Police District

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (13/11/96)—

With reference to his statement on 13 November concerning the allocation of police recruits due to graduate later this month—

- (1) How does he reconcile his announcement that five graduates have been allocated to Redcliffe with his press statements of March 1995 that Redcliffe Police District required an additional 100 officers?
- (2) Was his 1995 assertion incorrect?
- (3) In the absence of any attempt to meet the implied commitment to increase police numbers in the Redcliffe Police District, why should the community believe that the Coalition Government is serious about law and order and personal safety?

Mr Cooper (3/12/96): The Coalition Government has given an undertaking to increase the strength of the Queensland Police Service by 2780 police officers over the ten year period commencing from the 1995/96 financial year. This increase includes an additional 800 police officers in the three year period from 1996/97 through to 1998/99. This financial year the overall strength of the Service is to be increased by 139 police positions.

The distribution of additional positions in the 1996/97 financial year will be made having regard for the operational policing and direct service delivery needs for the State to ensure an equitable distribution across all Police Districts. Accordingly, the funded strength of the Redcliffe Police District will be increased by an additional four police positions from the 1996/97 total allocation. This allocation will be supplemented by the addition of five Communications Room Operators to the Redcliffe District which will enable the release of additional police to full operational duties thus further enhancing the overall operational capacity of the District.

The impact of any increases as a result of this allocation is unlikely to be felt prior to June 1997 due to the time involved in recruiting and training additional officers.

The Coalition Government is committed to a steady and sustainable increase in police strengths over the ten year period to 2005 that will meet the needs of the community in the areas of law and order and personal safety.

1246. Brisbane City Watch-house

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (13/11/96)—

With reference to the Police Capital Works Program for 1996-97 and the allocation of \$200,000, for the Brisbane City Watchhouse, of an overall projected cost of \$13m—

- (1) What locations are being considered for this watchhouse?
- (2) What will the \$200,000 be spent on in 1996-97?
- (3) When will construction of this facility begin?
- (4) When is construction of this facility scheduled to be completed?
- (5) Will the centre contain a separate remand centre?
- (6) Will the facility contain or be adjacent to new or existing Magistrates Courts?

Mr Cooper (3/12/96):

(1) A contract has been entered into on the preferred site, however, it would not be appropriate to discuss the location as the contract contains a confidentiality clause.

(2) \$200,000 will be expended in the 1996-97 financial year for planning and design of the replacement watchhouse complex.

(3) An appropriate construction program is yet to be determined by the Department of Public Works and Housing, however, it is envisaged that preliminary site works will commence in the current financial year.

(4) Construction of the replacement watchhouse complex is currently planned to occur over the next two financial years.

(5) It is not proposed that the centre will contain a separate remand centre.

(6) The replacement watchhouse complex will include appropriate courts to replace existing facilities.

1247. National Park Fees

Mr FOURAS asked the Minister for Environment (13/11/96)—

With reference to his much criticised ParkPass idea—

Did the National Parks Association, a long standing and respected private conservation body, pass a vote recently, opposing ParkPass 191 votes to one?

Mr Littleproud (29/11/96): The National Parks Association has not informed me of this matter at this time.

1249. Police Resources, Ipswich Police District

Mr HAMILL asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (14/11/96)—

With reference to the Ipswich Police District and in respect to staffing levels—

- (1) What was the actual strength as at 1 January?
- (2) What is the actual strength now?
- (3) What additional staff will be allocated to the Ipswich region by 30 June 1997?
- (4) When will he deliver the 90 extra police to the Ipswich District which he stated were necessary in January 1995?

Mr Cooper (4/12/96):

- (1) The actual strength of the Ipswich Police District as at 1 January 1996 was 229.
- (2) The actual strength of the Ipswich Police District as at 1 November 1996 was 226.

The authorised strength of the Ipswich Police District is 217.

The Ipswich Police District actual strength has been above its authorised strength for some time.

(3) The Commissioner is responsible, on the advice of his senior officers, for distribution of police to various areas of the Service including the Regions. However, the Regional Assistant Commissioners are given the discretion within the number of positions allocated to their Region, to vary the proposed allocation either between Districts, Divisions or between General Duties, Traffic or Investigative functions.

The distribution of additional positions for the 1996/97 financial year throughout the State is made on the basis of operational policing and direct service delivery needs to ensure an equitable distribution across all Police Districts.

Accordingly, in comparison to all other regions, the Ipswich Police District will be allocated its fair share of first year constables. The Ipswich Police District has been allocated an additional five first year constables from the successful recruits who graduated on 29 November 1996.

This allocation will be supplemented by an allocation of five Communication Room Operators to the Ipswich Police District (as part of the civilianisation program), which will enable the release of additional police to full operational duties, thus further enhancing the overall operational capacity of the District.

Further recruit intakes are planned to graduate in February 1997, April 1997 and June 1997. Consideration by the Commissioner will be given to the equitable allocation of first year constables to all Police Districts throughout the State closer to the graduation dates.

(4) The Coalition Government has given an undertaking to increase the strength of the Queensland Police Service by 2780 police officers over the ten year period commencing from the 1995/96 financial year. This increase includes an additional 800 police officers in the three year period from 1996/97 through to 1998/99.

The successful recruits to graduate from these increased recruit intakes over the three year period from 1996/97 through to 1998/99 will be allocated

throughout the State. At this stage, it is not possible to estimate the actual number to be allocated to each Police District, including the Ipswich Police District. However, whatever the actual number will be, it will be substantially greater than any allocation under the previous Government.

1251. Mahogany Glider Habitat; Mrs V. Rick

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Environment (14/11/96)—

- (1) How much funding was allocated or available for acquisition of Mahogany Glider habitat in 1996-97?
- (2) How much has been committed or expended to date?
- (3) What properties (including owners, location, property description and area of land) are involved in this expenditure?
- (4) Which of the land areas listed in the Mahogany Glider Conservation Plan have now been acquired by the State?
- (5) Are any blocks of land (other than those listed in the Plan) to be acquired or protected from clearing in any other way; if so, what are the details of those blocks?
- (6) What were the terms of the acquisition of the property purchased from Mrs Vicky Rick and how were her concerns about a capital gains tax liability resolved?
- (7) Is Mrs Rick still playing any role on the Community Consultation Committee in relation to the Mahogany Glider?

Mr Littleproud (29/11/96):

1. \$4M State funds, \$2M Commonwealth funds and approximately \$1M carry over from 1995-96 is available for implementation of Year 2 of the Sugar Coast Environmental Rescue Package. Of this approximately \$6.68M will be spent on Mahogany Glider acquisitions.

2. Approximately 1/3 of the funding available in 1996-97 has been expended. Commercial in confidence considerations necessitate that only a broad indication be given as only one property has been purchased with funds allocated this financial year.

3. Owner J and D Jones in the Lower Tully River area being an area of 1080 ha and described as part of Lot 4 on RP 741638.

4. Part of Lot 1 on RP 741637 abt 78 ha
Part of Lot 116 on CWL 3612) abt 139 ha
Part of Lot 61 on CWL 1918)
Part of Lot 2 on RP 733261 abt 15 ha
Part of Lot 3 on RP 845305) abt 278 ha
Part of Lot 13 on RP 738989)
Part of Lot 11 on RP 738989 abt 69 ha

5. Other blocks will be acquired under the SCERP agreement other than Mahogany Glider critical habitat areas as this package is to address a range of rare and threatened species conservation needs along the coastline.

Furthermore, off-park incentives may be available to other landholders as well as those whose lands contain critical habitat to enter into voluntary conservation agreements. This will ultimately depend upon who will take advantage of the off-park conservation scheme.

6. Cash settlement was negotiated after a notice of intention to resume was issued under the Acquisition of Land Act. The issue of tax is a matter between Mrs Rick and the Australian Tax Office.

7. It is understood that Mrs Rick will not be playing a role on the Mahogany Glider Recovery Planning Team.

1252. Mining, Environmental Protection Policy

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (14/11/96)—

With reference to the EPP for Mining—

- (1) Was the engagement of a consultant to assist in developing the EPP put out to tender in accordance with requirements of Government financial standards?
- (2) What was the contract price of the consultancy?
- (3) What are the details of the work (including meetings attended and hours involved) performed by the consultant?
- (4) How much has been, or will be, paid in respect of that work?

Mr Gilmore (10/12/96): The engagement of a consultant to assist in developing the Environmental Protection Policy for the Mining and Petroleum Industries was in accordance with Part C Section 7 of the Queensland Government State Purchasing Policy. Paragraph 3.3.1(e) of the Policy provides for an exemption from the requirement to issue an invitation for competitive offers when the consultancy is of a specialist or confidential nature and it is reasonable in all circumstances for it to be undertaken by one or a limited number of consultants. The consultant has specialist skills in regard to administration and environmental management of the mining industry.

The contract price was \$20 000.

The consultancy required:

overseeing the Department's input to the Draft Environmental Protection Policy for the Mining and Petroleum Industries;

representing the Department at working group meetings concerning the EPP on 10 and 31 July 1996, and at eight other meetings between 27 June and 29 October 1996 with the parties involved;

advising the Department on issues related to the EPP, and providing a peer review of documents, submissions and strategies. This involved 54 hours of work; and

liaising with the Department, and with other agencies and interest groups as required.

A total payment of \$20 000 has been made.

1254. Frog Research

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Environment (14/11/96)—

With reference to the precarious survivability of frog populations endemic to North Queensland—

- (1) What funding was allocated to vital frog research in 1995-96?
- (2) What are the details of the research being conducted by the NPWS in 1995-96 and what frog species were the subject of this research?
- (3) What funding has been allocated from the department budget for this research in 1996-97?
- (4) What is the source and amount of private sector funding allegedly obtained to undertake further research and over what period?
- (5) What are the details of this further research and what frog species are involved?

Mr Littleproud (6/12/96):

(1) No funding was allocated specifically for frog research by the department in 1995/ 96. However, \$6000 was allocated to cover operational costs associated with the monitoring of threatened frog fauna of North Queensland.

(2) Research and conservation planning related activities carried out by, or on behalf of, the department during 1995/96 were:

Declining Frogs of Queensland and Northern NSW: This project involved a number of subcomponents which included research on diseases to ascertain causal factors in the decline of frogs and the community ecology of stream dwelling frogs. The project was undertaken by researchers from James Cook University.

Southeast Queensland Frog Recovery Plan: This project which commenced in 1995/96 and is continuing into this financial year involves the preparation of management documents.

Wet Tropics and mid-east Queensland Recovery Plan: This project commenced in 1994/95 and continued through 1995/96 and involved the preparation of management documents. The project was funded by ANCA.

The species studied includes: *Rheobatrachus silus*, *R. vitellinus*, *Taudactylus acutirostris*, *T. diurnus*, *T. eungellensis*, *T. liemi*, *T. rheophilus*, *Litoria chloris*, *L. genimaculata*, *L. lesueuri*, *L. lorica*, *L. nannotis*, *L. pearsoniana*, *L. nyakalensis*, *L. revelata*, *L. rheocola*, *Nyctimystes dayi*, *Rheobatrachus vitellinus*, *Mixophyes fasciolatus* *M. iteratus*, and *M. fleayi*.

(3) No funding has been allocated for the 1996/97 financial year from the departmental Budget. However, it should be recognised that significant activities in this area are occurring through externally funded efforts.

(4) No private sector funding was obtained; nor was there any claim made to that effect.

(5) See (4).

1256. Criminal Activity, Kirwan

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (14/11/96)—

With reference to an incident at about 1am on Sunday, 10 November, where a gang of youths were stopping vehicles in the vicinity of the intersection of Charles Street and Bamford Lane, Kirwan, damaging those cars and frightening the occupants—

As this is the latest in a series of criminal activities by a gang or gangs operating in this location, what action is the police taking to again make the area safe for law abiding citizens?

Mr Cooper (3/12/96): The incident in question was a fight between white and aboriginal youths which was curtailed by the arrival of the police.

A number of the youths were apparently assaulted during the fight but none wished to make complaints to the police.

No reports of damage to vehicles or threats to any other member of the public were made to the police.

Police patrols are continuing, with particular attention being given to persons loitering or gangs congregating in this area. If offences are detected or reported, then appropriate action will be taken.

1257. Mr M. McKenzie; Danpork

Mr MILLINER asked the Minister for Economic Development and Trade and Minister Assisting the Premier (14/11/96)—

Did Mr Malcolm McKenzie, General Manager of Danpork Australia, attend a meeting with him and/or senior officers of his department accompanied by a Queen's Counsel with the expressed or implied threat of suing the State Government for allowing the QAC to continue to maintain their pre-eminence as the largest slaughterer of pigs in Queensland after inviting Danpork to establish themselves at Warwick in Queensland?

Mr Slack (10/12/96): Mr Malcolm McKenzie, General Manager of DanPork Australia attended a meeting with me on 17 July 1996. He was accompanied by a director of the company who happens to be a lawyer, but not a QC, and a colleague of the director. The colleague is also a lawyer, though not a QC. He is an acquaintance of mine who came along to introduce Mr McKenzie and the director.

There was neither an express nor an implied threat to sue the State Government.

The company was seeking information regarding the Government's future direction with regard to Queensland Abattoir Corporation. The company expressed an opinion that Governments should not be involved in the commercial aspects of meat processing; the same view expressed in the Report of the Queensland Commission of Audit finalised by Mr Fitzgerald and his colleagues in June 1996.

The Queensland Government did not "invite" DanPork to establish at Warwick.

1272. Aldoga; Comalco

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Economic Development and Trade and Minister Assisting the Premier (14/11/96)—

With reference to residents in the Gladstone/Calliope region who were, during the past 4 years (approximately), required to accept a great deal of instability and uncertainty while the land use study was completed. This study identified Aldoga (6,000ha) as a heavy industry area—

- (1) At what point will this area be used for its identified purpose?
- (2) What pro-active steps will be taken to offer incentives to industry to locate to the site?
- (3) With Comalco seeking an appropriate location and Aldoga purchased for heavy industry, why cannot Comalco be allocated a site on this industry area?

Mr Slack (10/12/96):

(1) Planning for the State Development Area (SDA) at Aldoga was undertaken on the basis that it would provide a long term land bank for the future siting of major industry in the Gladstone area. Recent interest in industrial sites at Gladstone suggests that, whilst Aldoga might be required sooner than expected, it is still a longer term proposition.

To date, proponents of major industrial projects in the area have, understandably, shown a preference for sites closer to the Port than the Aldoga SDA. The number of such sites is, however, limited by such factors as topography and airshed capacity. In this context, Aldoga will be available as a land bank to ensure that the industrial development of the Gladstone area can continue well into the future.

(2) Financing of infrastructure will be addressed through the preparation of a Scheme of Development which will commence early in 1997. This will provide an opportunity to develop strategies to assist 'pioneer' industries at Aldoga through the provision of critical infrastructure if necessary.

(3) The Comalco Plant will require major imports and exports of bulk materials through the Port of Gladstone. If a suitable commercially attractive site can be found closer to the Port than Aldoga, and other planning conditions can be satisfied, then it is consistent with the concept of Aldoga as a long term land bank that the Comalco refinery site be sited outside the SDA. Some concern has been expressed about the effect of the proposed refinery on the airshed if it is located at Yarwun. However, in view of the firm's intention to fuel its plant with natural gas, sulphurous emissions will be drastically reduced and airshed capacity should not be a limiting factor in the siting of this installation. If suitable land cannot be located, the SDA at Aldoga will be an alternative location for Comalco's consideration.

1273. Police Resources, Rockhampton

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (14/11/96)—

With reference to the 4 extra police promised for Rockhampton in his Ministerial Statement on 13 November—

- (1) When will these police take up their positions?
- (2) Will he assure the people of Rockhampton that these police will be stationed in Rockhampton and not be allocated to Yeppoon or the Capricorn Coast?
- (3) Will the number of patrols around Rockhampton be increased as a result of this announcement?
- (4) Will the placement of these staff in the Rockhampton enable a 24 hour 'shop front' in the Rockhampton Mall?

Mr Cooper (4/12/96):

- (1) The anticipated arrival date of the four first year constables is 6 December 1996.
- (2) As these officers will be in their first year of training, they will perform general duties and work in some other sections whilst based at Rockhampton and North Rockhampton Stations. It is not proposed for these officers to be stationed anywhere other than Rockhampton or North Rockhampton. Consideration may be given, however, to transfers to other stations following the completion of their 12 month training period.
- (3) As Rockhampton Police Station is a designated training station, the number of officers available to perform patrol duty continually fluctuates. Whilst patrol duties vary in accordance with rostering and resource demands to best meet service delivery requirements, the newly allocated officers will enhance the number of police available for deployment purposes.
- (4) The Shopfront operation in the Rockhampton Mall is a local policing initiative undertaken within existing District resources to provide higher level community access to police and provide beat patrols in the Mall and adjacent areas. There are no plans to establish a twenty-four hour policing service from the existing Shopfront facility in the Mall.

The four first year constables have been allocated to Rockhampton for the primary purpose of training during their first twelve months.

1274. Police Resources, South-eastern Police Region

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (14/11/96)—

With reference to the total increase of 139 police officers for Queensland in 1996-97 and in view of the fact that the Queensland Police Service Statistical Review 1995-96 shows that the South-Eastern Police Region has the highest rate of crime in Queensland for (a) offences against property, (b) breaking and entering, (c) breaking and entering—dwellings, (d) breaking and entering—shops, (e) breaking and entering—other premises, (f) arson, (g) other property damage, (h) motor vehicle theft and (i) stealing (including motor vehicles—

How many of these 139 additional police officers does the South-Eastern Region require to be able to

perform its function effectively and address these unacceptable levels of crime?

Mr Cooper (4/12/96): The distribution of additional positions for the 1996/97 financial year throughout the State is made on the basis of operational policing and direct service delivery needs to ensure an equitable distribution across all Police Districts.

Accordingly, in comparison to all other regions, the South Eastern Region has been allocated its fair share of first year constables. The South Eastern Region will be allocated an additional 35 police positions from the 1996/97 total allocation of 139.

This allocation will be supplemented by an allocation of 16 Communication Room Operators to the South Eastern Region (as part of the civilianisation program), which will enable the release of additional police to full operational duties, thus further enhancing the overall operational capacity of the Region.

1277. Community Rainforest Reafforestation Program

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Natural Resources (14/11/96)—

- (1) What funding was allocated to tree planting projects under the Community Rainforest Reafforestation Program in 1995-96?
- (2) What funding has been allocated to the program for 1996-97?
- (3) How much has the Federal Government allocated for the program for 1996-97?
- (4) Will the State Government match Federal Government funding; if not, why not?

Mr Hobbs (5/12/96):

1. In 1995/96 the Community Rainforest Reforestation Program was divided into two (2) sections: one (1) including the eleven (11) local governments from Townsville to Cooktown; the other in the Mackay Proserpine area.

In the Townsville to Cooktown area \$1.5M of State funds, \$1.15M of Federal Government funds and \$55,000 of Local Government funds were allocated in 1995/96.

In the Mackay Proserpine area, \$617,000 of State funds were allocated in 1995/96 and \$20,000 from Local Government.

2. In 1996/97, the State funding for Townsville to Cooktown was reduced to \$1M, being provided equally by the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry. Because of long term benefit flows, the private sector is being encouraged to contribute more tree growing for commercial purposes on private land. The funding from Department of Primary Industries is to be directed primarily to commercial plantings.

In the Mackay Proserpine area the State funds for 1996/97 have been reduced to \$260,000 for 1996/97.

3. The Federal Government has allocated \$2M over four (4) years starting in 1996/97. The exact 1996/97 allocation has not yet been determined.

4. The State Government has undertaken to at least match the Federal Government funding over four (4) years commencing 1996/97.

1279. Water Supply, Caboolture Shire

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Natural Resources (14/11/96)—

With reference to the overwhelming rejection by ratepayers of Caboolture Shire of the recycling of treated sewage water for human consumption—

- (1) Will he guarantee that the Government will not seek to coerce the Caboolture Shire Council into taking action not supported by the ratepayers of the shire?
- (2) How will the South-East Queensland Water Board ensure an adequate supply of water for the needs of the people resident in the rapidly growing Caboolture Shire?

Mr Hobbs (5/12/96):

1. The Caboolture Shire Council is planning to upgrade the treatment facilities at its Caboolture South wastewater plant. Based on an initial investigation, the Council decided to construct a water reclamation plant to meet the environmental needs of the Caboolture River, discharging extremely high quality effluent downstream of the Caboolture Weir.

Because of poor raw water quality in the Caboolture Weir, shortages of supply from North Pine Dam at times of blue-green algae blooms and future requirements by the Department of Environment in relation to discharging effluent into the river near Caboolture, Council is considering a long term option for the potable reuse of highly treated effluent, either by direct or indirect means. I am aware the Council is carrying out extensive community consultation with public meetings and mailouts to every ratepayer.

The Council has formed a steering committee with representatives from the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Environment and the Department of Health to oversee the project, setting standards of treatment and overseeing the monitoring program.

Any scheme for potable reuse would only be supported if it can be adequately demonstrated that it would have no significant adverse health, environmental or social effects. The department's role will be to guide local governments towards making responsible decisions in regard to water conservation and infrastructure development, not to direct that they take a particular course of action.

2. Both the South East Queensland Water Board and Caboolture Shire Council are participants in a study, co-sponsored by the Department of Natural Resources and the South East Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils, to determine the options for supplying water to south east Queensland's growing population well into the next century.

One of the objectives of the study is to determine the long term sources of supply in the study area.

The Board is currently reviewing the yield available from its existing storages, and awaiting the outcome of the study before determining its long term strategy.

1280. Police Resources, Mount Gravatt Electorate

Ms SPENCE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (14/11/96)—

With reference to his Ministerial Statement on 13 November wherein he indicated that 19 extra police would be provided to the Metropolitan South Region—

- (1) How many of the 19 will be deployed at the Mt Gravatt and Holland Park Police Stations?
- (2) How many extra police patrols will be provided throughout the Mt Gravatt electorate as a result of this announcement?
- (3) When will the extra police take up duties?
- (4) How many of the 117 new police officers are women?

Mr Cooper (4/12/96):

(1) Seven of the 19 police will be deployed to the South Brisbane District, six to the Oxley District and six to the Wynnum District. Of the seven to the South Brisbane District, one will be stationed at Upper Mount Gravatt Division and one at the Holland Park Division.

(2) As the greater part of the Mount Gravatt electorate falls within the Upper Mount Gravatt and Holland Park Police Divisions, there will be two extra police in that electorate. This will not create any extra patrols, but will reduce the workload of other police.

(3) These police were sworn in at a ceremony on 29 November and commenced duty on 2 December 1996.

(4) The final figures for police qualifying and being sworn in was 109, of which 39 were females.

1283. Watch-houses, Upgrading

Mr LIVINGSTONE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (14/11/96)—

With reference to his intention to upgrade a number of existing watchhouses State wide in 1996-97 and also to his frequently expressed concern in previous years of the State health services in watchhouses—

- (1) Which watchhouses will be upgraded in 1996-97?
- (2) Is the best we can hope for, with regard to providing adequate medical assistance, that we will see trials conducted at only 12 watchhouses across the State based on the Cairns clinic, which has been operating for approximately 12 months?

- (3) If the Cairns clinic has operated successfully, why is there a need to conduct yet further trials before implementing these health reforms in watchhouses?

Mr Cooper (4/12/96):

(1) Planning for upgrading of watchhouses covers two aspects—(a) capital works for replacement or new facilities at specific locations; and (b) expenditure of a general nature to cover general improvements. In regard to (a), the capital works program for 1996/97 includes new and/or replacement watchhouses being provided at:

Bundaberg District HQ and Watchhouse
 Doomadgee Station and Watchhouse and Residence
 Emerald Station and Watchhouse
 Hervey Bay Station and Watchhouse
 Mackay replacement District HQ and Watchhouse
 Rockhampton Watchhouse
 Southport Watchhouse

Replacement of the Brisbane City Watchhouse is part of a joint project by the Department of Public Works and Housing, the Department of Justice and the Queensland Police Service. The replacement watchhouse facility will provide 100 bed accommodation (50 double cells) and have three Courts attached. Cost has been estimated at \$24.0M.

In regard to (b), a watchhouse upgrade program has been developed which, over a number of financial years, will address the significant areas of physical upgrading, electronic security and surveillance, and airconditioning.

This program specifically targets watchhouses (not holding cells).

In 1996/97, an amount of \$1.7M has been allocated to initiating a number of new projects, as well as to completing projects begun in 1995/96. While some of the new projects will be completed this financial year, others will be in various stages of documentation and construction and may not be completed until the next financial year.

The watchhouses to which funds for this purpose have been allocated in the 1996/97 financial year are:

Beenleigh, Biloela, Charleville, Cunnamulla, Dalby, Goondiwindi, Holland Park, Ipswich, Kingaroy, Longreach, Palm Island, Pormpuraaw, Proserpine, Roma, St George, Stanthorpe, Townsville, Woorabinda, Yarrabah

(2) and (3) \$240,000 has been allocated in the 1996/97 Queensland Health budget to establish nursing services in major watchhouses. This initiative is not classified as a trial but rather the progressive implementation of health services in watchhouses using the experience that has been gained from the Cairns clinic. Nevertheless each new step in the implementation plan will be monitored and assessed to ensure arrangements are effective and able to satisfy local requirements.

It is proposed that this recurrent funding be used to provide a nursing clinic, for two hours a day, to screen and assess prisoners, provide treatment of minor injuries, dispense medication, and refer prisoners to a Government Medical Officer if required. Other duties will include education and training for watchhouse staff and assisting in the establishment of appropriate medical systems.

Representatives from Queensland Health and the Queensland Police Service are currently working on the implementation plan to introduce this medical support service in the near future. The implementation of the nursing service scheme for major watchhouses will be undertaken in three stages:

introduction of a nursing service at the Brisbane City Watchhouse is to be progressed as a matter of priority as the first stage;

introduction of the nursing scheme into one watchhouse in each police region;

introduction of the scheme into other major watchhouses, in order of need, subject to the availability of funding.

Consultation is taking place at regional and local levels in order to ensure that a coordinated service is provided, tailored to suit local needs and resources. This will include an assessment of:

which watchhouses to include in the scheme;

the method of service delivery;

availability of appropriate service providers; and
 the cost of service.

The nursing presence in major watchhouses is part of an holistic, coordinated approach to providing medical care for watchhouse prisoners which, in addition to initial aid administered by local watchhouse staff and cell visitors, includes the services provided by Government Medical Officers or other doctors, ambulance, hospital, drug and alcohol abuse treatment and referral agencies.

Queensland Health has advised that it was important that an appropriately equipped medical room be available at each watchhouse. Six of the twelve major watchhouses already have a medical room, some of which may require minor work to upgrade them to the required standards. Conversions of existing rooms will be required for the other watchhouses.

1305. Carnarvon National Park; Oasis Tourist Lodge

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Environment (26/11/96)—

With reference to funding for the management of Carnarvon National Park—

(1) Was an additional \$170,000 found in recent weeks to supplement this park's budget for 1996-97?

(2) Where did this money come from?

(3) To what purpose has it been directed in Carnarvon National Park?

- (4) Is it purely coincidental that this additional funding was found for Carnarvon National Park at almost the same time that the nearby Oasis Tourist Lodge was taken over by a company headed by Sir Frank Moore, a prominent National Party identity?

Mr Littleproud (6/12/96):

- (1) An additional \$190,000 has been recently allocated to the Carnarvon Gorge section of Carnarvon National Park.
- (2) This money was re-directed to the Park from the Department of Environment's Administrative Works Program appropriation.

- (3) The funds will be used to construct two new composting toilet systems.

- (4) The re-direction of funds in this instance has been necessary due to the manifestation of serious effluent disposal problems associated with existing, dysfunctional septic disposal systems at the Park.

This work is an integral component of a much broader redevelopment plan for visitor and management infrastructure at this Park. However, as serious performance standards with the existing effluent disposal systems have been identified, the work schedule for this element of the redevelopment plan has been brought forward as a matter of priority.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**1182. Robertson State School**

Ms SPENCE asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (12/11/96)—

- (1) Has his department made a grant to the Robertson State School for the purpose of building a multi-purpose school hall; if so, how much is the grant?
- (2) On what basis did this project qualify for funding from his department?

Mr Veivers (12/12/96):

(1) The Robertson State School has been approved departmental assistance of \$300,000 under the 1996 National Standard Sport Facilities Program for the construction of a gymnastics facility that will provide for national and international competition and training.

(2) At present the only facility that provides for this level of competition and training is located at the Sleeman Complex at Chandler. The Robertson State School project will provide an alternative venue for the sports of gymnastics and trampolining within the South East Queensland region. The project qualified for funding on the basis that the application demonstrates that it meets a community need and has support from the State Associations of Gymnastics and Trampolining. The project will allow the conduct of programs for equity groups and in particular girls.

1184. Winton-Hughenden Rail Line

Mr GIBBS asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (12/11/96)—

With reference to the Winton to Hughenden Rail Line—

- (1) Was any CSO paid for 1995-96; if so, how much?
- (2) What is the estimated CSO requirement to support services on this line for 1996-97?
- (3) Is this separate from the on-going maintenance requirement of \$2.1m in CSO payments?
- (4) Has he authorised expenditure of \$3m which he has identified as necessary for the line to remain open?
- (5) How many staff are employed in maintaining the line?
- (6) Where are they based?
- (7) What are their salary levels and are they permanent or contract staff?
- (8) Would extra staff need to be brought in to assist in the work associated with the \$3m up front expenditure; if so, how many and from where?
- (9) Has he promised the people of Winton and Hughenden to keep the line open regardless of patronage levels; if not, at what levels of patronage would the line be in danger?

Mr Johnson (12/12/96):

(1) Queensland Rail's Freight group was paid \$97.33 million in 1995/96 as a general CSO. No separate

allocation was made for the Winton to Hughenden line.

(2 & 3) The estimated CSO requirements to support the service is \$3 million to return QR's infrastructure to normal B Class operation and \$1.2 million for ongoing annual infrastructure maintenance costs and \$900,000 for costs above revenue of running the limited service. This represents a total of \$5.1 million of CSO to support the service for 1996/97.

(4) No, I have not authorised this expenditure.

(5) Twelve staff are employed for the purpose of maintaining the line.

(6) In relation to works associated with bridges—2 employees are based at Hughenden and 2 are based at Longreach. Staff associated with trackwork—there are 2 employees based at Longreach, 4 at Hughenden and 4 at Winton.

(7) Salary levels are \$28,000—\$30,000 per year for these employees and all staff are permanent.

(8) Yes, extra staff would be required and their home station would be Barcaldine. Twenty staff would be required to look after trackwork, and ten staff for bridgework.

(9) The Coalition does not plan to close any lines.

1185. Robertson Gymnastics Club

Mr ELDER asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (12/11/96)—

With reference to the Robertson Gymnastics Club's successful application for funding for a National Standard gymnastics facility—

- (1) When was the initial application submitted to the department?
- (2) Will he provide details of the application?
- (3) Did the application fall wholly within any departmental guidelines for the granting of such applications?
- (4) Did the department recommend approval to him or did he directly approve the grant himself?
- (5) When was he first made aware of the application?
- (6) Was this application treated similarly to other applications?
- (7) When was final approval given to the project?
- (8) What contribution to the facilities will be made by community organisations or groups other than his department and what will the total cost be?
- (9) Which officers of the club submitted the application?

Mr Veivers (12/12/96):

(1) The original application was received in the Office of Sport and Recreation on 28 November 1995.

(2) The Robertson State School project will essentially provide for a gymnastics facility that will allow national and international competition and training to be conducted at the facility. The State Trampolining Association also has made a

commitment to use the facility. The facility will also accommodate other users such as martial arts, dance groups and diving groups (dryland training). The project will provide for use by students as well as be available to the community.

(3) As with all applications under the National Standard Sport Facilities Program, a resource agreement will be drawn up to ensure compliance with guidelines. The Robertson Gymnastics Club's application has a number of issues to be clarified, including confirmation of approval from the Education Department.

(4) The application was initially unsuccessful and the applicant was advised accordingly. A further proposal by the Robertson Gymnastics Club was subsequently submitted to me for consideration and departmental approval was based on this later proposal.

(5) June 1996

(6) The application was treated in a similar fashion to a number of other applications, in that these applications were initially deemed unsuccessful. However, on further consideration and the provision of additional information the applications were approved. Approved projects will only proceed after they have demonstrated that they meet the eligibility criteria, are financially viable, meet a demonstrated community need, are a regional priority, and a Resource Agreement is signed by both parties.

(7) Final approval was given to the project in September 1996 and this was announced at the time of the State Budget along with a number of other projects.

(8) Contributions to the facility from the P&C Association total \$90,000 to date with a further \$30,000 being pledged. The School has launched an appeal for another \$500,000 through parents and local businesses. The total cost of the facility has been estimated at \$1,250,000, although detailed cost statements are yet to be provided.

(9) The original application was submitted by Mr Mark Lowe, President Robertson Gymnastics Club, and Mr Ross Harvey, Principal, Robertson State School and Chair, Fundraising Committee.

1189. Public Housing, Sandgate

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (12/11/96)—

With reference to a number of complaints from residents in the public housing senior units at 41 Fifth Avenue, Sandgate regarding the security of their property and, in particular, their motor vehicles, following a rapid increase in the number of break and enters and theft of motor vehicles in the tenants car park, and as the Member representing the people of Sandgate electorate, and particularly the older residents in the community, it distresses me greatly to hear of these acts of crime and to know that the Department of Public Works and Housing does not appear to have the funds available to provide adequate security for its tenants and as I am aware that departmental officers have visited the premises and advised that there is presently no funds available

to undertake the type of work required to provide adequate security for the tenants' motor vehicles—

- (1) Has he been made aware of this appalling situation?
- (2) Had money been budgeted in 1995-96 to carry out substantial work at the above address, namely to undertake a refurbishment of the units and to erect appropriate and adequate security measures for the tenants; if so, is he able to explain why the funds that were earmarked for an upgrade of 41 Fifth Avenue, Sandgate were withdrawn when his Government took office?
- (3) Further, will he advise where those funds have been diverted to?
- (4) Is he prepared to give an assurance to the residents of 41 Fifth Avenue, that his department will be taking action during 1996-97 to remedy this appalling situation?

Mr Connor (12/12/96):

- (1) My Department was made aware of security and privacy issues associated with the 41 Fifth Avenue site through consultation with the residents of the unit block. A Site Upgrade Project to address these issues was approved on 9 January 1996, and was completed before the end of the financial year.
- (2) Yes, money was not withdrawn.
- (3) Refer to answer two (2) above.
- (4) Refer to answer two (2) above.

1190. Fraser Island

Mr NUNN asked the Minister for Environment (12/11/96)—

With reference to the management of Fraser Island—

Since February 1996 (a) what upgrading of camping grounds and picnic areas has been carried out, (b) have any national park walking tracks been established, (c) have any tree planting or restoration programs been carried out, (d) what resource surveys have been carried out and (e) what road and track maintenance has been carried out?

Mr Littleproud (12/12/96): It is interesting that the Honourable Member should ask such a question, since the Labor Government of which he was a member left a legacy of neglect on Fraser Island. This was despite the tens of millions of dollars which went towards the region in the Fraser Island / Great Sandy Package. However, the Coalition Government is coming to terms with the situation it inherited.

Since February 1996 Fraser Island management undertaken in relation to the specific queries include:

- (a) Upgrading of camping grounds and picnic areas
 - improvement of amenities at Lake Boomanjin, Lake McKenzie and Central Station campgrounds and day use areas
 - planning for redevelopment of interpretive displays at Central Station.
- (b) Establishment of walking tracks
 - major upgrading of the Central Station-Pile Valley walking track

draft prepared of a Fraser Island Walking Track Management Plan, to provide a strategic basis to establishment of new tracks.

(c) Tree planting or restoration

rehabilitation of Lake McKenzie day use visitor facilities and the lakeshore environment has been commenced

a program of improved camping management has been implemented on the east coast, focussing on signage of creeks and exclusion of camping from sensitive areas

construction of a plant nursery at Eurong has commenced.

(d) Resource surveys undertaken

a comprehensive survey of natural hydrological and geomorphological values and processes of Fraser Island fens is under way utilising grant funding

a natural resource assessment of Dundonga Creek catchment on the west coast, north of Kingfisher Bay Resort Village is under way

implementation of an extensive program of surveying flora across 60 fire monitoring plots

continued incidental surveying of fauna.

(e) Road and track maintenance

maintenance of strategic visitor access roads has continued;

a new access track has been constructed near Moon Point, to allow improved access for vehicles from that barge service.

1192. Orchid Beach Airstrip

Mr BEATTIE asked the Premier (12/11/96)—

With reference to his plans to re-open the Orchid Beach airstrip on Fraser Island using funds from the Treasurer's \$250m slush fund—

- (1) How does he justify this decision at the same time as his Environment Minister is closing a similar airstrip on South Stradbroke Island?
- (2) How much is the re-opening of the Orchid Beach airstrip going to cost the taxpayer?
- (3) Does he only intend to fund the Orchid Beach airstrip for two years, after which time local residents will be responsible for all maintenance, insurance and administrative costs associated with its operation?
- (4) Why is the South Stradbroke Island strip being closed?
- (5) What consultation occurred with users of this strip prior to its closure?

Mr Borbidge (12/12/96):

(1) Firstly, funds for re-opening of the Orchid Beach airstrip were not from the "Treasurer's \$250m slush fund" as claimed, but from other departmental sources. In the public interest, decisions regarding the need for airstrips at Orchid Beach on Fraser Island and South Stradbroke Island were taken according to the merits of each case.

In regard to Orchid Beach which is a remote location for the provision of medical evacuation services, re-opening the airstrip was considered appropriate in view of the inability to rely solely on the possibility of landing emergency aircraft on the beach.

On the other hand, the South Stradbroke Island airstrip, used mainly by ultra-light aircraft, posed a public safety hazard as well as raising environmental concerns.

(2) Funding to a maximum of \$190,000 will be made available in 1996/97 to meet the capital cost of reinstatement and \$65,000 maintenance costs for the first two years.

(3) Negotiations are currently taking place between the Hervey Bay City Council, other interested parties and the Department of Environment regarding the re-opening and operation of the Orchid Beach airstrip. It is the Government's intention that any contractual arrangement for the operation of the airport will be long term in nature, subject to renegotiation at agreed intervals.

(4) The decision has been made because of potential safety hazards of aircraft using the Stradbroke Island airstrip as an informal landing field. The area is regularly traversed by pedestrians and difficulty exists in hearing the approach of ultra-light aircraft, particularly during windy conditions. The environmental concerns include the site's location close to sea bird roosts and nesting sites which the Department of the Environment has an obligation to protect under the RAMSAR Convention.

(5) Consultation on the closure of this strip occurred with the Albert Shire Council and the Gold Coast City Council. Relevant aircraft clubs and commercial operators have been advised of its closure.

1193. Community Rent Schemes

Mr HAMILL asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (12/11/96)—

With reference to concerns raised by the various community rent schemes as to their future under the new arrangements under the Commonwealth/State Housing Agreement—

- (1) Will he maintain the level of funding to these valuable community rent schemes?
- (2) Will he increase the level of funding to those organisations to meet the additional administration costs of those organisations as a consequence of the handing down of the Social and Community Services Award?

Mr Connor (12/12/96):

(1) Funding to Community Rent Scheme (CRS) funded organisations has been approved until February 1997. These organisations have been asked to make submissions to the Community Housing Grants Board for consideration of variations to their funding level. Funding of CRS organisations beyond 1996/97 will be considered in the context of changes to the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement, which are still being negotiated.

(2) All applications for funding will be considered by the Community Housing Grants Board.

1194. Integrated Regional Transport Plan

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (12/11/96)—

With reference to the Draft Integrated Regional Transport Plan and the deadline for the receipt of comments from the general public and other interested sections of the community which expired on 31 October—

- (1) How many submissions were received by Queensland Transport commenting on the draft IRTP by 31 October?
- (2) How many of these submissions specifically referred to the proposed investigation of options and the preservation of corridors for a freight rail system in the general area of the Gateway Motorway?
- (3) How many of these submissions specifically expressed concerns about the impact of a freight rail line on residential areas in the electorate of Sunnybank?
- (4) How many of these submissions expressed concerns about the impact of a freight rail line on the Karawatha forest?
- (5) How many of these submissions expressed support for a freight rail line to be built in the general area of the Gateway Motorway?

Mr Johnson (12/12/96):

(1) 186 written submissions were received on the draft IRTP by 31 October. By early December further written submissions had arrived, bringing the total to 492 written submissions. Additional submissions may still arrive.

It should be pointed out that approximately 22 500 people made unprompted comments in favour of increasing the use of freight rail during consultation on the 1995 Discussion Paper. As part of this major planning exercise, these people were expressing their considered views on what future transport system they wanted for South East Queensland. People wanted a major role for freight rail.

(2) 298 submissions referred to the proposed investigation of options for a freight rail system in the general area of the Gateway Motorway.

It is important to note that 217 of these were petition-type letters produced by local action groups:

most of which had simply been photocopied;

many of the people who signed the form letters did not put their address on them;

Queensland Transport officers following-up IRTP submissions found that some people who had signed form letters had no idea what the IRTP was; and

none of the form letters made reference to any of the other crucial policy reforms, actions and proposals in the draft IRTP.

It is only natural that people should react to developments that may affect their "back yards". While it is fortunate that people have had the opportunity to consider these long-term transport options at such an early stage, it should be stressed

that a study of rail freight options is only one out of 124 actions in the IRTP.

(3) 59 submissions expressed concerns about the impact of a freight rail line on residential areas including the electorate of Sunnybank. Once again these were largely petition type form letters (at least 20 out of 59—Attached Type II).

(4) 223 submissions expressed concerns about the impact of a freight rail line on Karawatha forest—but 90% of these consisted of the same form letter (Attached Type I).

Two of these supported a freight rail line as long as it could avoid Karawatha. One of these was from the Queensland Conservation Council who supported the need to move more freight by rail, provided the rail corridors avoided areas of high conservation value such as Karawatha.

(5) 12 submissions expressed support for a freight rail line in the general area of the Gateway Motorway. Several of these were from representative local governments and business groups.

1195. Food Poisoning, Cairns Flights

Mrs BIRD asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry (12/11/96)—

With reference to the public relations disaster that Queensland tourism currently faces in South East Asia as a result of the food poisoning of approximately 100 people on four different flights out of Cairns—

- (1) What actions has he taken to address this matter in South East Asia?
- (2) What funding is he directing to these programs?
- (3) What are the results of investigations to date to trace the source of the offending chocolate sauce?
- (4) How did health and hygiene regulations fail so badly to allow such an occurrence?
- (5) Have these regulations been overhauled; if not, why not?
- (6) Is there any likelihood of a prosecution proceeding against anyone over this incident?

Mr Davidson (12/12/96):

(1) Immediately upon hearing of the food poisoning issue I contacted the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation to request that its Tokyo office monitor media coverage and trade opinion regarding this incident. Tokyo reported back to my office on a regular basis as to the impact of the incident. My office liaised closely with Queensland Health and QANTAS to ensure that correct information surrounding the incident was communicated to the media as soon as possible.

(2) The general opinion of the reports received by my office stated that despite the wide coverage the incident received in Japanese media, it was accepted by the travel trade and consumers that the incident was isolated and that Queensland's reputation as a safe and desirable holiday destination was not damaged. This opinion is backed up by recent

reports from Japan Travel Bureau. The *Courier-Mail* (12.12.96) quoted a JTB spokeswoman as saying that the food poisoning had nothing to do with a trend in Japanese travel away from Australia, and she attributed the drop-off in growth rates to "simply a cycle". As a result of reports such as this it is the opinion of the QTTC and the travel trade that there is no need to mount any specific campaign in Japan to counter the food poisoning incident. I have taken this advice.

(3) This question should be directed to the Minister for Health.

(4) This question should be directed to the Minister for Health.

(5) This question should be directed to the Minister for Health.

(6) This question should be directed to the Minister for Health.

1196. Oil and Tyre Levy; Motor Vehicle Services Program

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (12/11/96)—

With reference to the introduction of new taxes on oil and tyres in the State Budget—

(1) What provisions, if any, have been made for the costs of these taxes to the Motor Vehicle Services Program?

(2) Will these costs be met from Q-Fleet's budget allocation or will they be incurred by individual departments?

Mr Connor (12/12/96):

(1) The new environmental levy will have little additional cost to Q-Fleet. This cost spread over some 11,000 vehicles will equate to an additional cost of approximately \$85,000 per year or approximately 63 cents per month per vehicle.

(2) When the scheme is introduced the cost of the tyre and oil tax will be met by Q-Fleet for all vehicles that were on lease to departments at the time the tax was introduced. As vehicles are being replaced, the cost of the tax, based on the estimated usage of tyres and oil, will be included in the monthly lease fee and paid by departments.

1200. Pacific Highway

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (12/11/96)—

With reference to the disastrous up-grading of the Pacific Highway—

What action is being taken to minimise delays, accidents and chaos during the forthcoming summer holiday period of December and January, particularly the section between Brisbane and Beenleigh?

Mr Johnson (12/12/96): In relation to the current six-lane widening of the Pacific Highway in Logan City by John Holland Construction and Engineering Pty Ltd, the current date for completion under the contract conditions is 8 January 1997; however, Hollands currently is accelerating the

works on-site by working seven days per week and twenty four hour operations on weekdays, in a concentrated effort to complete the works on the main carriageways by Christmas 1996.

In any case the widening works on the Pacific Highway by Hollands in Logan City previously referred to and the extension of the Gateway Motorway across the South East Freeway at Eight Mile Plains both have specific contractual obligations with respect to traffic. These were observed during the 1995 Christmas period without any problems and will be observed again during the 1996 Christmas period, viz:

(1) Two lanes will be open in both directions during the day, one lane at night after 7.00 pm.

(2) No works will be undertaken on or adjacent to the main carriageways which would affect the flow of traffic between 21 December 1996 and 2 February 1997 inclusive should works continue beyond the contract date for completion of 8 January 1997 due to weather conditions or other unforeseen circumstances.

Therefore, unless there are emergency maintenance repair works, there should be no delays as a result of roadworks during the Christmas/New Year period.

On the South East Freeway/Pacific Highway during this period, the only other work proposed is an asphalt overlay outbound between the Gateway Arterial and Rochedale Roads. This is scheduled to be carried out at night in January 1997.

1202. Clearing of Land Adjacent to Logan River

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Natural Resources (12/11/96)—

With reference to recent riparian vegetation clearance on the banks of the Logan River on a 20-acre block of land owned by a Mr Copely—

(1) Is he aware of this land clearing?

(2) When did his departmental officers first hear of this land clearing and when did they investigate it?

(3) What reaction did they receive from the landowner?

(4) Are any of the officers involved intending to take legal action as a result of the treatment they received?

(5) Have departmental charges been laid against the landowner and/or the dozer driver; if not, why not?

(6) Has he or his Ministerial staff been approached personally by the landowner; if so, what directive has been issued to departmental officers?

(7) Has the Minister for Environment or his departmental officers been involved in this issue; if so, in which way?

(8) What vegetation losses have been incurred as a result of this clearing?

(9) Will revegetation of the area be required of the landowner?

Mr Hobbs (12/12/96): My Department and I are aware of this "land clearing".

Departmental officers investigated a complaint that trees were being cleared in the Logan River adjacent to Mr Copley's property at Jimboomba on 3 October 1996.

3. While attempting to interview Mr Copley the officers were ordered from the property. Under the Water Resources Act 1989, a notice to cease activity on the river was served on Mr Copley by my Department by mail on 4 October 1996. He complied with this notice.

Subsequently my Department's Regional Service Director South East Region Mr Tim Smith arranged to go to the property and inspected this area with Mr Copley (15 October 1996).

Mr Smith arranged for Departmental Officers to again inspect the property with Mr Copley on the 28 October 1996. That inspection took place without incident.

4. I have been advised subsequent to these inspections that the Departmental Officers are not intending to take any legal action as a result of events of the 3 October 1996.

5. As part of my Department's investigations, Mr Copley was requested to apply for a Riverine Permit under the Water Resources Act 1989 for approval to undertake clearing and other work he wanted to undertake.

This application for a permit would allow the matter to be dealt with using the processes available to my Department under the Water Resources Act 1989.

I understand that Mr Copley applied for the permit on the 28 October.

I also understand that the owner of the machine which had carried out work for Mr Copley on the 3 October 1996 had been located and was interviewed on 15 October 1996. The Department considered no separate action under the Water Resources Act 1989 was warranted in relation to the owner of the dozer.

6. I am aware that Mr Copley telephoned various senior officers in my Department and staff of my Office to complain and state his case following the serving of the notice to cease activity in the river on the 4 October 1996. He did not approach any of those officers or staff personally.

On each occasion he was referred back to Departmental Officers. I can confirm that my Ministerial Staff issued no direction to those officers. It was considered the Departmental Officers were experienced and capable of handling the matter in the most proprietorial way.

7. Neither the Minister for Environment or his Department have been involved in the issue. The provisions of the Water Resources Act 1989 give my Department the basis and process to deal with this matter.

8. Vegetation losses were assessed and the officers have advised my office that the predominating nature of the cleared matter was flood debris, grass and to a small extent shrubbery. Up to two larger trees had also been felled.

9. My Department has now determined Mr Copley's application for a permit to complete the work and advised him by letter dated 11 November 1996 that the permit has not been approved. He has also been advised that the notice to cease activity will remain in force and he will be compelled to clean up the remaining half burnt vegetation and debris. The grass has since grown back during the favourable weather conditions that have prevailed since the incident in question. Mr Copley has also been warned against any further contravention of the Act.

1204. Coral Dredging, Moreton Bay; Queensland Cement and Lime

Mr LUCAS asked the Minister for Environment (12/11/96)—

With reference to his ongoing inability to finalise Queensland Cement and Lime's coral dredging licenses and operations in Moreton Bay—

- (1) Has he yet processed QCL's application for a license under the Environmental Protection Act to continue coral dredging in Moreton Bay; if so, where can they dredge, for how long and in what quantities; if not, what is causing the delay in processing this application and what roles are the Treasurer and Minister for Economic Development and Trade playing in this discussion process?
- (2) Does he intend to honour the 1998 deadline commitment for the cessation of Bay dredging?
- (3) Is the development of QCL's Gladstone facilities still on schedule; if not, what is delaying this development and when is it due to be completed?
- (4) If the Gladstone facility is delayed does he intend to allow continued dredging in Moreton Bay until the facility is completed?

Mr Littleproud (12/12/96):

- (1) I do not process licences under the Environmental Protection Act. However, I am advised that on 7 July 1996 the Department of Environment issued Queensland Cement Limited (QCL) with a licence under the Environmental Protection Act 1994 for carrying out the environmentally relevant activity of coral dredging in Moreton Bay.

The licence allows dredging operations to be undertaken only within the following areas of Moreton Bay:

For Mud Island—Commencing at a point having latitude 27(19'06" south and longitude 153(16'18" east thence southerly to a point having latitude 27(21'30" south and longitude 153(16'18" east, thence westerly to a point having latitude 27(21'30" south and longitude 153(13'36" east, thence northerly to a point having latitude 27(20'18" south and longitude 153(13'36" east, thence easterly to a point having latitude 27(20'18" south and longitude 153(14'48" east, thence northerly to a point having latitude 27(19'06" south and longitude 153(14'48" east, thence easterly to the point of commencement as shown on Chart—

Department of Harbours and Marine Small Craft Chart Lower Brisbane River and Approaches Third Edition Revised August 1987; and

For Saint Helena Island—Commencing at a point having latitude 27(22' south and longitude 153(15' east, thence southerly to a point having latitude 27(24'24" south and longitude 153(15' east, thence westerly to a point having latitude 27(24'24" south and longitude 153(14' east, thence northerly to a point having latitude 27(22' south and longitude 153(14' east, thence easterly to the point of commencement as shown on Chart—Department of Harbours and Marine Small Craft Chart Lower Brisbane River and Approaches Third Edition Revised August 1987, and

Commencing at a point having latitude 27(24'41" south and longitude 153(14'12" east, thence easterly to a point having latitude 27(24'41" south and longitude 153(14'6" east, thence southerly to a point having latitude 27(24'44" south and longitude 153(14'45" east, thence westerly to a point having latitude 27(24'44" south and longitude 153(14'23" east, thence northerly to the point of commencement as shown on Chart—Department of Harbours and Marine Small Craft Chart Lower Brisbane River and Approaches Third Edition Revised August 1987.

However, for any area which is 150 metres seaward of Mean High Water mark or within 150 metres seaward of any mangroves fringing the foreshore whichever is the greater distance of any part described above, dredging is prohibited.

Dredging of coral in Moreton Bay must cease within three months of the successful commissioning of cement clinker production at the new processing facilities at Fishermans Landing, Gladstone.

Successful commissioning has been defined on the licence as "achieving a production rate of 4900 tonnes per day of clinker and guaranteed rail transport of 7500 tonnes per day of limestone as determined during the kiln guarantee testing as part of commissioning".

As a condition of licence QCL must advise the Department in writing of the successful commissioning within 14 days of such commissioning.

There is no licence limit as to how much coral can be dredged. The limiting factor would be what is necessary to operate QCL's cement clinker plant at Darra. Dredging is expected to slowly wind down as the Gladstone plant commissioning date approaches. Starting in January 1997 QCL will commence drawing additional limestone from the existing coral stockpile at Darra where there is several months reserve supply.

(2) At this stage, there is no reason to doubt that the 1998 deadline will be achieved.

(3) I am advised by my colleague the Minister for Economic Trade and Development and Minister Assisting the Premier that the development of QCL's Gladstone facilities is on schedule. Construction is under way, equipment is ordered and to date the

company has committed expenditure in excess of \$150 million.

There was a potential for delay in acquiring land for the rail line to carry limestone from the company's mine at East End to the clinker plant at Fisherman's Landing. However, the Government introduced special legislation on 14 November 1996 to acquire the land to avoid this potential.

The clinker plant is planned to commence operation in December 1997.

(4) At this stage, there is no reason to believe that commencement of the Gladstone facility will be delayed.

1206. Quality Assured Accreditation

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (12/11/96)—

(1) Given the allocation of funds to the Quality Assessment Unit, how will companies obtain second party Quality Assured Accreditation?

(2) Who will incur the costs of the accreditation?

Mr Connor (12/12/96):

(1) Suppliers to the Queensland Government that participated in the second party audit regime are being notified individually to outline how the changes to the Policy will affect them.

(2) The costs of the second party audit regime are borne by the Government. Second party audit and associated accreditation is free of charge to eligible suppliers.

1208. Gold Coast Region, Health Budget

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Health (12/11/96)—

With reference to funding in the 1996-97 Health Budget—

Will he advise (a) the per capita funding for the Gold Coast (South Coast) region, (b) how this compares with the State average, (c) the per capita funding for all other health regions in Queensland and (d) the comparison of the South Coast Region to the State average in the following categories (1) oral health, (2) community health, (3) hospital recurrent funding and (4) waiting list programs?

Mr Horan (13/12/96): To make funding comparisons on a pure per capita basis is deceptive. Such a simplistic comparison does not compare like with like and does not take account of the complexities involved. These include age and sex weighting to reflect the relative utilisation of services by different demographic groups within the population, socio-economic influences, rural factors and remoteness, private sector availability and utilisation, differing complexity and range of health services (eg tertiary services, Statewide services, nursing homes and aged care institutions), and the fact that patients are often treated in a different district to where the patient lives.

In this Government's first budget, recently, the Gold Coast District received an additional \$1.2 million

increase in its base budget. Further to this, through the year the District will receive further consideration for base budget increases on the basis of growth and demand within their District Health Services. This is in addition to boost given to community based mental health services, where the Gold Coast received, with Cairns and Mount Isa, an extra \$1.5 million to replace Commonwealth funding with State funding.

1209. Unemployment

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Premier (12/11/96)—

With reference to the Premier's criticism of Queensland's unemployment rate under the former Labor Government during question time on 12 November—

- (1) During the six years and two months of the Goss Labor Government, in how many months was Queensland's percentage unemployment rate (a) greater than the average for all Australian States, (b) equal to the average for all Australian States and (c) less than the average for all Australian States?
- (2) During the six years of National Party Government immediately preceding the election of the Goss Labor Government, in how many months was Queensland's percentage unemployment rate (a) greater than the average for all Australian States, (b) equal to the average for all Australian States and (c) less than the average for all Australian States?
- (3) During the period of the Borbidge/Sheldon Government since February, in how many months was Queensland's percentage unemployment rate (a) greater than the average for all Australian States, (b) equal to the average for all Australian States and (c) less than the average for all Australian States?

Mr Borbidge (12/12/96):

- (1) In seasonally adjusted terms: (a) 32; (b) 2; and (c) 40.
- (2) In seasonally adjusted terms: (a) 69; (b) 1; and (c) 2.
- (3) In seasonally adjusted terms: (a) 9; (b) nil; and (c) nil.

1211. Unemployment, Bundaberg

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Premier (12/11/96)—

With reference to his concerns with the unemployment rate in Queensland and specifically my concerns with the approximate 20 per cent unemployment rates in Bundaberg, and in view of the decisions of the Queensland Government to (a) remove the regional office of the Queensland Ambulance Service from Bundaberg, (b) not construct the new court house to which the Labor Government was committed, (c) reduce expenditure on public housing by more than half in the Bundaberg district, (d) reduce significant projects in schools in Bundaberg to only one project as listed in

the Budget, (e) delay the commencement of the hospital redevelopment project by more than 6 months and (f) delay the awarding of the natural gas franchise and pipeline by more than 3 months after the stated announcement by the Minister for Mines and Energy—

- (1) What specific action will be taken by the Queensland Government to urgently reduce the unemployment rate in Bundaberg below the very high level of 20 per cent?
- (2) Will he make Bundaberg a priority in employment generating programs?

Mr Borbidge (12/12/96):

(1) The Government's 1996/97 capital program will provide many new employment opportunities in the Wide Bay-Burnett region. As a result of the Government's 'back to basics' approach to infrastructure and service delivery, \$306.430M has been allocated for capital outlays in the Wide Bay-Burnett region by my Government in the 1996/96 Budget. These capital outlays will encourage new industries to establish and existing industries to expand in the area through the provision of the infrastructure essential to economic growth. In addition to the immediate employment and economic benefits of the capital projects, significant social benefits will also flow on to the residents of the area.

Specific capital projects that have been included in the 1996/97 Budget, and are indicative of the Government's commitment to Bundaberg, include: completion of the upgrade for the North Coast Rail Line north of Bundaberg (\$14.8M); construction of the Walla Weir (\$9.5M); redevelopment of the Bundaberg Hospital (\$2.6M); upgrading of the horticulture training facilities at the Wide Bay Institute of TAFE (\$2.5M); upgrading of the Bundaberg Courthouse (\$2.0M); replacement of the district headquarters and watchhouse at Bundaberg (\$1.0M); general facilities for the Bundaberg Port (\$0.51M); construction and installation of a new 11kV switchboard and 66kV substation at West Bundaberg (\$0.41M); and other miscellaneous capital projects including the construction of public housing, school works and bus shelters.

(2) Yes—this applies to all regions experiencing high rates of unemployment.

1212. Legal Aid, Commonwealth Funding

Mr FOLEY asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (12/11/96)—

With reference to the proposed cuts to legal aid funding by the Commonwealth Government—

- (1) Would the proposed cuts result in a \$5m loss for legal aid in Queensland; if not, what is the correct figure?
- (2) What action is he taking to secure adequate Commonwealth funding for legal aid in Queensland?
- (3) Does he condemn the Commonwealth Government for its unreasonable attitude towards legal aid funding?

- (4) Will he ask the Premier to raise directly with the Prime Minister the need for the Commonwealth Government to change its position so as to avoid damaging consequences for legal aid clients in Queensland?

Mr Beanland (11/12/96):

(1) The Commonwealth Government has given an indicative figure of a \$4.9M cutback in legal aid funding for Queensland in 1997-98. A variation of this figure will depend upon the results of a review of legal aid needs, demand and cost of service delivery factors.

(2) The Government is opposing the intended cutback in legal aid funding. This opposition has been conveyed directly to the Commonwealth Attorney-General and at officers meetings. The Government will continue to oppose the cutback.

(3) The Government believes the proposed cutback is completely unjustifiable in Queensland, as the State expenditure on Commonwealth matters exceeds Commonwealth funding by \$2.5M.

(4) The Premier has written to the Prime Minister opposing the cutback on legal aid and supported the issue being raised at the Council of Australian Governments Conference.

1213. Government Owned Accommodation

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (12/11/96)—

With reference to the anticipated increase in the number of leases and gross rents over the coming year in Government accommodation—

- (1) Will he outline details on current Government owned accommodation which is unoccupied?
- (2) Will he explain the policy basis on which the number of leases and gross rents are increasing under his Government?

Mr Connor (12/12/96):

(1) The current overall vacancy rate for Government-owned office accommodation which is controlled by the Department of Public Works and Housing is approximately 2.36 percent.

(2) The Government's policy for office accommodation occupancy is that owned accommodation is to be utilised in preference to leased accommodation. The estimated increase in the number of leases is attributable to:

- (i) an expansion of Government service provision into areas in which no owned accommodation is available;
- (ii) a projected reduction in owned accommodation due to a structured rationalisation program to dispose of unsuitable office accommodation; and
- (iii) the progressive transfer to this Department of the management of accommodation leases currently managed by the Department of Health.

The estimated increase in leased accommodation gross rent represents increases due to normal market

reviews of rental rates and the provision of accommodation of a higher quality than that which is being disposed of because of its unsuitable quality.

1214. Asbestos in Government Buildings, Cook Electorate

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (12/11/96)—

With reference to problems of asbestos in Government buildings in the Cook Electorate—

- (1) Has there been an audit carried out of all publicly-owned buildings, especially schools, to determine the presence of asbestos and the health risk associated with its presence; if so, what is the result of this audit, i.e. is there a priority list for the treatment of this problem; If not, when will such an audit be carried out?
- (2) Are there personnel from Q-Build trained to manage asbestos identification and removal at a regional level and are these employees currently working on an asbestos removal program?
- (3) What is the budget for asbestos removal and problem management in Far North and North West Queensland?
- (4) What schools in Cook have been identified as having asbestos problems and when will these problems be addressed?

Mr Connor (12/12/96):

(1) Yes, auditing has been carried out, but not all publicly owned buildings have been audited. So far, eleven schools have been audited in the Cook Electorate. It is planned to complete auditing of the remaining schools in 1996/97.

No urgently required asbestos removal projects have been identified.

(2) Yes, there are Q-Build personnel trained to identify asbestos. These personnel are not trained as asbestos removalists, but are trained to manage licensed contractors to undertake removals. (3) Funding for asbestos removal and problem management in the Far North and North West Queensland region is the responsibility of each department as part of the Annual Maintenance Program and is on an as needs basis.

(4) No schools in Cook have been identified as having asbestos that needs to be removed as a high priority.

Asbestos containing materials found in schools are to be managed as recommended in the Building Management Plan.

1215. Apprentices

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (12/11/96)—

- (1) Will he give assurances to the youth unemployed of Queensland that the intake of apprentices for 1997 will be retained at present levels?
- (2) Will he fight Treasury and his department when they try to cancel this great scheme?

- (3) Will he give the employers of QFleet and all business units in his department assurances that he will not allow his flat earth economic rationalist mates in Cabinet to privatise their jobs?

Mr Connor (12/12/96):

- (1) & (2) My Department, through its Q-Build Business Unit, has advertised for an intake of ninety (90) apprentices in 1997. This is the same number of apprentices indentured yearly by Q-Build since 1993.
- (3) There are no plans by the Government to privatise any of the eight Business Units in my Department.

1219. Premier's Office, Townsville

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (13/11/96)—

- (1) What is the total cost of fitting out the Premier's Office in Townsville?
- (2) How much of the total cost is labour-related?
- (3) How much of the total cost is for fittings?
- (4) What is the rental cost of the office per year?
- (5) How much was the furniture for the office?
- (6) Will he provide a detailed list of the cost of each item of furniture purchased for the office?
- (7) Who won the contract to supply the furniture?
- (8) How many firms tendered to supply furniture?
- (9) How many officers can be accommodated in the new office?
- (10) How many telephone and facsimile outlets have been provided in the office and what is the number for each?
- (11) What is the estimated expenditure for telephone and facsimile expenses for the office in a full year?
- (12) Will he provide a breakdown of the items in the office which were supplied by Townsville-based firms?

Mr Connor (13/12/96):

- (1) The total cost of fitting out the 10th Floor of Suncorp Plaza which incorporates the Offices of:
- (a) the Townsville Regional Office of the Department of Premier and Cabinet; (b) the Office of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier and the Premier's representative in North Queensland; (c) the North Queensland Office of the Premier of Queensland; and the Cabinet Meeting Room in North Queensland, was \$702,009.
- (2) The total labour-related costs were approximately \$271,150.00.
- (3) The cost of fittings was approximately \$331,407.00.
- (4) The total annual rental cost for the 10th Floor of Suncorp Plaza is \$182,985.00.
- (5) The total cost of furniture for the 10th floor of Suncorp Plaza was \$99,452.00 which includes the cost of delivery and insurance charges.

- (6) See answer to (5).

(7) The firms which won the contracts to supply furniture were:

Queensport Furniture Manufacturers;
The Office Furniture Centre;
Wilcon Pty Ltd;
John Taylor Agencies; and
Workspace Commercial Furniture.

(8) Seven firms tendered to supply furniture. A minimum of three tenders were invited for each tender package.

(9) Seventeen.

(10) Twenty-three telephone outlets and six facsimile outlets have been provided. The general telephone and facsimile numbers are 077 607 300 and 077 607 305 respectively.

(11) No accurate estimate can be provided for the telephone and facsimile expenses for a full year because no historical data is yet available.

(12) All built-in joinery for the Office was manufactured in Townsville. Of Twenty two subcontractors involved in the project's construction, nineteen subcontractors were either wholly or partially based in the Townsville area.

1221. Suncorp/Metway/QIDC Merger; Mincom Pty Ltd

Mr BEATTIE asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (13/11/96)—

With reference to the write-off of much, if not all, of the cost of Metway's SIRRUS computer software project as a result of her Suncorp/Metway/QIDC merger—

- (1) Was this project going to cost \$25m?
- (2) Will as much as \$15m be written off as a result of this merger?
- (3) Will as many as 40 to 45 people have to be redeployed as a result of this decision?
- (4) Is the future of Brisbane based software development company Mincom Pty Ltd at threat as a result of this decision?
- (5) Is Mincom now being forced to look off-shore to market the SIRRUS project?
- (6) Is this loss of \$15m by Metway shareholders an indicator of future prospects for other small companies caught up in this ill-conceived merger?
- (7) Is the redeployment of 40 to 50 staff at Mincom a worrying omen for staff of Suncorp/Metway and QIDC?
- (8) Is the replacement computer software package, called Hogan, locally owned and produced; if not, what are its origins?

Mrs Sheldon (13/12/96): The Honourable member will recall that prior to the announcement of the merger, the Metway Board had recommended acceptance of a take over offer from St George Bank. For Metway Bank, the only alternative to the

merger was management from Sydney and integration with the St George network of branches. In the circumstances, decisions about the future of the Metway Bank Information Technology system were on the agenda irrespective of the decision taken by the State Government.

Those decisions are being taken by a management team based in Brisbane and should be addressed accordingly.

(1 & 2) These questions should be referred to Metway Bank or the Board of the new merged entity.

(3-5) These questions should be referred to Mincom.

(6-8) This question should be referred to the Board of the new merged entity.

1222. Major General W. B. James

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Premier (13/11/96)—

With reference to the media speculation that amongst the candidates for a replacement for Her Excellency Leneen Forde is Major General W B James—

Is the Premier's Office aware of Federal Court proceedings QG3032 of 1994 which relate to oppression under Section 260 of the Corporations Law and the pivotal part in those proceedings of Major General W B James?

Mr Borbidge (13/12/96): A final list of candidates has not yet been prepared.

1224. Facility for Polio Sufferers

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Health (13/11/96)—

(1) Will he investigate the need for a 'Post Polio' facility in Queensland, in view of recent studies which have indicated that the incidence of polio in children can result in problems developing in later life, particularly in elderly people?

(2) In view of Queensland's history of work on polio, and as three other States have now established these facilities, will he consider the larger number of sufferers from this condition in Queensland, who could benefit from a similar service here?

Mr Horan (13/12/96): (1 & 2) My Department has provided funding for the employment of a Coordinator to develop an information and support network for Queenslanders with 'Post-Polio' symptoms.

It has also funded a research project on Needs Assessment of People with Late Effects of Polio. This research project recommended the development of awareness and education programs and the establishment of a clinic for diagnosis and treatment of people with Post Polio symptoms. Its work has been assisted by professional officers of my Department.

1225. Redcliffe Campus of TAFE

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (13/11/96)—

With reference to his Ministerial Statement on 2 May where he stated that the Redcliffe Campus of TAFE will commence construction in July with a completion date of January 1997—

(1) As construction has not commenced on this project, is this another stalling of a project by Treasurer Joan Sheldon?

(2) When will construction commence and what is now the expected completion date?

Mr Santoro (12/12/96):

(1) No.

(2) Construction is scheduled to start in the second half of December 1996. The delay has mainly been brought about by the implementation of processes introduced by the previous Labor government. The delays have been due to:-

The lowest tenderer withdrawing its offer and Project Services, Department of Public Works and Housing recommending the second lowest tender to Queensland Building Services Authority (QBSA) for their evaluation and assessment.

The second lowest tender offer being rejected by QBSA on 22 July 1996 on the grounds that the tenderer lacked the resources and capability to undertake a project of this size and complexity.

A third evaluation, that of the next lowest tender, being started.

The second lowest tenderer appealing QBSA's initial decision to reject their offer and consequently Project Services resubmitting the tender to QBSA for re-appraisal.

QBSA re-evaluating the second tender offer and advising Project Services of the acceptance of the tender subject to Project Services clarifying specified additional securities with the tenderer.

In reviewing the specification and design of the Campus, TAFE Queensland, together with Project Services made essential changes to the design layout incurring an additional delay of about four weeks.

Construction will occur as expeditiously as possible and it is expected to be completed by the end of May 1997.

1226. Hostels for the Aged; Distribution of Prescription Drugs by Carers

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Health (13/11/96)—

With reference to a requirement by persons employed as carers in privately-run aged hostels to distribute prescribed drugs to residents—

What protection is there for carers employed in these hostels against wrongful dismissal and possible litigation as a result of the issuing of an incorrect type or quantity of drug?

Mr Horan (13/12/96): At present, regulations dealing with prescribed drugs and poisons do not

recognise the role of carers. This situation will be considered by Government in the context of the new Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996. The objective of this regulation is to control the movement and supply of scheduled drugs and poisons.

This regulation, while not directly addressing issues such as wrongful dismissal and possible litigation, will recognise contemporary practice issues and will define the term "carer", as well as detailing the circumstances under which a carer may lawfully assist a person in taking a prescribed drug or poison.

These legislative provisions will clarify what is currently considered a "grey" area and will formalise a practice (and thereby providing some protection for carers) which is being undertaken in these types of facilities throughout Queensland.

1228. Queensland Rail, Third-party Access

Mr ELDER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (13/11/96)—

- (1) Will he outline all proposals currently under consideration by his department, Queensland Treasury or Queensland Rail for third party access within the Queensland rail system?
- (2) Will he also outline areas in which Queensland Rail is considering allowing their operational units to compete with the private sector here, interstate or overseas?

Mr Johnson (12/12/96):

(1) In considering current levels of access in Queensland, it is often overlooked that SRA and National Rail have for many years been provided access to the interstate standard gauge line. The proposal currently under active consideration and assessment by Government is an airport rail link, connecting the airport to the QR Citytrain network.

In addition, Queensland Rail is currently conducting discussions with a number of potential third party operators in respect of the operation of private trains on parts of the Queensland Rail system. These discussions are considered commercial in confidence and therefore specific details cannot be released. However the areas of the system upon which discussions have focused include the standard gauge corridor, the Mt Isa line and the Kuranda Range.

(2) In respect of third party access, Queensland Rail is prepared to consider the private operation of trains on all parts of the Queensland Rail system. Access to Queensland Rail's coal-carrying services is not proposed to be provided until the exemption of such services from the provisions of Part IIIA of the Trade Practices Act expires in the year 2000.

The terms under which third party access will be granted will be dependent on the commercial implications for Queensland Rail and the obligations of Queensland Rail under National Competition Policy. Queensland Rail has also held discussions with other state rail systems, particularly New South Wales, regarding the prospect of Queensland Rail operating trains interstate. These opportunities include the possibility of extending narrow gauge

track to Moree to predominantly target grain traffic for the Port of Brisbane and to investigate the cross-border operation of the Heritage Train. Other commercial opportunities will be explored but it would be premature to raise any specific possibilities at this point.

Queensland Rail also has a thriving consulting business which profitably markets Queensland Rail's expertise and products in railway specific consulting services both internationally and domestically. Queensland Rail Consulting Services works collaboratively with Australian railways internationally to support the export of Australian and Queensland Goods and services.

Queensland Rail will continue to seek opportunities for collaborating with the private sector to enhance the success of rail in Queensland.

1229. Pacific Highway, Traffic Accidents

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (13/11/96)—

Will he provide the statistical information on traffic accidents on the Pacific Highway between Brisbane and the Gold Coast (Coolangatta) for all months from January 1994 to October 1996, including (a) the number of accidents, (b) the number of people and vehicles involved, (c) the number hospitalised and (d) the number of deaths?

Mr Johnson (12/12/96): I am happy to table, in this House today, the accident data requested.

The records available do not allow a complete answer to part (b) of the question as only the injured persons are recorded.

The records within the last twelve months should be considered as preliminary only as investigations into the crashes may take up to one year to finalise.

I think the figures speak for themselves. Of course, they are far too high; however, the one good thing is that the numbers have decreased significantly over the past two years. Also, when the Government completes its major upgrading of the Pacific Motorway, it would expect the figures to fall even further.

In the meantime, I can assure this House that everything that reasonably can be done to minimise the accidents on this road will be.

1232. Suncorp/Metway/QIDC Merger

Mr W. K. GOSS asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (13/11/96)—

With reference to the proposed Suncorp/QIDC/Metway merger—

- (1) How many branches are to be closed?
- (2) How many jobs will be lost?
- (3) What is the cost and justification for sale price/valuation differential?
- (4) What is the potential cost to the public of the Metway shareholders dividend guarantee?
- (5) What is the reason for the Reserve Bank imposing a very high 11 per cent capital

adequacy ratio and financial requirements to meet it?

- (6) What is the repayment time frame and potential risk estimate of conversion of Suncorp/QIDC debt to Queensland Treasury Corporation to second tier capital to meet the RBA capital adequacy ratio?
- (7) Will she provide details of any other obligations or contingent obligations entered into with Metway at any stage?

Mrs Sheldon (13/12/96):

(1 & 2) These questions should be referred to the Board of the new merged group.

(3) The Barings independent valuation of SUNCORP and QIDC within the merged group was \$1.73 billion.

The comparable value of these businesses if kept in their current form was assessed by the independent experts, Arthur Andersen, to be \$1.1 billion.

On the basis of these independent assessments, the Government will be over \$600 million better off than if SUNCORP and QIDC had been kept as wholly-Government owned entities.

Further, the independent assessment shows the Government to be better off by \$300 million than the next best alternative which, according to Arthur Andersen, was a trade sale of SUNCORP and QIDC.

(4) The Government has not guaranteed dividends to Metway shareholders. Metway shareholders bear normal commercial risks and, if there are insufficient earnings, then dividends will not be paid or will not be paid at the levels projected by the Merger Planning Group.

The Government will not be paying any money to supplement dividend payments. In fact, less than a third of the Government's interest will have a lower priority for dividend. Even with this subordination, the Government is forecast to receive more as a result of the merger than it would have from keeping SUNCORP and QIDC in their current form.

Over the next three years, dividends as a result of the merger are expected to exceed those that would typically have come from SUNCORP and QIDC by a total of \$120 million.

This superior dividend return takes into account the effect of the dividend priority. If earnings are better than forecast, which appears to be what the market is saying, then the Government may not forego any return and the net benefit to taxpayers would exceed the \$120 million differential referred to above.

(5) The Reserve Bank requires a minimum capital adequacy ratio of 10%. This is a standard requirement of the Reserve Bank for banks in a transitional phase and has applied to other recent mergers. Notwithstanding the 10% minimum required by the Reserve Bank, the merged group has chosen to start with a capital adequacy ratio of 11%.

(6) The merged group is committed to repaying QTC debt as soon as practicable and the Merger Planning Group has developed an appropriate funding strategy. With respect to debt converted to second tier capital, the merged group will use its best

endeavours to refinance that debt with another lender as soon as practicable taking account of market conditions. Treasury has advised that the potential risks referred to in the question are reduced because of the greater strength of the merged group.

(7) The merger terms are publicly available in documentation lodged with the Supreme Court. There are no other actual or contingent obligations entered into with Metway.

1233. Suncorp/Metway/QIDC Merger

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (13/11/96)—

With reference to much dispute over allegations of job losses as a result of the Metway merger—

Will she confirm in Metway, Suncorp and QIDC that (a) there will be no forced redundancies, (b) there will be no coerced voluntary early retirements and (c) there will be no loss of, or reduction in, services to rural (or urban) Queenslanders?

Mrs Sheldon (13/12/96): The Merger Planning Group is cognisant of the resolution of the Queensland Parliament in relation to job security within the merged group and to services in rural and regional Queensland.

As publicly stated by the Chairman of the new Board, the approach being adopted by the merged group is consistent with the objectives embodied in that resolution. Indeed, these same objectives were already reflected in the Heads of Agreement executed with Metway.

As you would be aware, a fundamental principle of the corporatisation policy implemented by the previous Labor Government was that government-owned corporatised entities such as SUNCORP and QIDC would operate under a strict commercial charter. Once corporatised, the Suncorp and QIDC Boards were fully responsible for any decisions regarding staffing and service delivery.

The Government would not be in a position to provide the confirmations sought in respect of SUNCORP and QIDC had they continued in their corporatised form. Moreover, the Government is certainly not in a position to provide such confirmations for the private sector merged group.

The Government is completely removed from involvement in the day-to-day operations of the merged group and therefore is not in a position to provide a more definitive answer to this query. It should be referred directly to the new Board.

1235. Environment and Conservation Divisions, Environment Department

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Environment (13/11/96)—

With reference to impacts to the budgets of both his Environment and Conservation Divisions as a result of his backdowns on Parkpass, kangaroo industry permit fee increases and tyre and oil tax charges—

- (1) Are either of these divisions producing or buying Christmas cards at taxpayer expense to send to clients and other public servants in 1996; if so, are any of these cards full colour and, therefore, quite expensive?
- (2) Are any of the cards being produced in house; if so, what production costs are involved?
- (3) Are any of these cards being bought in; if so, what purchase costs are involved?
- (4) What are the total costs being incurred by the department in producing/ purchasing / mailing Christmas cards in 1996?
- (5) Is he aware of this practice and does he support it?
- (6) Does he believe these taxpayer funds could be better spent protecting the environment?
- (7) Are any of the regions doing likewise; if so, what costs are involved there?

Mr Littleproud (13/12/96): I am advised that generally the Department of Environment is not producing or purchasing Christmas cards in 1996, though some individual offices may have made their own arrangements. If the honourable member and his comrades are interested in Christmas cards, a selection is available at the Department's Naturally Queensland shop.

1236. Sewerage Infrastructure Costs, Sunshine Coast

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (13/11/96)—

Would the 50 per cent State Government contribution to councils towards the costs of infrastructure extend to a subsidy on external sewerage infrastructure costs incurred by the current and anticipated future growth of the Sunshine Coast University College?

Mr Connor (13/12/96): The current Commonwealth/State Government Policy on the provision of infrastructure to University sites is:

- (i) The Commonwealth Government funds the construction of the infrastructure within the University site; and
- (ii) The State Government provides the site and the services to the site (this includes water and sewerage).

In relation to the Sunshine Coast University College, the provision of external infrastructure (including water and sewerage) was shared between the State Government and a local developer. The State Government expended \$1.1M on the provision of external infrastructure to the College site.

1237. North Ipswich and Redbank Rail Workshops

Mr HAMILL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (13/11/96)—

With reference to Queensland Rail's workshop strategy—

- (1) What is the current level of employment at the North Ipswich workshop?
- (2) What is the current level of employment at the Redbank workshop?
- (3) How many of those employees are expected to retire or resign and not be replaced from each of these workshops between now and the end of 1996-97?
- (4) What is the level of capital investment at Redbank in new or upgraded facilities and equipment for each year since the workshop strategy was announced?
- (5) What is the total anticipated cost of the upgrading of the Redbank workshop?

Mr Johnson (12/12/96): The question of the level of total employment at both Ipswich and Redbank in the near future is a very complex situation to predict precisely. Current levels of permanent employees are, however, broadly in line with that established in the original 1993 Workshops Strategy. With the recruitment of a number of fixed-term employees and agency staff during 1995-96 to support new manufacturing projects the predicted surplus numbers which had previously been considered in 1993 have progressively reduced.

Strong growth in the rail wagon manufacturing sector during 1995-96, and the ability of the Ipswich/Redbank Workshops to adapt to the changes in work requirements and mobilise the new investment has ensured that the Workshops have been successful in maximising employment on both sites, indeed this is the very reason why employment of fixed-term and agency staff during 1995-96 was achievable.

As Workshops progress to a final transfer of employees from Ipswich to Redbank during 1997-98, it is anticipated further surplus occupations may well be identified leading to a number of opportunities for employees to access the "VERS Policy", to date the number of employees who have accessed VERS approximate to about 10% per year.

In considering the longer term workforce requirements of Redbank Workshops, a program of apprentice intake has been re-established leading to approximate intake of 10 per year, giving at any one point in time beyond 1997 40 apprentices in Ipswich/Redbank under training.

In answering the question specifically on workforce numbers there are currently 475 employees at North Ipswich, of which 71 staff are engaged on a fixed-term basis; a number of agency employees have also been engaged for various periods of time, however the total permanent staff equate to 404 as at week ending 8 November 1996.

The current level of employees at Redbank is 587 of which 95 are classified as fixed-term, a number of agency employees have also been engaged for various periods of time, however the total permanent staff equate to 492 which also includes 21 staff on Rail Welding at Banyo as at week ending 8 November 1996.

The 1996-97 Budget considered a reduction of permanent employees across both the Ipswich and Redbank Site by June 1997 to a level of 775 (inclusive of surplus), on current forecasts this level will be achieved, albeit VERS applicants can withdraw from the process at any given time.

Projections in line with the original strategy of 1993 considered a permanent workforce of approximately 600 employees beyond 1997-98, surplus employees retained were to be additional to this total.

This forecast will vary according to the level of the "Order Book", the latest forecast of productivity improvements, and consideration of future commercial investment. The total reduction in staff particularly in indirect occupations was of course a key element of the Workshops Strategy and supported the initial justification to invest \$35 million at the Redbank Workshops.

The investment at Redbank has generally been in line with the original investment plan endorsed by the Queensland Rail Board in July 1993.

\$13 million was invested in 1994-95

\$15.7 million was invested in 1995-96

\$6.3 million will be invested in 1996-97

The total Capital Cost of Redbank Workshops equates to \$35 million (1993 base).

During the next five years, additional investment will be progressed to support commercially justified projects. Currently under review is an upgrade of existing facilities in both the Engine Rebuild and Traction Motor Shops. Projects should they be commercially viable, will commence during 1997-98.

1239. Ashworth House, Prince Charles Hospital

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Health (13/11/96)—

- (1) Has Queensland Health been approached in respect of a proposal from a group of business people who wish to buy and/or operate Ashworth House, which is currently part of the operations of the Prince Charles Hospital?
- (2) Was he simply approached "out of the blue" with this offer, or did he or his department in any way call for, or encourage, the sale of Ashworth House?
- (3) Has a decision been made with respect to this, or other similar offer; or is his department still considering the sale/divestment of Ashworth House?
- (4) What will be the financial and medical implementations of the sale of Ashworth House?

Mr Horan (13/12/96): No approach has been made or received by me, nor by senior departmental officers of Queensland Health, in relation to the purchase of Ashworth House, nor has the sale of Ashworth House been solicited, nor is Ashworth House under consideration by Queensland Health as an asset for disposal. Such disposal would require detailed analysis and evaluation and approval by Government.

1242. Community Health Team

Mr FOLEY asked the Minister for Health (13/11/96)—

With reference to the move of the Community Health Team from Annerley Junction Shopping Centre to the QE II Hospital—

- (1) Is he concerned that this move from a community-based setting to a hospital setting will weaken the community focus of that health team?
- (2) Is he aware of the desirability of having the community health team operating in close proximity and co-operation with the local community centre, Social Security Department and other community welfare agencies?
- (3) What steps will be taken to ensure that the community health team remain in close contact with the communities of Annerley and Yeronga and surrounding suburbs in order to be responsive to the community's health needs?
- (4) Will the community health team be returned to the Annerley Junction Shopping Centre; if so, when?

Mr Horan (13/12/96): I am advised that this move will strengthen the community focus of this health team. This will be achieved by greatly improving communication between both health service delivery areas, and also by enhancing access to a greater range of services within the one location. Physical access for clients will be greatly improved. Annerley Junction Shopping Centre had very limited parking. The previous site had limited access with 20 steps to the front door and 30 steps to the back door. The Centre had minimal area for client consultation and lacked adequate areas for group work/health promotion activities. These problems will be resolved with the move, and QE II Hospital has plentiful parking with lift access. Community health services will continue to work closely with government departments such as Social Security and community welfare agencies from the new site.

QE II is also a more suitable site for this Community Health Centre as it is centrally located, rather than being situated in the northern edge of the area serviced. I am advised that the Mt Gravatt/Nathan area is the most central and accessible for both clients and staff.

Annerley and Yeronga are important suburbs amongst the 32 suburbs serviced by the Community Health Team from Annerley Junction Shopping Centre. This service currently has policies and practices in place which allows the total catchment area to receive equitable service delivery. These policies and practices will be continued, and in addition, I am advised that communication strategies have been implemented to address concerns related to the move.

1245. State Government Buildings

Mr ROBERTS asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (13/11/96)—

With reference to the Executive Building in George Street, Brisbane, the Main Roads Building in Boundary Street, Spring Hill, the forestry complex in Gympie and your answer to Question on Notice No. 861—

- (1) How much money was provided by the then SGIO for the construction of each of these buildings respectively?
- (2) How much money has been received in lease payments by the SGIO and subsequently the Workers' Compensation Board, for each building respectively, for each year lease payments have been made?
- (3) Who is the owner of each building?
- (4) Has the ownership of any of these buildings been transferred from ownership by either the SGIO or the Workers' Compensation Board to any other party; if so, (a) how much money was paid in each case and (b) who is the new owner of each building?
- (5) What has been the return on the investment for each building, for each year, to the SGIO and subsequently the Workers' Compensation Board?

Mrs Sheldon (13/12/96): During the 1970s the State Government Insurance Office (SGIO) provided funds for the construction of a number of government buildings which were leased to the government. These financing transactions were part of the investment portfolio of the SGIO with interest rates set at the commencement of the financing period based on the relevant semi-government debenture rate. When the Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) was established and separated from the SGIO in 1978 some of these financing transactions were transferred to become investment assets of the WCB.

The government bought out the balance of the loan financing arrangement for the Executive Building and Gympie Forestry Training Centre in 1993 and these buildings are now the responsibility of the Department of Public Works and Housing. The Main Roads Building remains an investment asset of the Workers' Compensation Board.

The initial capitalised construction costs were, Executive Building \$8.167m; Main Roads Building \$6.080m and Gympie Forestry Complex \$3.390m respectively. The interest rates were determined in accordance with the terms of the financing arrangements at the commencement of the transactions. There were 7.0%; 11.3%; 13.8% respectively.

1248. National Park Fees

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (13/11/96)—

With reference to his proposed ParkPass plan—

- (1) Will fishermen in the Hinchinbrook Channel National Park be required to have a ParkPass; if so, how will it be policed?

- (2) Did the National Park Association vote almost unanimously against the ParkPass idea; if so, what was the vote?
- (3) Are major eco-tourism companies currently circulating a petition soliciting signatures in opposition to the ParkPass plan; if so, who are the companies and have any petitions yet reached his office?
- (4) What numbers of staff will be available on weekends to police ParkPass in the Mt Nebo and Mt Glorious National Parks?
- (5) Will passengers on Skyrail travelling through Barron Falls National Park be required to pay ParkPass; if so, is the company operating this facility aware of this?
- (6) Are passengers on the white water rafting safaris that pass through a national park required to pay ParkPass; if so, have the operating firms been informed of this?
- (7) Have owners of the Cape Hillsborough Resort, adjacent to the national park of the same name, placed the resort on the market citing ParkPass as the final straw in their battle for financial viability?

Mr Littleproud (13/12/96): 1. There is no Hinchinbrook Channel National Park. It should be noted that every other Australian State and Territory, as well as many other countries, have some form of entry fee for National Parks. It would also interest you to know that the New South Wales Labor Government has proposed a national ParkPass system. The introduction of the ParkPass system was made necessary by the woeful state in which Labor left our National Parks.

2. The National Parks Association of Queensland has informed me by correspondence of 2 December 1996 of their opposition to ParkPass. I am not aware of any details of any vote.

3. Eco-tourism companies have not informed me of this matter at this time.

4. Most National Parks in the Mt Nebo/Mt Glorious area are managed in conjunction with Brisbane Forest Park. Staffing and management arrangements are yet to be finalised with that organisation.

5. No. Discussions will be held with the proprietor of Skyrail in relation to clients who disembark at Red Hill and leave the Skyrail lease area to enter the Barron Gorge National Park.

6. Passengers on commercially run white water rafting safaris passing through National Parks are guests of the commercial tour operator who already has a permit. Separate negotiations are taking place with commercial tour operators to determine the most effective means of reflecting the Park Pass requirements in commercial tour operator permit arrangements. Any new arrangements are expected to apply from 1 January 1998.

7. Cape Hillsborough Resort was placed into receivership on 23 July 1996. ParkPass was not announced until 10 September in the Budget context and will not apply until 1 March 1997.

1250. Payroll Tax; Job Creation

Mr FOURAS asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (14/11/96)—

With reference to her statement in Parliament on 12 November in which she stated that an independent assessment of the impact of raising the payroll tax threshold by \$50,000 estimated that 44,000 jobs would be created over a 12 month period—

How was the estimate calculated, and will she table that 'independent estimation' in the Parliament for the benefit of Members?

Mrs Sheldon (16/12/96): The Honourable Member has quoted selectively from my reply to a question without notice from the Leader of the Opposition on November 12.

In that question, the Member for Brisbane Central asked about the impact of the Coalition Government on the State economy—with a particular focus on unemployment.

In response, I referred to an independent study by Delta Electricity and Access Economics that reported a 58% increase in the value of Queensland projects under construction or possible in the December quarter, 1996, compared to the same quarter a year previously.

The total value of projects under construction or possible was estimated at \$25 billion and in this regard Queensland ranked second behind Western Australia.

Honourable Members were reminded of the Government's \$1.6 billion Infrastructure Rejuvenation Package, which contributed to a record total of \$4 billion worth of infrastructure contained in the Government's '96-'97 State budget.

Among other job creation initiatives, there was the \$50,000 increase in the State's Payroll Tax threshold and the subsequent announcement of a monitoring system to ensure that Capital Works expenditure remains on track.

In fact, the estimate of new jobs to be created came from the independent advice of Treasury, which was presented to Parliament as part of the '96-'97 budget speech. (See budget paper number one, page 9)

On November 12, I responded to the Opposition Leader's false estimate of jobs lost. In this regard, the independent advice provided by Treasury is clearly a more accurate representation of the State's employment outlook than the figures provided by the Opposition and my reply was presented in this context.

1253. Integrated Regional Transport Plan; Movement of Freight

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (14/11/96)—

With reference to his answer to my Question Without Notice on 13 November where he stated "there certainly has to be another freight line"—

- (1) Is he aware of the public commitment by former National Party Premier, Sir Joh Bjelke Petersen, in 1986 that a rail line to transport freight,

including grain and coal, along the general alignment outlined in the Draft IRTP would never be built, following significant protests by residents in the Runcorn, Sunnybank Hills and Kuraby areas?

- (2) What other options are contained in the Draft IRTP Report that could be considered to move freight, including grain and coal from the Darling Downs to the Port of Brisbane?

Mr Johnson (12/12/96):

(1) A check of records at Queensland Rail has revealed that former Premier Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen made a statement on 24 October 1986 "that there would be no coal line through Brisbane southern suburbs". Of course a ten year old statement by a former Premier does not bind the current government. We have prepared a comprehensive plan for the South East Queensland region's transport system and given people a chance to comment on this before taking action. No other government has ever done this.

(2) The basic options are to either move more freight in the existing rail system or transport more freight by road. The draft IRTP foreshadows the following options:

allocating more rail capacity to freight instead of passenger movements.

a continuous system of designated high capacity, safe and secure freight roads including enhanced road access to the Port of Brisbane; and

a possible new road crossing of the Toowoomba Range with a northern bypass of Toowoomba.

A key thrust of the draft IRTP is to dramatically increase the use of public transport. As part of this strategy, passenger rail services will be progressively increased, leaving less room on the existing suburban railway system for rail freight traffic. In addition, the freight task is expected to increase by at least 80% in the next 20 years, and the vast majority of freight currently goes by road.

For these reasons, Action 8.1 of the draft IRTP suggests an investigation of options to separate passenger and freight traffic around the Brisbane Metropolitan Area. Should the study proceed, a range of options would be considered in consultation with the community. The quality of life of residents on the southside and potential environmental impacts would be important considerations in any such study.

The draft IRTP actions were influenced by public input on the February 1995 discussion paper entitled "*Towards and Integrated Regional Transport Plan for South East Queensland*" which demonstrated significant community support for transporting more freight by rail in South East Queensland. I believe it is important that the government takes note of such public views and assesses the best way to move more freight by rail.

Many people have made submissions on the draft IRTP including the recommended freight investigations. These submissions will now be

analysed and a final plan prepared for consideration by the State Government in early 1997.

1255. Health Department Employees, Townsville/Thuringowa

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Health (14/11/96)—

- (1) How many people, including those transferred from DPI, were employed within his portfolio responsibility based within the boundaries of Townsville/Thuringowa as at (a) 30 June 1995 (including those then employed by DPI) and (b) 30 June 1996?
- (2) How many of the salaried staff were classified as AO8 or higher as at (a) 30 June 1995 (including those then employed by DPI) and (b) 30 June 1996?
- (3) How many of those salaried staff were classified as permanent as at (a) 30 June 1995 (including those then employed by DPI) and (b) 30 June 1996?
- (4) How many salaried staff were classified as temporary as at (a) 30 June 1995 (including those then employed by DPI) and (b) 30 June 1996?
- (5) How many people other than SES officers were on contract as at (a) 30 June 1995 (including those then employed by DPI) and (b) 30 June 1996?
- (6) How many full-time wages employees were on the payroll as at (a) 30 June 1995 (including those then employed by DPI) and (b) 30 June 1996?
- (7) How many part-time wages employees were on the payroll as at (a) 30 June 1995 (including those then employed by DPI) and (b) 30 June 1996?

Mr Horan (16/12/96): (1) to (7) As it refers to staff "transferred" or "then employed by DPI" I assume that the Honourable Member has directed his Question to the wrong Minister.

1258. Abattoirs

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (14/11/96)—

With reference to the Government's decision to sell-off the public abattoirs in Queensland, and specifically the Bundaberg abattoir—

- (1) How many people are employed by Qmeat by classification and by abattoir?
- (2) What is the killing costs by classification of animals for each abattoir?
- (3) How many weeks was each abattoir operating to date in 1996, for 1995 and 1994?
- (4) How many animals were processed at each abattoir for 1994, 1995 and to date in 1996?
- (5) If the Bundaberg Abattoir closes (a) where is the nearest abattoir, both north and south of Bundaberg that can process beef, sheep, pigs and goats, (b) how will small butchers in the

region be serviced, (c) what was the direct operating costs, overhead costs (charges by Qmeat) and income for the years 1993, 1994, 1995 and 1996 to date and (d) what were the reserves of the Bundaberg Abattoir Board at the end of 1990-91, 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94?

- (6) What is the estimated amount of meat products bought into Queensland from interstate for the years 1993, 1994, 1995 and 1996 to date?

Mr Perrett (16/12/96):

1. The current employment levels at QAC abattoirs are:

	Meatworkers	Maintenance	Administration/ Management	Total
Cannon Hill	290	39	41	370
Ipswich	133	14	19	166
Toowoomba	92	9	14	115
Bundaberg	19	4	3	26
Townsville (Bohle)	11	0	5	16
TOTAL	545	66	82	693

2. This information is commercial-in-confidence.

3. It is my understanding that apart from a brief shutdown at some plants over the Christmas-New Year periods, which is not unusual, each QAC abattoir operated year round in 1994 and 1995 and each has operated each week to date in 1996.

4. The throughput data for each QAC abattoir for the past 3 financial years is set out below. However, year-to-date figures for 1996/97 are commercial-in-confidence. The figures quoted below are on the industry accepted basis of "cattle kill equivalents", calculated on the basis of one head of cattle equals 4 calves or 5 pigs, or 8 sheep or goats, and so on.

	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96
Cannon Hill	255,416	265,647	264,750
Ipswich	108,202	105,692	125,193
Toowoomba	52,580	45,865	61,731
Bundaberg	22,011	22,410	18,946
Townsville	12,250	9,730	9,247
TOTAL	450,459	449,344	479,867

5. The Honourable Member has in fact asked 4 separate questions based on the hypothetical situation of the Bundaberg abattoir closing. However, there is absolutely no intention by the Government at the present time to close the Bundaberg abattoir.

There is strong local support in the Bundaberg area for the QAC Bundaberg abattoir to revert to some form of local control and I understand that QAC has been prepared for some time, and still is prepared, to sit down and discuss options with the Bundaberg Abattoir Support Group.

6. Unfortunately, there are no records kept of the amount of meat products imported into Queensland from interstate. There is no legal requirement on a person importing meat products to register either value or quantity of product.

As the Honourable Member should be aware, providing a meat processor meets the relevant food safety requirements in the State where the meat is processed, and providing a wholesaler or retailer meets the relevant food safety requirements in the

State where the meat is sold, there are no restrictions on trade in meat products between the States due to the operation of Section 92 of the Australian Constitution and the principles of Mutual Recognition.

1259. Queensland Abattoir Corporation

Mr MULHERIN asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (14/11/96)—

- (1) Has the Treasury Department recommended the liquidation of the Queensland Abattoir Corporation as soon as possible without fully realising the business value of the QAC as a going concern?
- (2) Is the Government giving consideration to handing over the QAC's profitable business to private vested interests instead of selling the QAC as a going concern?

Mrs Sheldon (16/12/96): (1) and (2) Both questions can be answered in the one format as they are somewhat inter-related.

Following a Cabinet Decision of 10 September 1996, an inter-Departmental Steering Committee was assembled to examine the issue of public ownership in the Queensland meat processing industry and to provide its recommendations to Cabinet in early November. This committee is chaired by the DPI Director-General and includes representatives from that Department, Economic Development and Trade, Treasury, Tourism, Small Business and Industry and the Office of Rural Communities as well as two non-Government representatives from producer and processing industries.

Cabinet received the Steering Committee's recommendations on 11 November and fully endorsed those recommendations.

The Government has endorsed a strategy for an orderly exit of public ownership and not any liquidation or fire-sale as suggested from the questions provided. Indeed, the Government intends proceeding with an Expressions of Interest process which will maximise private sector interest in the QAC's facilities, and subject any valuations or bids to the rigours of a competitive process.

Within the EOI process, it is clear that Cabinet has provided QAC with the ability to compete and to develop its own corporate proposals for a transition away from public ownership.

With the exception of South Australia which is currently selling its only public abattoir, Queensland is the last State Government to maintain an involvement in the meat industry. Other State Governments exited the industry during the 1980s and before.

Based on reports that were fully available to the previous Goss Government, severe rationalisation in the meat processing industry has been recognised as inevitable for some considerable period of time. This Government has not reneged on its responsibilities to support privately owned meat processors while at the same time allowing QAC to plan and direct its future without the longterm constraints inherent in Government shareholding.

A time frame for an orderly exit of Government ownership from QAC has not been delineated by Cabinet, but we would believe such exit should be in a shorter time frame rather than longer.

1260. Abattoir Relocation

Mr NUNN asked the Premier (14/11/96)—

With reference to a request by the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (Mr Perrett) earlier this year for expressions of interest from South East Queensland shires for hosting a proposed Queensland Abattoir Corporation abattoir—

- (1) Did Sir Robert Sparkes contact the Premier and threaten to disendorse him as Premier if the abattoir was not located in the Jondaryan Shire?
- (2) Was withholding of Government approval for relocation necessary to avoid upsetting unsuccessful shires?

Mr Borbidge (16/12/96): (1) & (2) No.

1261. South Bank Parklands Redevelopment

Mr BEATTIE asked the Premier (14/11/96)—

With reference to plans to re-develop the South Bank Parklands at a cost of \$26m—

- (1) What part and area of the South Bank Parklands is proposed for this re-development?
- (2) What portion of the re-development area will have the 200 to 250 residential units built upon it?
- (3) What portion of the re-development area will be retained as open space parkland?
- (4) What portion of the re-development area will be set aside for commercial development?
- (5) Will two hotels providing up to 700 rooms also be built on the site?
- (6) Are a series of 6- to 10-storey office developments also planned for the site?
- (7) Is the South Bank Corporation planning land sales of South Bank land to recoup the \$26m cost of this re-development and realise a profit of approximately \$24m?
- (8) Where is it intended to spend this \$24m profit?
- (9) How much land is intended to be sold and where is this land located on the South Bank site?

Mr Borbidge (16/12/96): Details of the South Bank Corporation's proposals were generally released for public comment in January 1996. Since then, the Corporation has fine tuned the proposals. The Brisbane City Council has indicated its support for the revised proposals and the Government is at present considering its position. The following answers concern the Corporation's proposal and do not necessarily indicate Government approval.

- (1) South Bank Corporation has prepared a proposal for amendment of the South Bank Corporation Area Approved Development Plan as it relates to the area

bounded by South Brisbane Rail Corridor (west), Glenelg Street (north), the South Bank Waterway/Canal (east) and Sidon Street (south). The area involved, proposed to be referred to as Precinct 9, has previously been included within Precinct 3A and part of Precinct 4. Implementation of the development works proposed will require infrastructure funded by the South Bank Corporation and estimated to cost not more than \$26m. This is at least \$20m less than the publicly funded infrastructure requirements associated with implementation of the Approved Development Plan as it was gazetted in May 1990.

(2) The proposed amendment to the Approved Development Plan includes provision for residential units to be developed. The proposal anticipates, however, that any new residential development will be confined to development areas south of Tribune Street, away from the Parklands' primary entertainment and public leisure activity nodes and adjoining the Parklands' first and very successful residential project, Park Avenue.

(3) Approximately 3 hectares is proposed to be committed to parklands and associated access ways.

(4) The proposed amendment envisages the establishment of seven development areas including three notionally identified for commercial development activity, in total comprising approximately 1.7 hectares (development areas A, C and F).

(5) The proposed amendments to the Approved Development Plan provide for the development of hotels on two sites within Precinct 9. These include a second stage to the existing Rydges South Bank Hotel and a further international hotel providing up to 700 rooms (total) in addition to the existing 305 rooms available in the Rydges South Bank Hotel.

(6) The proposed amendments to the Approved Development Plan include provision for the development of mixed use commercial building including office accommodation with development heights ranging up to approximately 10 stories.

(7) In accord with its previously established charter, the Corporation does propose to lease for private development, additional development sites within the South Bank Corporation Area. Valuation advice to the Corporation indicates that the market value of development areas which can be made available for private development exceeds the likely infrastructure development cost, sufficient to yield a capital surplus of \$20m.

(8) The South Bank Corporation Act 1989 provides that the Minister 'may direct the Corporation to pay amounts from accumulated funds to the consolidated fund'. The Government will consider the application of any surplus funds when they have been accumulated.

(9) The proposed development sites are located within the private development precinct (Precinct 9). The Corporation also owns a range of redevelopment properties on the "Mazda Block" bounded by Merivale, Russell, Cordelia and Melbourne Streets. In total, the land available for lease for private development purposes totals 38,700

m² (Precinct 9) and approximately 16,400 m² ("Mazda Block").

1262. Firearm Owners Association

Mrs BIRD asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry (14/11/96)—

With reference to his depiction in a newspaper photo helping a Mr McNiven of the Firearms Owners Association hold an Aboriginal flag with a hammer and sickle in the corner—

- (1) Why did he do this?
- (2) Does he support the Firearm Owners Association in their political campaign of opposition to Australia's new gun laws; if not, why was he at this meeting?
- (3) What does he believe is the linkage between Aboriginal people and the traditional symbol of communism?
- (4) Does he believe this photo has in any way enhanced his or his Government's image?
- (5) Can he appreciate how the publishing of this photo has the potential to further damage Queensland's image as a tolerant, multi-cultural society and hence further damage its standing as a tourist destination for overseas visitors?
- (6) What steps is he taking to ensure that this photo does not in any way impact further on Queensland's tourism reputation in Asia?

Mr Davidson (16/12/96):

- (1) I was asked to hold a corner of the flag which had not been unfurled. At an earlier candidate's forum Mr McNiven had unfurled an Australian flag and I assumed this would also be an Australian flag.
- (2) If the Member for Whitsunday had read the article more carefully she would have seen that it was not a pro-gun lobby meeting; it was a candidate's forum held prior to the State election of 15 July 1995. Mr McNiven and I were both candidates for the Seat of Noosa, and the ALP candidate was also on the stage.
- (3) The flag belongs to Mr McNiven. You would have to ask him about his beliefs.
- (4), (5) and (6) I do not believe the photograph has had any effect on the government or this State's tourism industry.

1263. Industrial Land, South-east Queensland

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry (14/11/96)—

With reference to the growing need for more serviced industrial land in South-East Queensland—

- (1) With the possibility that serviced industrial land will run out in 5 to 10 years, what provision, if any, has been made within his portfolio budget to meet this need?
- (2) What forward planning, if any, is occurring to ensure that sufficient serviced industrial land is available to attract and encourage a broad range of sustainable, value added industries into the next decade and beyond?

- (3) What plans exist for vacant public land currently held by statutory authorities and Government owned corporations, such as port authorities, to be better utilised for this purpose?

Mr Davidson (16/12/96):

(1) The "Corporation of The Minister for Industrial Development of Queensland" established under the Industrial Development Act 1963 has the power to acquire and develop land for industrial purposes. Currently the department holds adequate supplies of industrial land in South East Queensland, some of which has been fully developed and serviced. My department is currently assessing whether the private sector is providing for the full spectrum of industrial land or whether there is a need to purchase and develop additional land. Obviously we would prefer the private sector to undertake this work. However, where there is a gap in the supply or a failure to provide land for particular uses, such as large blocks for bigger projects, we will act. To encourage private development projects the Department is cooperating with local government bodies to determine whether or not there are any planning or infrastructure impediments to the provision of industrial land by the private sector. Until strategic issues are fully determined, and any failures by the private sector to supply serviced sites is assessed, I am not prepared to commit to purchasing and developing new industrial estates. Funds are committed for the development of larger blocks at Narangba and Hamilton in the current financial year. I am unaware of any projects which have not proceeded because of the lack of industrial land. The failure of the BHP coating plant to go ahead was due to BHP being unable to obtain a satisfactory town planning approval from the Brisbane City Council. In this particular case BHP was unable to obtain a satisfactory town planning approval from the Brisbane City Council.

(2) My department's strategic planning staff have been working collaboratively with all local governments in South East Queensland and throughout the state to identify land areas of regional significance to future development of business and industry. Action will then be taken to have these areas preserved for this purpose in the Planning Schemes of the relevant Local Authorities. In high growth areas the department has been assisting in the preparation of Development Control Plans with business friendly and performance planning provisions.

(3) I am unaware of any existing plan to address what you describe as vacant public land for industrial purposes. Statutory Authorities either acquire land for their specific function or have had vacant Crown land vested in them in the past. In South East Queensland, port land is under the ownership of the Port of Brisbane Corporation and it has prepared a strategic development plan for the use of its land holdings. Responsibility for the Gateway Ports Project which encompasses land at the Port of Brisbane, the Brisbane Airport, land held by my department at Lytton and private land in the locality is under the jurisdiction of the Honourable the

Minister for Economic Development and Trade. In the event of there being any vacant public land in South East Queensland which is not required for its dedicated purpose and which is suitable for industrial development, the department will consult with the relevant agencies on matters concerning its release and reappropriation.

1264. Queensland Rail Land, Moolabin

Mr FOLEY asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (14/11/96)—

With reference to the proposed disposal of Queensland Rail land at Moolabin—

- (1) Is Queensland Rail negotiating with Carpentaria Transport regarding the sale of land, both within Carpentaria Transport's lease and outside?
- (2) How does he reconcile Queensland Rail's duty to maximise the return on public assets with its policy of offering surplus land to existing long-term leaseholders?
- (3) Will he disclose publicly the details of the disposal of the site and, in particular, inform local residents (a) how much of the site is considered surplus to the requirements of Queensland Rail, (b) what portion of land is being offered, subject to rezoning, to Carpentaria Transport and (c) how "fair market value" on the property is to be established?
- (4) Is he aware of the concerns among local residents to be consulted about any proposals for the development of the site which could affect the amenity of the local environment and impact on property valuation?
- (5) What steps will he take to respond to those concerns?

Mr Johnson (12/12/96):

(1) Yes, Queensland Rail is currently negotiating with Carpentaria Transport regarding the sale of land within and outside its current lease boundaries.

(2) Existing policy allows QR to dispose of surplus land to long term tenants at current market value. This policy takes into account the significant investment that lessees such as Carpentaria Transport have undertaken in the development of their lease area.

The additional area currently under negotiation is required to ensure the continued viability of the site operationally and to maximise the sale price achievable to QR. These additional areas regularise and link the existing areas tenanted by Carpentaria Transport which would otherwise need to be sold at diminished values due to their irregular shape and limited access.

(3) Given the confidential and commercial nature of any negotiations with the current tenant, I do not consider it appropriate for the specific details relating to disposal options to be released, suffice to say that Queensland Rail's primary concern in disposing of any surplus sites is to achieve the highest possible returns.

(4) The sale of the land to Carpentaria Transport or a proposal to develop the site will be subject to a rezoning application being lodged with the Brisbane City Council. The rezoning process requires a period of public advertising in which formal objections can be lodged with the Council. A proposal to rezone or develop will require Brisbane City Council to consider concerns and objections raised by the public.

(5) I will ensure that any sale to Carpentaria Transport is subject to the rezoning process being complete.

1265. Dental Health Clinic, Maryborough Base Hospital

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Health (14/11/96)—

- (1) Is he aware that the waiting list for dental treatment at the Dental Health Clinic at the Maryborough Base Hospital is growing?
- (2) Is he aware that in some cases, people are waiting up to two years for treatment?
- (3) Will the orthodontist, trained in Bundaberg to service the Maryborough region, still provide specialist dental treatment to Maryborough citizens?
- (4) Will he assure the citizens of Maryborough that he will provide additional dental health professionals at the clinic, so that people who cannot afford a private dentist can access fair and equitable care without waiting extraordinary times for treatment, or is he going to allow the waiting lists to continue to grow?

Mr Horan (16/12/96): Dental waiting lists at Maryborough blew out to unacceptable levels under Labor's failed regionalised system. The Coalition has redirected funds previously diverted into administration, applying them to clinical services. Specifically in Maryborough, a second dentist commenced duty in Maryborough in September 1996. This appointment is expected to substantially increase patient throughput and decrease waiting times.

(1) No. I am advised that the wait for new and recall patients is stable, and that for prosthetic patients is declining; all waits are now expected to decline following the appointment of the second dentist.

(2) Following an examination of the waiting schedule for all categories of listed patients, I am advised that no patient has waited for two or more years for dental treatment in Maryborough.

(3) A dentist with post-graduate orthodontic qualifications recently completed training in Brisbane at the University of Queensland Dental School. This dentist is now based in Bundaberg and provides a orthodontic service to Maryborough, Hervey Bay, Kingaroy and North Burnett districts.

(4) Waiting times peaked under the Goss Government, and are now in decline. As I said, a second dentist commenced duty in Maryborough in

September 1996, to substantially increase patient throughput and decrease waiting times. Future staffing will be determined after a six month review of progress on waiting times. In short, waiting times will continue to decline.

1266. Mr R. Farrah and Mr P. Streeton; John Oxley Hospital

Mrs EDMOND asked the Minister for Health (14/11/96)—

With reference to reports that confessed killer Ross Farrah left John Oxley Hospital on escorted leave to play indoor cricket just a year after he kicked and strangled his former girlfriend to death—

- (1) Is this correct?
- (2) Did or did not Mr Farrah leave the grounds of the hospital?
- (3) Does he believe such rehabilitation is appropriate so early in a sentence for such a serious crime; if not, what has he done or is he doing to ensure that this practice ceases or is altered?
- (4) What security grading has been given to Mr Farrah?
- (5) What grading did he have at the time of his leave?
- (6) Does he believe this grading is appropriate under the circumstances?
- (7) What contact has he had with the family of Mr Farrah's victim, Christine Nash; if none, why not at least an explanation or an apology?
- (8) Is it true that Paul Streeton, who allegedly set fire to a Cairns school boy, is also being held at John Oxley Hospital?
- (9) Is there any likelihood he will be playing indoor cricket either within or outside the hospital grounds in the immediate future?
- (10) What security grading does Mr Streeton currently enjoy?

Mr Horan (16/12/96): I am disappointed that you have asked a question with so many parts, which breaches the spirit of the Standing Orders and which creates an unnecessary burden on the staff of Queensland Health. What is more, the question is in direct breach of Standing Order 68 (a).

Nonetheless, I appreciate the importance of the issues behind the Honourable Member's question. In view of the direct way in which these questions relate to the treatment of individuals, I will respond privately to the Honourable Member in writing. I am advised that the clinical treatment of these individuals has at all times been appropriate in terms of clinical practice and the law. I am also advised that, in the Farrah case, the victim's parents have been informed of the patient's status, including participation in supervised activities. Correspondence from them has been forwarded to the Patient Review Tribunal, so that their concerns will be considered in any future decisions regarding leave.

1267. Harness Racing, Townsville

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (14/11/96)—

With reference to the 1997 recommencement of harness racing in Townsville and the fact that prizemoney for the first six months of racing funded by Treasury will be \$2,000 per race—

- (1) Given that prizemoney in Rockhampton and Mackay is set at \$1,250 per race, would he please inform the Parliament as to why recommendations to have the prizemoney for Townsville races set at the same level as other harness racing clubs were dismissed?
- (2) With the higher level of prizemoney allocated to Townsville, does he really expect the six month trial to fail or is it a politically motivated arrangement to give Townsville a distinct advantage over Mackay and Rockhampton?
- (3) If the six month trial in Townsville is successful and harness racing is permanently reinstated, what will be the levels of prizemoney per race for Townsville, Mackay and Rockhampton clubs?

Mr Cooper (12/12/96): Prizemoney of \$2,000 per race for the first 6 months of racing in Townsville will be funded from the Racing Development Fund and not by Treasury as suggested in the Question asked by Mr Pearce.

(1) Prizemoney levels for Townsville Harness Racing were negotiated by the North Queensland Harness Racing Club with the Queensland Harness Racing Board. The Board has advised the club that from 1 July 1997 maximum prizemoney of \$1,600 per race will be provided from TAB distribution. The Townsville Club's submission for higher prizemoney levels than Rockhampton and Mackay was based on prizemoney levels when they previously raced.

(2) I am particularly impressed with the enthusiasm of the people associated with Harness racing in Townsville. If this enthusiasm can be translated into support for the return of Harness racing in Townsville, then I am confident that the trial will be a success. The prizemoney levels to be funded by TAB distribution may be marginally higher than Rockhampton and Mackay, however, this did not detract from the success of those centres when Townsville previously raced with higher prizemoney.

(3) Prizemoney levels for next year are subject to approval by the Racing Industry Coordinating Committee.

The Harness Racing Board advises that the following prizemoney will be recommended, depending of course on the amount of TAB funds available for distribution:

Townsville—\$1,600 per race maximum
 Mackay—\$1,250 per race
 Rockhampton—\$1,250 per race

1268. Hospital, Morningson Island

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Health (14/11/96)—

With reference to the Labor Government's commitment to build a new hospital on Morningson Island which has been described as the worst in Queensland, where staff are forced to use tarpaulins over sections of the roof, and as construction of the new hospital has not yet commenced and the wet season in the region will soon commence and as such, construction during the wet season will prove to be difficult and will not be possible until about April 1997—

- (1) Why has he taken so long in commencing construction of this new hospital and is it a case of 'out of sight, out of mind'?
- (2) When will work start on this hospital?

Mr Horan (16/12/96): Morningson Island Hospital was out of sight and out of mind of the Labor Government. Although Ministers Elder and Beattie were busily overcommitting the Hospital Rebuilding Program by \$1.2 billion, they underfunded the redevelopment of Morningson Island Hospital by \$2.2 million. This has been corrected by the Borbidge Government, which has allocated a total of \$7.2 million to the project.

Not even Master Planning was completed when the Coalition came to office. This Government has moved quickly and already, detailed planning has commenced: the Architectural and Principal Consultants have now visited the island as part of this process. Also, the majority of consultants have now been selected and engaged for the duration of the total project. It is anticipated that construction will commence during 1997.

During recent rains, there were found to be a number of roof leaks at the Hospital with the worst being over the kitchen area. Attempts by both the Community Council and Q-Build failed to rectify the situation and, for safety purposes, tarpaulins were initially utilised. However, repairs have now been completed.

Recognising the need for staff accommodation, arrangements have been put in place to meet these needs through the provision of 2 x 2 bedroom units and 2 x 3 bedroom units. This accommodation should be on site by mid to late February 1997 and will be additional to current accommodation provided adjacent to the Hospital which also will be refurbished and upgraded.

1269. Illegal Trade in Flora and Fauna; Cape York, National Park Management

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Environment (14/11/96)—

- (1) What funding and other resources will be applied to control the illegal trade in wildlife in 1996-97?
- (2) What resources were applied to prevent the illegal trade in Foxtail palm seed at Cape Melville in 1995-96?
- (3) What funds have been allocated for this purpose in 1996-97?
- (4) What funding is being allocated for park management in Cape York in 1996-97?

- (5) What staff, both full-time and part-time, are appointed to the management of these parks in Cape York?
- (6) What funding is being made available for the training of aboriginal staff, how many staff are involved and what is the source of this funding?

Mr Littleproud (19/12/96):

1. The provisions of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 are enforced by Conservation Officers of the Department of Environment, field officers of the Boating and Fisheries Patrol of the Department of Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry and all Police Officers of the Queensland Police Service.

The specialist Police Wildlife Task Force of two detectives works in conjunction with the Department of Environment to undertake investigation and enforcement in relation to serious and organised wildlife crime.

The funding applied to control illegal trade in wildlife is not separately identifiable.

2. A total of \$149,000 was expended in the 1995-96 financial year to protect Cape Melville National Park from the illegal activities of Foxtail palm seed smugglers.

It is interesting that the Honourable Member should ask a question relating to Cape Melville, given the involvement of people employed by the Labor Government with activities in the area.

3. The use of equipment purchased in previous years has allowed a substantial reduction in costs in the 1996-97 financial year, without compromising operational effectiveness and \$75,000 has been allocated.

4. The Cape York District has been allocated \$380,000 for operational purposes and \$178,000 for capital works projects this financial year, which includes the above \$75,000.

5. The Cape York Peninsula has ten full time officers and three part time officers and a further two temporary appointments to Cape Melville National Park will be made in the near future.

6. An amount of \$205,000 has been allocated for training Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff this financial year. Of this, \$200,000 is provided as New Initiative funding to implement the Government's election commitments. The balance is provided from base funding. This provides for continuity of training and part-time employment for five Aboriginal Ranger positions in the Cape York area and two positions in the Whitsunday area.

The Department of Environment also participates in the Commonwealth Government's CEPANCRM Program (Contract Employment Program for Aboriginals in Natural and Cultural Resource Management). This Program is project-based and several projects are currently under way at various locations across the State, including Aboriginal Ranger training at Low Isles in the far north. Whilst these projects are mostly being undertaken on the protected area estate, participants are employed by various contracting organisations, not the Department. However, the Department does provide considerable in-kind support by way of project

supervision and management. Materials may also be made available.

1270. Termite Treatment Chemicals

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Health (14/11/96)—

- (1) As many pest-proofing operators fail to advise of the dangers of substances which they propose to use, will he provide protection of victims of this neglect?
- (2) What steps will he take to ensure that householders and families are advised of the dangers inherent in the use of termite treatment chemicals such as Dursban, which can cause severe damage to many residents, particularly those with existing respiratory problems?

Mr Horan (16/12/96):

(1) To minimise the risk to public health, Queensland Health examines pest control operators prior to licensing. To be licensed the applicant must demonstrate a thorough knowledge of pesticide toxicity, potential effects on human health, (particularly with regard to the occupation of treated premises), and safety procedures to minimise these risks.

The use of pesticides must be in accordance with the National Registration Authority's approved conditions for use, which are detailed on container labels. The Health Act 1937 requires a pest control operator to advise the Department of any accident involving a pesticide or when poisoning occurs. Regulations also prohibit a person using a pesticide in a manner which endangers the life or safety of any person. Non compliance with these provisions can result in prosecution and/or licence cancellation.

(2) At present there is no statutory requirement for a pest control operator to advise the householder of termiticides or any other pesticides to be used, or the possible effect of these pesticides. Pest control legislation is currently under review and I have directed that this issue be considered, as part of the review process.

1271. Public Housing, Nudgee Electorate

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (14/11/96)—

With reference to public housing in the Nudgee Electorate—

- (1) How many new detached houses, attached houses, duplexes, townhouses, units, seniors units, respectively, will be constructed in 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000?
- (2) How many dwellings in each of the above categories, respectively, will be purchased in 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000?
- (3) What are the locations of each of the newly constructed dwellings referred to above?
- (4) What is the value of the above new construction and purchases, respectively?
- (5) Which existing dwellings will be refurbished in each of the years listed?

- (6) What is the value of the refurbishment, for each location respectively, for each of the years listed?
- (7) Are any existing properties earmarked for demolition and/or removal; if so, what is the location of each property, respectively, and what is the proposed future use or redevelopment for each property?

Mr Connor (16/12/96):

(1) As part of the 1996/97 Statewide public housing construction program, my Department has advised that 2 detached houses and 10 seniors units will be constructed in the Nudgee electorate. Additional construction will be dependent on successful applications before the independent Community Housing Grants Board. It is not possible to provide projections for the years beyond 1996/97 until the Commonwealth Government clarifies future funding arrangements.

(2) In the Nudgee electorate so far, my Department has purchased 3 detached houses as part of the 1996/97 public rental capital works program. A \$34M (300 homes) spot purchase program has just been approved. The Nudgee electorate will receive its share according to policy based on most need. It is not possible to provide projections for the years beyond 1996/97 until the Commonwealth Government clarifies future funding arrangements.

(3) The location of the 2 detached houses and 10 seniors units to be constructed in the Nudgee electorate is in Boondall.

(4) Refer to answer to questions 1 and 2.

(5) This financial year, refurbishment of 12 bedsits in Zillmere were completed and these are now tenanted.

It is not possible to provide projections for the years beyond 1996/97 until the Commonwealth Government clarifies future funding arrangements.

(6) With reference to the dwellings mentioned previously, the estimated cost of the refurbishment is \$40,700.

It is not possible to provide projections for the years beyond 1996/97 until the Commonwealth Government clarifies future funding arrangements.

(7) This financial year, 3 houses have been demolished. My Department is currently evaluating proposals for these sites. Other dwellings are under consideration for demolition.

1275. Kilcoy Pastoral Company

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (14/11/96)—

- (1) Is he or has he been a shareholder of Kilcoy Pastoral Company, recently exposed as having had a \$3.1m slaughter floor and \$4m compensation paid to them by the Meat Research Corporation?
- (2) Is Kilcoy Pastoral Company part of the Queensland Commercial Abattoir Proprietors group seeking to reduce abattoir competition in

the State via the Queensland Abattoir Corporation's demise?

- (3) Has Kilcoy approached the State Government to hand over its cattle slaughter business goodwill to utilise spare capacity created by the construction of the MRC funded abattoir at Kilcoy?

Mr Cooper (16/12/96):

- (1) I am not a shareholder in "Kilcoy Pastoral Company". Nor, since an entity with that name could not be an incorporated company, could I or anyone else be a shareholder.

I am a partner in the partnership Donnabar Pastoral Company, as honourable members would be aware from my Statement of Interests dated 8 May 1996. The assets of that partnership include 5,000 shares in the company Kilcoy Holdings Limited, which may be the entity to which the honourable member intended to refer. I am advised that the issued capital of Kilcoy Holdings Limited is 4823626 ordinary shares of \$1 each fully paid as at 30 June 1996. I am not a director of that company and have no knowledge of its affairs beyond receiving, as a partner in Donnabar Pastoral Company, the usual reports which it forwards to shareholders.

It follows that I know nothing of any dealings which it may have had with the Meat Research Corporation.

- (2) I do not know.
- (3) I do not know.

1276. Brisbane Airport Rail Link

Mr HAYWARD asked the Premier (14/11/96)—

- (1) How much has the Queensland Government agreed to compensate the international and domestic consortium bidders for the Brisbane airport rail link, as a result of his Government's decision to abort the expression of interest process and publicly scrutinisable short-listing process?
- (2) Is there any connection between the Treasurer, Mrs Sheldon and the airport rail link group to whom Mrs Sheldon awarded the right to develop the project?
- (3) What progress is being made by this group in designing, financing and developing this project?

Mr Borbidge (16/12/96):

(1) The Government has reached agreement with the Airlink Brisbane consortium for an ex gratia payment in relation to its unsuccessful submission for the Brisbane Airport Rail link project. The details of this ex gratia payment are commercial in confidence.

(2) The Treasurer is in no manner connected with Airtrain Citylink Ltd (Airtrain) which was granted a single mandate to develop a detailed proposal for an Airport Rail Link. It should be noted that the mandate was granted by Cabinet (rather than the Treasurer) to develop a proposal and that no right has yet been given to develop the physical project.

(3) Airtrain's mandate required it to develop a full project proposal for Government by 31 October

1996. A proposal was received on that date and is currently being assessed by the Department of Transport and Queensland Treasury. It is expected that the results of this assessment will be provided to Cabinet for further consideration by mid December 1996.

1278. Wynnum Child Health Centre

Mr LUCAS asked the Minister for Health (14/11/96)—

With reference to the Wynnum Child Health Centre situated conveniently for the Mums and Dads of Lytton in Florence Street, Wynnum Central—

- (1) Is he aware that the child health centre is presently situated at a place that has the bus passing its door, the train station at the end of the street, and allows parents visiting the centre to attend to shopping in the Wynnum Central Business District, saving them an extra trip and putting money in the pockets of local businesses?
- (2) How long has the child health centre served the Mums and Dads (and their Mums and Dads) at its present site?
- (3) How many babies and children have used the facilities of the Wynnum Child Health Centre during 1995-96 and how many patient visits has this involved?
- (4) What is the current state of proposals with respect to siting of the child health centre?
- (5) What sites are being considered for the relocation of the Wynnum Child Health Centre?
- (6) Will he give a commitment to a full and public consultation process with parents and centre staff prior to making any decision concerning the location of the centre?

Mr Horan (30/1/97):

(1, 4, & 6) Yes, I am aware that the Wynnum Child Health Centre is located in Wynnum Central and that it is accessible to public transport. It is also true that significant growth in population and housing continues to occur in Wynnum West, Tingalpa and Manly West. The Centre is well placed now; however, if at any point a better position is identified, Queensland Health and the Bayside District Health Council, in full consultation with the local community, will examine the question of relocation.

(2) The Wynnum Child Health Centre was opened on 12 September 1980.

(3) In the 1995/1996 financial year, there were 5,286 occasions of service and 320 attendees for the Brisbane City Council Immunisation Clinic.

(5) None.

1281. Dumping of Sewage, Daintree Region

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Environment (14/11/96)—

With reference to a recent report of the dumping of a large quantity of sewage in rainforest north of the Daintree River—

- (1) What quantities of sewage were involved?
- (2) What stage of treatment was it at?
- (3) How long had this dumping been occurring and from what source?
- (4) Whose land was the dumping occurring on and was the owner aware of, or implicated in, the dumping?
- (5) What stage is his department's investigation at and does he anticipate a prosecution ensuing; if not, why not?
- (6) Who is meeting the costs of the clean-up?
- (7) What environmental damage has occurred as a result of this dumping?

Mr Littleproud (13/12/96): This matter is before the courts and I would prefer not to release details at this stage.

1282. Health and Community Care Program

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Health (14/11/96)—

With reference to the fact that the Electorate of Chermanside has the highest percentage of any Queensland electorate of constituents aged 60 years or more and cuts to HACC funding is adversely affecting many of my constituents—

- (1) What aspects of the HACC program have been cut?
- (2) How long will elderly residents have to wait to access home help under the HACC program?
- (3) What steps can the State Government take to allocate funds sufficient to cater for the expanding needs of older constituents?

Mr Horan (16/12/96):

(1) The HACC Program has not been subjected to any cuts and, in fact, received a substantial annual funding increase under the Coalition's first budget earlier this year.

(2) I am advised by The Prince Charles Hospital and District Health Service that there is no waiting time for the Home Care Service. This has been the situation for some months.

(3) The HACC Program is a jointly funded Commonwealth/State Program in which Queensland is required to provide matching funding under an agreed formula. To address State/Territory funding inequities created under the Hawke and Keating Governments, Queensland received the highest growth funding of all States this year. I will continue to press the Commonwealth for Queensland's fair share of HACC funding.

1284. Queensland Abattoir Corporation; Danpork; Cannon Hill MRA

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (14/11/96)—

- (1) What safeguards is the Government putting in place with the privatisation of the Queensland Abattoir Corporation to ensure that the service slaughter of pigs and cattle does not fall into

- the hands of foreign interests any more than has already happened in "selling the farm"?
- (2) What security of employment have employees at QAC got with the proposed privatisation of their business?
 - (3) How can he guarantee the independence of the service slaughter service if an independent QAC is liquidated when the only privately owned export abattoir operations in this State would be competing with their service slaughter customers for the purchase of livestock and the sale of finished product?
 - (4) Is the Government giving consideration to handing the QAC's pig slaughtering business to the Danish and Asian owned Danpork Multinational?
 - (5) Does Danpork intend to build massive piggeries in conjunction with the gift of the QAC's business to justify a new Government sponsored pig abattoir at Warwick?
 - (6) Is Danpork's proposal opposed by all other sectors of the pig industry in Queensland?
 - (7) If the Government intends to hand the QAC's service kill over to private interests instead of selling the QAC as a going concern, what will be the likely compensation bill to existing QAC customers whose businesses are incompatible with service slaughter at export abattoirs owned by their competitors?
 - (8) What will be the additional human and financial loss in redundancy payments by not selling the QAC as a going concern?
 - (9) Has the Cannon Hill MRA just spent \$2m on a new pig chain incorporating the newest slaughtering techniques and will now because of his decision, walk away from this investment?
 - (10) Will the Government honour the redundancy agreement reached with the employees of the Cannon Hill MRA, i.e. two weeks for every year of service up to a maximum of 52 weeks, when they sell out the Cannon Hill MRA to foreign interests?
 - (11) Is the Government going to abandon families who have given generations (that is great grandfathers, grandfathers, fathers and their sons) of loyal, hardworking service to the well-being of the Cannon Hill MRA and the Queensland meat industry?
 - (12) Is the Government doing all in its power to run down the Cannon Hill MRA?
 - (13) Have some 12 people been sacked at the Cannon Hill MRA in recent weeks?
 - (14) Are another 9 persons also about to be put off at the Cannon Hill MRA?
 - (15) What is the total number of staff who have been sacked at the Cannon Hill MRA in the last twelve months?
 - (16) How many more people are facing unemployment at this site?
 - (17) Did he, when presenting the Qsafe awards to Qmeat Toowoomba on Tuesday 15 October

and when asked by works officials what the future held for all Qmeat employees as regards the super plant, inform them that all Qmeat employees would be looked after and that they had no worries as they had done a good job?

Mr Perrett (16/12/96):

1. I consider that it is necessary to place the Government's recent actions in regard to the Queensland Abattoir Corporation in a proper context so that the Honourable Member can better understand what the Government is doing. In early September 1996, the Queensland Government established a Steering Committee, chaired by the Director-General of DPI, to review the Government's future involvement in meat processing in general, and its future ownership of public abattoirs in particular.

This was in response to a number of private sector development proposals as well as to a comprehensive Business Plan prepared by the Corporation which essentially proposed a relocation of its South-east Queensland operations to a new, or "greenfields" site.

On Monday 11 November 1996, the Queensland Government endorsed a number of recommendations made by the Steering Committee and taken to Cabinet by myself and the Premier and Acting Treasurer.

Essentially, the Government's decision is to exit from its ownership of meat processing facilities in an orderly manner while ensuring the on-going provision by the private sector of an efficient and fully commercial service kill capacity for the State's meat and livestock industries.

The "bottom line" is that the Queensland Government is not going to be in the business of funding the construction of new abattoirs, be they privately or publicly owned, and intends to move out of its present position of having capital tied up in the ownership of five abattoirs that are in competition with the numerous private sector abattoirs and slaughterhouses in this State, the five being at Cannon Hill in Brisbane (often called by its old name "Metropolitan Regional Abattoir" or MRA), and at Ipswich, Toowoomba, Bundaberg and Townsville (the latter often called the "Bohle Abattoir:").

The Steering Committee has now been charged with developing an "expressions of interest document" which will be considered by the Queensland Government on 16 December before being sent to all parties that responded an invitation made by the Steering Committee for submissions on the Government's future role in meat processing.

The Government has identified three primary objectives for the "expressions of interest" exercise, namely:

to ensure that contract slaughtering (service killing) is achievable through private sector facilities for livestock producers and meat processors for both the domestic and international markets;

to identify strategies for the Government to exit from its ownership position in the meat processing industry (ie. the ownership of the five public abattoirs) in an orderly manner; and

to use the exit of the Government from the industry as a catalyst to revitalise the meat processing industry by encouraging it to become internationally competitive and able to deliver further value adding to meat products.

It is envisaged that the Steering Committee will assess the responses to the "expressions of interest" invitation and will develop a "short list" of proponents for more detailed consideration before coming to a recommendation/s to place before Cabinet for final decision.

The timing of the various steps in this exercise are still subject to Cabinet endorsement but I am quite happy to supply the Honourable Member with more details on this in due course.

Turning now to the Honourable Member's list of questions, the sort of issues which Mr Purcell has raised in a number of his questions, including Question 1, will need to be addressed during the Steering Committee's consideration of responses to the "expressions of interest" exercise and during the subsequent more detailed discussions with "short listed" respondents and I am certainly not going to pre-empt the outcome of the Steering Committee's deliberations in this regard.

2. See answer to Question 1.

3. See answer to Question 1.

4. No.

5. I am not yet in possession of a final proposal from Danpork. However, let me make it clear that the entire premise of Mr Purcell's question is in error and once again I refer him to my answer to Question 1.

6. As the final Danpork proposal is not yet in the public arena, I cannot provide comment on the pig industry's views on it.

7. See answer to Question 1.

8. See answer to Question 1.

9. QAC has recently installed a new pig slaughtering chain. See answer to Question 1.

10. The Queensland Government has no intention of interfering with redundancy agreements negotiated by QAC with workplace unions as part of the enterprise bargaining process which this Government supports.

11. No. See answer to Question 1.

12. No.

13. I am advised that, as a consequence of adverse trading conditions experienced by all operators in the meat industry in recent months, the QAC Board and management have reviewed the Corporation's operations and have identified opportunities to reduce expenditure in a number of areas including, but by no means limited to, a reduction in labour expenses through a contraction in overtime and a small reduction in the number of QAC employees. Other areas where cost reduction strategies are being examined include electricity, meat inspection charges and boiler operating costs.

In terms of the employee reduction component, I understand that 11 positions in the management, supervisory and administration areas have been

affected up to the date of the Honourable Member's question of 14 November 1996. This action is quite independent of the Government's review of its role as the owner of Cannon Hill abattoir.

14. Further employee reductions expected to be made at Cannon Hill as part of the cost reduction exercise outlined in my response to the previous question include 5 employees in the maintenance area and possibly up to 15 production workers.

The Honourable Member, and those who have developed these questions for him, need to understand that QAC is a commercial business operation in a very competitive market. If the volume of business is not there to sustain employee numbers at previous levels, then there is no alternative to scaling back those numbers to match the business offering.

QAC is no different to its private sector competitors in this regard, indeed it is no different from any properly run commercial business activity.

15. In the 12 months up to the date of the Honourable Member's question, there have been 12 redundancies at Cannon Hill, including the 11 mentioned in my response to Question 13.

16. See answer to Question 1.

17. After presenting the Q Safe awards to both Q Meat Toowoomba and Mighty Meats at the Q Meat Toowoomba plant I had some discussion with workforce representatives regarding the future of that plant and QAC's proposal for rationalisation and relocation of the three existing South-East Queensland plants to a new plant at a "greenfields" site.

The representatives also raised the issue of the future of their jobs in light of QAC's proposal on which I informed them that, if indeed the proposal went ahead, all Q Meat employees would be looked after.

Now that the Government has decided to exit its ownership role in the meat processing industry, this situation remains the same. If redundancies are offered to employees for whatever reason, I repeat my answer to Question 10 that the Queensland Government has no intention of interfering with redundancy agreements negotiated by QAC with workplace unions as part of the enterprise bargaining process which this Government supports.

1285. Cattle, Use of Growth Hormones

Mr De LACY asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (14/11/96)—

With reference to a feature article in the *Courier-Mail* on 9 November titled "Prisoners of the Land" in which reference was made to the use of growth hormones on cattle on a property called Maitland Downs owned by the Alher's family—

(1) Is the use of these growth hormones condoned by him and the Department of Primary Industries?

(2) How prevalent is the practice?

(3) What hormones are being used in Queensland for this purpose?

- (4) What monitoring and control does the DPI have over this practice?
- (5) Have hormones costing as little as \$5.60 per head the ability to cram five years growth into a beast in as little as three years?
- (6) Is the European Economic Community reluctant to accept artificially enhanced beef?
- (7) Is he totally satisfied that the use of growth hormones in Queensland beef poses no health risk to consumers?
- (8) Is he satisfied that all regulations pertaining to the use of these hormones are being observed by Queensland beef producers using them?

Mr Perrett (16/12/96):

1. The 9 November *Courier-Mail* article does refer to the use of growth hormones in cattle. The reporter was careless with terminology and should have more correctly referred to hormonal growth promotants (HGP). (Mr De Lacy would also appear to be confused as most of his questions relate to HGPs not growth hormones). Growth hormones are a different class of natural substance which have so far only been registered for use in Australia in the pig industry. The use of registered HGPs in the beef industry is supported by the Department of Primary Industries to assist the achievement of product specifications for those markets where no restrictions on their use exist.

2. The treatment of cattle with HGPs is a common practice on more than 2,400 beef properties in Queensland.

3. Both natural and synthetic HGPs are registered by the National Registration Authority for use in cattle in Australia and Queensland.

4. The use of HGPs in cattle in Queensland is controlled by the Chemical Usage (Agricultural and Veterinary) Control Act 1988. The Animal and Plant Health Service of my Department monitors usage practices through auditing of resellers, producers using HGPs and cattle in saleyards. Cases of non compliance with the law are prosecuted and severe penalties exist.

5. Treatment costs vary depending on the type of HGP used but are in the range of \$2.40 to \$5.60. The weight gains and feed conversion efficiency of treated animals is improved by up to 20% under optimal conditions. Also, because of the seasonal growth cycle in much of Queensland, treated animals may reach certain market specifications considerably earlier than untreated cattle. This is a 'bonus' effect for producers who are able to take advantage of these gains. The reporters claim that the Ahlers were "cramming 5 years growth into them in barely three" is emotive hyperbole and takes no account of improved feeding or seasonal conditions.

6. Despite a total lack of scientific evidence of any harmful effects on consumers (FAONVHO 1987), the European Union (EU) has maintained a total ban on the use of HGPs and the entry of products from treated animals on socioeconomic grounds. This ban has been challenged by the United States of America, Canada, Australia and New Zealand under World Trade Organisation rules, but to date the EU

has not relaxed its position. Entry of product to the EU, is dependent upon Queensland having in place strict requirements regarding the eligibility of cattle which have never been treated at any time in their lives with HGPs.

7. There has never been any scientific evidence, that the responsible use of the currently registered HGPs, presents any risk to consumers. The levels of naturally occurring hormones present in HGPs are no greater than those occurring in normal animals.

8. The regulations required to be observed in relation to use of HGPs, are monitored closely by Inspectors of the Animal and Plant Health Service and compliance with the regulations is legally enforced. I emphasise that the purpose of compliance enforcement is purely for market access to the EU and not because of any health or consumer concerns within Australia.

1286. Land-clearing, Tully/Ingham Region

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Natural Resources (14/11/96)—

With reference to broadscale landclearing occurring in the Tully to Ingham region—

- (1) Does he consider it appropriate to remove riparian vegetation and habitat, or to leave inadequate buffer zones between agricultural land use and waterways?
- (2) What action is he taking to ensure land clearing practices are not in breach of the Water Resources Act, especially in relation to waterway modification and riparian vegetation removal?
- (3) How many permits have been issued authorising the modification, draining or filling of wetlands or waterways in the region?
- (4) What action has been taken against landowners who have undertaken such activities without relevant permits or approvals?
- (5) what action is being taken to implement Integrated Catchment Management in the region?
- (6) What is the Government doing to ensure adequate wildlife corridors are being maintained and protected to link remnant forests in the region with each other and core habitat?
- (7) What steps are being taken to identify the extent of land clearing occurring in this region without relevant permits?
- (8) What is the extent of such clearing and what action has been taken against those who have cleared land unlawfully?

Mr Hobbs (12/12/96):

1. The Department of Natural Resources does not consider it appropriate in a general sense to remove vegetation and habitat from waterways—correctly termed watercourses. There are specific provisions in the Water Resources Act 1989 which provide for protection of native vegetation in watercourses. Landowners who wish to remove or destroy native vegetation in watercourses must apply for a permit

and these permits are only approved in certain circumstances where minor removals are appropriate.

Obviously, on occasions, there are circumstances where it is both appropriate and necessary to authorise modifications to watercourses; for example, to prevent erosion or flooding or construct water storages. These modifications may be authorised by licenses issued under the Water Resources Act 1989. In these cases, the effect on the riparian vegetation of the watercourse of those modifications is taken into account when assessing a license application.

2. In order to make landowners aware of their obligations in relation to preservation of riverine vegetation corridors, the Department has initiated Integrated Catchment Management programs, established Catchment Management coordinators and committed personnel in a number of centres in the Ingham to Tully region. The Department has also promoted a number of other programs including Landcare support and the Community Rainforest Reafforestation Project.

The Department has recently appointed a Senior Technical Officer (Water Management) to Ingham to provide a full range of water management services to the Department's clients in the Hinchinbrook Shire.

The Department of Natural Resources acts in an advisory capacity to Local (Cane Assignment) Boards who have the statutory responsibility of assessing and granting assignment applications from cane farmers. Local guidelines have been developed to assess assignment applications. Preservation of riparian vegetation, management of farm drainage and avoidance of areas of acid sulphate risk are key elements in the sustainable development of individual farms.

3. Within the Hinchinbrook and Cardwell Shire areas the Department has issued some 38 licences to authorise drainage and/or diversion works within approximately the last five (5) years. Over the same period, some 27 riparian protection permits have been issued for alterations to the bed and banks of watercourses. These figures do not include outstanding applications not yet processed for such works.

4. Upon notification or discovery of a breach of the Act, officers will initiate an investigation invariably

involving an interview with the landowner or legal occupier. An assessment will then be made based on basic principles of riverine management into the likely impacts of the works.

If the investigation reveals that significant or undesirable impact is likely then a formal Notice will be issued under the Act requiring the landowner to cease activities and to initiate specific rehabilitation within a specific timeframe. Significant breaches are investigated with a view to prosecution.

Within the Hinchinbrook and Cardwell Shires the Department has acted upon a number of breaches regarding illegal alteration to the beds or banks of watercourses and clearing of riparian vegetation. In the last twelve (12) months eight (8) rehabilitation notices have been issued. Several investigations have been initiated with a view to prosecution. A number of investigations are continuing.

5. Catchment Committees have been formed in the Tully/Murray and Herbert Rivers catchments. DNR has provided ICM Project Grant funding to the Cardwell Shire Catchment Coordinating Committee for:

Project titled Planning and Management in the Tully/Murray Catchment \$15,000.00 ICM Grant, \$15,135.00 from NLP (National Landcare Program);

Employment of a part-time coordinator (shared with the Landcare group); and

Draft catchment management strategy which is being developed.

DNR has provided two ICM Project Grants to the Herbert River Catchment Coordinating Committee:

Coordination of Catchment Management in the Herbert River Catchment \$31,000.00 with additional \$31,000.00 provided by NLP;

Assessment of stream bank vegetation—Herbert River \$11,750.00 from DNR.

A draft strategy has been prepared for the Herbert River and is currently being endorsed by the community and relevant government departments. The Herbert River Catchment Coordination Committee is also receiving Implementation Grant funding from DNR for the implementation of four projects, namely:

Project	Organisation	Approved 95/96	Approved 96/97
Control of major erosion threat on Herbert River at Long Pocket Revegetation of priority riparian zones—Herbert River floodplain Stream Management in Caneland—Landcare Demonstration Site Flow Monitoring Weir—Stone River Valley	Herbert RIT	\$87,500	\$87,500
	Herbert River CCC		\$21,000
	Herbert River CCC		\$6,250
	Stone River Water Advisory Committee		\$8,500
	TOTAL	\$87,500	\$122,250

6. This area has relatively few parcels of leasehold land that can be subject to the tree clearing provisions of the Land Act. For the leasehold grazing properties in this area, a program is under way to draw up Tree Management Plans (as mentioned in the Land Act) for each property. This will be done

with input from the landholders and the three relevant Departments—Natural Resources, Primary Industries and Environment.

A key objective of those tree management plans will be to maintain existing links between important elements in the landscape.

7. Officers of the three (3) relevant Departments—Natural Resources, Primary Industries and Environment may come across clearing activities during the normal course of their field activities. Any clearing suspected of being done without the appropriate permit is referred to DNR and the appropriate officer for investigation. The general community also plays an important role in reporting alleged illegal clearing activity.

Any reports of illegal clearing are thoroughly investigated by my Department.

8. The extent of clearing in the Tully/Ingham area being done without the necessary permits under the Land Act is minimal. Where these have occurred, agreements have been reached to revegetate the affected areas.

Over the last two years there has been 2 cases where minor breaches have been discovered.

Case.1. A lessee had a permit but the contractor cleared outside the permit (contrary to instructions by the lessee). The lessee has been advised that the area must be revegetated to the satisfaction of the Department of Environment.

Case 2. When an application to convert a lease to freehold was being investigated it was discovered that some minor clearing had occurred outside the permitted area. The lessee did not know when the clearing had been done. The lessee has been advised that the area must be revegetated to the satisfaction of DOE.

I have been advised by my Department that in each case the area of "illegal" clearing was approximately less than 1 hectare.

For one of these cases, the revegetation has been completed.

1287. Whale-watching Permits

Mr BEATTIE asked the Minister for Environment (26/11/96)—

With reference to the concerns held by the Hervey Bay whale watch operators regarding the issuing of additional whale watch permits in southern Queensland—

- (1) Have the operators of the Tangalooma whale watch operations written to him strongly criticising the whale watching operations, particularly the impact on migrating whales, of one of the new boats he has permitted, skippered by Ms Kerry McTaggart; if so, what were the details of that criticism, how did he reply and what action has he or his department taken to address this matter?
- (2) Has Sir Frank Moore, a prominent National Party identity and tourism figure, been in contact with members of the Hervey Bay whale watch industry seeking a compromise solution to the current impasse between the Hervey Bay operators and those in southern Queensland; if so, on whose authority is Mr Moore making these queries and who is he reporting to?
- (3) Is it the Minister and what advice has he received so far?

(4) If it is the Minister, will he confirm whether it is the Premier again taking this matter out of his hands?

(5) Did his Director-General on the day after the Minister's ill-fated visit to Hervey Bay recently, contact one of the whale watch operators, Mr S Boyd of Happy Valley resort, and promise him that his Moon Point Road, which he had been campaigning for for some time, would be under way if not completed by the end of 1996?

(6) Was Mr Boyd the person in question who queried the Minister and his staff at the Hervey Bay meeting regarding the Minister's consultation with the Tourism Department over the issuing of new whale watch permits in southern Queensland?

Mr Littleproud (23/12/96):

(1) No.

(2) I am aware that Sir Frank Moore has expressed an interest in enhancing tourism in the region and lifting the status of Hervey Bay as the whale watching capital of the world. I am unaware whose authority Sir Frank Moore is acting upon and to whom he is reporting.

(3) See (2).

(4) See (2).

(5) An inspection of the site had been arranged prior to the meeting with whale-watch operators on November 19. Mr Boyd raised the matter at that time and the Director-General confirmed with Mr Boyd the following day that his concerns were being addressed. The fact that work will proceed is a credit to the Coalition Government considering the neglect perpetrated under the Labor Government.

(6) I am unable to confirm or deny if Mr Boyd was the person who raised the matter.

1288. Mount Cotton State School

Mr ELDER asked the Minister for Education (26/11/96)—

With reference to the relocation of the Mount Cotton State School—

- (1) Why was the school community given such short notice of the relocation?
- (2) Will he provide independently assessed population projections for the area, not based solely on developer's projections?
- (3) Given that he has revised enrolment forecasts downwards on three occasions, is he now confident that no further revisions will be necessary?
- (4) Is he aware of community funded assessments which suggest Mount Cotton school has significant growth potential?
- (5) Has he resolved all environmental and planning problems associated with the alternative site?

Mr Quinn (24/12/96): (1), (2), (3), (4) & (5) The Honourable Member would be aware that I have instructed my Department to delay any planning decisions regarding the relocation of the Mount

Cotton State School until the Redland Strategic Plan is finalised and the extent of the development of the Bayview Country Club Estate is clarified. Consequently there will be no relocation of the school until at least 1999.

1289. Boulia Shire Properties, Alternative Energy Systems

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (26/11/96)—

With reference to the four properties in the Boulia Shire which have been involved in the Remote Area Power Scheme—

- (1) How much money has been spent on each of these properties?
- (2) What is the current status of each of the alternative energy systems on each property?
- (3) What plans does he have for completing work on these properties?
- (4) What financial arrangements does he have in place for these systems?
- (5) When will these systems be completed?
- (6) What has the delay been in completing these projects?

Mr Gilmore (23/12/96): In responding to the Member for Mt Isa, I want to put on record that I have already advised the Member for Mt Isa that I was transferring responsibility for the Remote Area Power Supplies from the Department of Mines and Energy to the Queensland Transmission and Supply Corporation (QTSC). This transfer took effect from 28 October 1996.

(1) Up to the transfer of responsibility for the Remote Area Power Supply (RAPS) Scheme from the Department to QTSC, the Department has spent \$924,133 on the four properties, most of which was committed under the previous Minister, the Honourable Member for Mt Isa.

(2) Since assuming responsibility for the RAPS Trial, the QTSC has had to arrange for repairs in the generating plant, local computer control systems, refrigeration, water supplies and evaporative air-conditioning supplied with the units. Refrigeration installation has been completed at both Macsland and Kallala whilst at Stockport Station, a thermal scanner to test battery terminal connections has been installed. The solar water heater at Macsland has been installed and the wall mounted exhaust has been installed at Badalia. I am aware that QTSC, NORQEC and FNQEC have had people in the field with their contractors during the recent period of extremely hot weather to do what they can to help to assist the people at the four Boulia properties with their RAPS systems.

(3) The Boulia Remote Area Power Supplies are currently operating and the QTSC is managing maintenance on a needs basis.

(4) QTSC will be responsible for all future financial arrangements.

(5) On 4 June 1996, I commissioned the four systems in Brisbane and they were then transferred

to the Boulia properties with the project then being managed by the Energy Innovation Division of my Department. A subsequent service agreement between the Department and Integrated Energy Services ensured project management and servicing of the RAPS units until the Department transferred the project to the QTSC on and from midnight on 28 October 1996.

(6) At all times, officers of my Department and QTSC have expedited work in relation to the Trial sites with no avoidable delays being occasioned at any property.

1290. Acacia Ridge State High School; Sunnybank State High School

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Education (26/11/96)—

With reference to his decision to close Acacia Ridge State High School and the impact that this decision will have on surrounding high schools such as Sunnybank State High School—

- (1) What is the expected increase in student enrolments at Sunnybank State High School in 1997 as a result of the closure of Acacia Ridge State High School?
- (2) What additional funding will be provided to Sunnybank State High School as a result of the expected increase in student numbers in 1997?
- (3) How many additional teachers will be employed at Sunnybank State High School as a result of the expected increase in student numbers in 1997?
- (4) Will Sunnybank State High School receive any additional capital works funding to upgrade facilities as a result of the expected increase in student enrolments in 1997?
- (5) Will he now instruct his department to bring forward the refurbishment of the manual arts block at Sunnybank State High School to begin as soon as possible in order that this work is completed early in 1997 and not in late 1997 as is currently the case?

Mr Quinn (24/12/96):

(1) As the Acacia Ridge State High School is not scheduled for closure until the end of 1997, only a small increase in enrolments at Sunnybank State High School is expected for the start of 1997. This increase will include normal growth, as well as a marginal increase as a result of the Acacia Ridge closure.

(2) Any increase in enrolments at Sunnybank State High School will attract the normal level of funding through the per capita grant allocation of the Department of Education.

(3) Any increase in staffing at the Sunnybank State High School will be determined in accordance with the current staffing formula of the Department. I am informed that at this stage there is likely to be a increase of four staff at the school.

(4) The school is scheduled to receive a upgrade of Manual Arts facilities during 1997. This project has been initiated as a part of the Capital Works Program of the Department of Education.

1291. Quaid Road; Southedge

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (26/11/96)—

With reference to the private "Quaid Road", running from the Pacific Highway north of Cairns to the Atherton Tableland, in the vicinity of the well known Southedge property—

- (1) Has he, his staff or his department, had discussions with Mr Quaid or his representatives regarding the opening of this road; if so, when did these talks occur and what was the outcome?
- (2) Which organisations aside from Mr Quaid's are currently pushing to have this road opened?
- (3) What further work is needed on the road to make it comply with State transport requirements?
- (4) Is there any suggestion that road maintenance will be funded by the imposition of a toll; if so, what level of toll is envisaged?
- (5) Are all the land tenure matters pertaining to the private road becoming a public road been addressed; if so, who owns the land over which the road presently traverses?
- (6) Does he support the opening of this road to the public; if so, why?
- (7) Does he believe opening the road will impact on the World Heritage values of the Wet Tropics land it traverses?
- (8) Does he support an Environmental Impact Study being conducted before opening the road to assess its impacts as a public road?

Mr Johnson (2/1/97):

- (1) Mr Quaid has approached staff to discuss Southedge Road over several years. The main outcomes he sought have been for staff to be aware of his long-term development proposals for the Southedge property and of the road's condition and status.
- (2) I have no specific knowledge of organisations actively "pushing" to have the road opened.
- (3) This is not known. It would require completion of a detailed environmental, design and construction audit.
- (4) Mr Quaid has alluded to the opportunities of funding maintenance through the imposition of a toll. Details such as "amount of toll" have not been discussed.
- (5) Details of land tenure are not known by Departmental officers.
- (6) Opening of the road to the public is not supported at the present time.
- (7) Assessment of the impact of opening the road on World Heritage values would require completion of a study of Environmental Impacts.
- (8) I would support the undertaking of an Environmental Impact Study prior to opening the road as a public road.

1292. Brisbane Airport Rail Link; Airtrain Citylink

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (26/11/96)—

- (1) Has the Government made any compensation payments to the unsuccessful parties in the process of awarding a contract for the Brisbane City—airport rail link project?
- (2) Will he provide details of any such payments or explain the progress of negotiations?
- (3) Has his preferred developer, Airtrain Citylink, finalised their proposal and when does he expect to consider the proposal?
- (4) Will there be an opportunity for public discussion and comment on the Airtrain Citylink proposal?

Mr Johnson (2/1/97):

- (1) The Government has reached agreement with the Airlink Brisbane consortium for an ex gratia payment in relation to its unsuccessful submission for the Brisbane Airport Rail Link project.
- (2) The details of the ex gratia payment to Airlink Brisbane are commercial in confidence.
- (3) Airtrain Citylink Ltd (Airtrain) has an exclusive mandate conferring Preferred Applicant status. Airtrain's mandate required it to develop a full project proposal for Government by 31 October 1996. A proposal was received on that date and is currently being assessed by the Department of Transport and Queensland Treasury. It is expected that the results of this assessment will be provided to Cabinet for further consideration by mid December 1996.
- (4) The public is at liberty to contact Airtrain at any stage to discuss its proposal. If Airtrain are successful in proceeding to Preferred Developer status, it will be a requirement that a full Impact Assessment Study, with associated public consultation, is undertaken as a condition of any Agreement between the Government and Airtrain.

1293. Electronic Automatic Tolling

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (26/11/96)—

- (1) What steps has the department taken to introduce electronic automatic tolling on the Gateway Bridge?
- (2) When is it expected Queensland will have electronic automatic tolling that is now working world wide?

Mr Johnson (2/1/97):

- (1) Over the past 18 months, several trials of electronic toll collection have been conducted for the Gateway Bridge. As a result of these trials, an electronic toll collection system has been installed. It is expected electronic tolling for cars and trucks, but not motorcycles, will be fully operational in March 1997. Transponders can be leased from the Gateway Bridge Company.
- (2) No single electronic automatic tolling system exists world wide. There are many systems and forms of electronic toll collection. The form of electronic automatic toll collection adopted is suited

particularly to Queensland conditions. The system on the Gateway Bridge is described as 'roll through', where the vehicle must slow down but not stop and will be in place for motorists in early 1997. Also, this system could be introduced on the Logan Motorway after the completion of the Southern Brisbane Bypass and when traffic volumes warrant.

1294. Mines and Energy Department, Organisation and Procedural Audit

Mr NUNN asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (26/11/96)—

With reference to the organisation and procedural audit stage 1 of the Department of Mines and Energy—

What did that audit cost?

Mr Gilmore (23/12/96): The cost of the Organisational and Procedural Audit Stage 1 was \$95,000.

1295. South Coast Rail Line, Third Rail Track

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (26/11/96)—

As uncertainty is blighting property values along the South Coast Railway Line through Coopers Plains and nearby suburbs, will he authorise an early completion of a design for the third rail track through that area, which is proposed by railway authorities?

Mr Johnson (2/1/97): The draft Integrated Regional Transport Plan for South East Queensland recommends progressive upgrading of railway capacity and improvements to services on the South Coast Railway. However no detailed planning for additional track capacity has been undertaken, and property requirements (if any) have not yet been determined.

Based on current planning priorities, detailed planning for a possible third track from Salisbury to Beenleigh is likely to be undertaken within the next five years. This will include discussions with property owners likely to be affected. Before any decision is taken, there will be extensive community consultation as part of the detailed planning.

1296. Fitzroy Development Road

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (26/11/96)—

With reference to the State Government announcement on 25 November of a 10 year, \$1.5b road building program—

What consideration has been given to including the widening and strengthening of the single lane sections of the Fitzroy Development Road, also known as the Dingo Mt Flora Road north of the Middlemount turn, as part of the 10 year plan?

Mr Johnson (2/1/97): The 1996-97 to 2000-01 Roads Implementation Program provides for:

(1) widening of sections of single-lane road in Broomsound Shire to provide safe passing

opportunities at an estimated cost of \$1.35 million; and

(2) commencement of a project from Middlemount to Cosmos to provide pavement widening to two lanes at an estimated cost of \$5.0 million.

1297. Dental Health Services, Gladstone Electorate

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Health (26/11/96)—

With reference to waiting lists for oral health procedures (dental) which are a continuing problem in the electorate of Gladstone—

- (1) Have agreements with private dental practices to assist in specified dental procedures for public patients been cancelled?
- (2) Was this a budget based decision?
- (3) In order to address long waiting lists, what alternative has been put in place?
- (4) Will an extra dentist be appointed to the Public Oral Health program—Gladstone?

Mr Horan (2/1/97):

(1) Existing agreements with private dental providers have expired. There have been recent attempts to negotiate and expand contract arrangements with the private sector to include additional emergency and general dental services. These negotiations are continuing. Four dentists will be on staff by the end of December 1996. With the larger number of public dentists and the anticipated expansion of the range of contract services there has been a temporary cessation of dental prosthetic referrals so as to focus clinical activity on general and emergency dental services.

(2) There has been no reduction in the oral health services budget. The decision to allocate the human and financial resources is based upon the current clinical needs of the eligible population. Additional staff have been appointed and the Gladstone Community Dental Clinic has had a dental equipment upgrade. Visiting specialist services have also been increased.

(3) A range of strategies to reduce waiting times have been introduced including:

expansion of the range of outsourced services to the private sector;

use of school based facilities for eligible adult patients;

additional dentist appointments;

same day relief of pain and emergency services;

upgrade of equipment to improve clinical efficiency and throughput;

provision of specialist oral surgery services with a reduction of waiting times to less than three months.

(4) A fourth dentist will be employed by the end of December 1996 which is an increase of three over the corresponding period last year. Recruitment processes are under way for further dentist appointments in Gladstone.

1298. Currumbin Creek

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Environment (26/11/96)—

With reference to water quality of Currumbin Creek—

Has his department any record of contaminated or hazardous waste being dumped or leaking into Currumbin Creek since 1985; if so, will he provide the details including any action taken?

Mr Littleproud (18/12/96): The Department was formed at the end of 1988. The Department's files in relation to Currumbin Creek water quality date from 1989. Under the Clean Water Act 1971 licences to discharge into Currumbin Creek were issued in respect of two premises—

Tube Makers Foundry licence was cancelled in 1994 due to a change in operation, no longer generating waste process water.

Currumbin Sand and Gravel Pty Ltd licence allowed for discharge from the sand and gravel washing operation only during wet weather, and after treatment in a sedimentation pond.

Details of the complaints register are attached.

1299. State Government Departments and Agencies, Budget Expenditure

Mr HAMILL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (26/11/96)—

With reference to her responsibility for overall budget management—

As at 30 November, and for each department and agency, what proportion of their current and capital (1996-97) budgets have been expended?

Mrs Sheldon (3/1/97):

Data on Consolidated Fund current and capital budgets expended as at 30 November is provided in the following table:

Department	Capital Expenditure	Current Expenditure
	as proportion of Original Budget (1) %	as proportion of Original Budget (2) %
Education	14.8	42.0
Electoral Commission	40.4	
Environment	23.9	35.4
Emergency Services	12.1	45.1
Economic Development & Trade	28.2	35.4
Families, Youth & Community Care	15.7	43.4
Office of the Governor	44.1	59.0
Health	18.9	40.4
Justice	2.9	37.1
Legislative Assembly	32.9	37.0
Local Government & Planning	30.7	
Main Roads	34.1	43.9
Mines & Energy	38.6	42.6
Natural Resources	23.7	34.7
Ombudsman	36.5	
Police	30.6	39.1
Premier & Cabinet	38.1	45.5
Primary Industries, Fisheries & Forestry	22.3	37.3
Public Works & Housing	27.2	34.7
Queensland Audit Office	34.0	
Queensland Corrective Services Commission	30.4	42.0
Tourism, Small Business & Industry	54.4	
Training & Industrial Relations	26.9	42.8
Transport	6.2	39.2
Treasury	62.3	63.3
TOTAL	27.0	42.8

Notes:

(1) Expenditure on capital works broadly corresponds with anticipated expenditure patterns for 1996-97 and largely reflects the start-up of a number of major capital works projects in the first half of the financial year and delivery of the 1996-97 Budget in September.

(2) Current expenditure broadly corresponds with anticipated expenditure patterns for 1996-97 (eg. Payment of grant funds, reinvestment of earnings on superannuation investments in the first half of the financial year). This level of expenditure is consistent with expenditure patterns in previous years.

1300. Public Housing, Lytton Electorate

Mr LUCAS asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (26/11/96)—

With reference to his Ministerial Statement on 13 November concerning the Priorities Spot Purchase Program—

- (1) What is the stock of public housing/units in each category, within the Electorate of Lytton (current boundaries) for each of the years 1986 to 1996 inclusive?
- (2) What was the waiting period for each category of house/unit within the Lytton Electorate as at 30 June for each of the years 1986 to 1996 inclusive?
- (3) What is the current waiting time for each category of house/unit within the Lytton Electorate?
- (4) How many houses/units were built or acquired under the Coalition Government's \$50m Priority Spot Purchase Program?
- (5) How many of these were within the Lytton Electorate?
- (6) How many houses/units are proposed to be built/acquired under the proposed \$34m Priority Spot Purchase Program?
- (7) How many of these are within the Lytton Electorate?
- (8) What is the waiting time for (a) each target area and (b) for each category of property proposed to be built/acquired under the \$34m Priority Spot Purchase Program?

Mr Connor (2/1/97):

(1) With reference to the numbers of public housing stock in Lytton Electorate, my Department advises that accurate historical data on housing stock by State Electorate is unavailable. At June 30 1996 there were 717 units of accommodation in the Lytton Electorate. These comprise of 216 Senior Units, 42 x 1 bedroom dwellings, 172 x 2 bedroom dwellings, 262 x 3 bedroom dwellings 21 x 4 bedroom dwellings and 4 x 5 bedroom dwellings.

(2) Historical data on waiting periods for each category of house at 30 June 1986 to 1995 is unavailable. However, at June 1996, wait times for housing in the Lytton Electorate were as follows:

Lota 48 months

Manly 18—42 months

Wynnum 18—60 months

(3) Currently the wait times for housing in the Lytton Electorate are:

Lota 24—56 months

Manly 8—31 months

Wynnum 9—34 months

(4) Under this Government's \$50 million Priority Spot Purchase Program, 387 units of accommodation were acquired.

(5) There were 2 dwellings purchased in Lytton Electorate under the \$50 million Priority Spot Purchase Program. Many parts of Brisbane and the rest of the State had wait times greatly in excess of 4 years—i.e. Stones Corner, Chermside, Cairns, Gold Coast, Thursday Island. In all fairness these areas should come first.

(6) Under recent initiatives announced by this Government is the expenditure of \$34 million which will be used to purchase an estimated 300 units of accommodation.

(7) Acquisition of housing under the Priority Spot Purchase Program will reflect a continuation of my policy to provide housing in areas of greatest need.

(8) My Department will purchase property in localities where need is greatest.

1301. Mackay Harbour Marina Project

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (26/11/96)—

With reference to the proposed Mackay Harbour Marina and East Point integrated tourist resort development—

- (1) When will the announcement be made to whom the preferred developer for the marina project is?
- (2) What will be the overall cost of the marina project?
- (3) When will construction commence?
- (4) How many people will be employed during construction?
- (5) When will the marina be operational?
- (6) How many berths will be provided at the marina?
- (7) How many people will be employed during the construction of the marina?
- (8) Does the Government intend to defer the announcement of the preferred developer for the East Point integrated tourist resort development; if so, why and when would expressions of interest be recalled for this project; if not, when will the announcement be made to whom the preferred developer for the East Point integrated tourist resort development is?
- (9) What will be the overall cost of the resort project?
- (10) When will construction commence on the resort?
- (11) How many people will be employed during construction?

(12) When will the resort be operational?

(13) How many people will be employed?

Mr Johnson (2/1/97):

(1) The Mackay Port Authority is the proponent of the project and has announced the Port Binnli Group as the preferred developer on Monday 9 December 1996.

(2) The project consists of a separate small craft harbour to the south of the Mackay Port and involves the construction of a new breakwater, reclamation of land and a dredged basin. The estimated cost of the small craft harbour is 16.1 million dollars. The first stage of the marina consisting of 250 berths, cruise terminal and public boating facilities is estimated to cost 10 million dollars. The second stage of the marina consisting of 320 berths is estimated to cost 29 million dollars.

(3) Construction will commence after all preliminary works are completed and all formal approvals have been obtained. This is anticipated to take about six (6) months, with construction scheduled to commence about July 1997.

(4) No detailed estimates have been carried out. A rough estimate suggests about 60 person years of employment will be generated as a result of the construction of the small craft harbour.

(5) Based on the preliminary program it is anticipated that the marina will be operational by the end of 1998.

(6) Stage 1 will provide 250 marina berths plus tourist vessel berths.

Stage 2 will provide a further 320 marina berths.

(7) No detailed estimates have been carried out, although rough estimates suggest about 80—100 person years of employment will be generated as a result of the marina.

The matter of the East Point Development and the preferred developer is still being considered by Government, and hence questions (8) to (13) cannot be answered at this stage.

1302. Defensive Driver Course; Motorcycle Training Program

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (26/11/96)—

Why has Queensland Transport cancelled its Defensive Driver Course and is it true that Queensland Transport proposes to axe its Motorcycle Training Program?

Mr Johnson (2/1/97): Queensland Transport has not cancelled and does not have any plans in place to cancel the Defensive Driving Course. The course was outsourced to private deliverers in July 1994 when the opposition was in Government.

The Defensive Driving Course has grown strongly since the scheme was outsourced to private deliverers with an increase in student enrolments of approximately 24% during this time. The course was delivered in over 40 locations throughout Queensland in the last year and Queensland Transport has recently approved new course

Cannon Hill—437
 Cannon Hill—399
 Cannon Hill—404
 Cannon Hill—420
 Cannon Hill—420
 Cannon Hill—40,617 (4.06 Ha)
 Cannon Hill—129,541 (12.95Ha)
 Cannon Hill/ Murarrie—660,408 (66.04Ha)
 TOTAL (Cannon Hill)—832,646 (83.26Ha)
 Morningside—2,562 (0.25Ha)
 Morningside—810
 Morningside—910
 TOTAL (Morningside)—4,282 (0.42Ha)
 Norman Park—809
 Norman Park—809
 TOTAL (Norman Park)—1,618 (0.16Ha)
 TOTAL (Bulimba Electorate)—842,656 (84.26Ha)

(9) The Department has sold 5 lots and a further 8 lots are under contract. The Department intends to sell the former Cannon Hill saleyards site. One public rental detached house is proposed for sale.

1304. Water Supply, Bundaberg Region

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Natural Resources (26/11/96)—

With reference to the water situation in the Bundaberg district—

- (1) What is the present water available from the Monduran Dam at this time?
- (2) What is the capacity of the dam?
- (3) Over the past 5 years, for what period has the water level been over 50 per cent of the capacity of the dam?
- (4) What is the storage capacity of all other storages on the Burnett and Kolan Rivers?
- (5) What is the total available water allocation from these storages?
- (6) What is the extra storage and allocation (if any) available from the proposed Walla Weir?
- (7) When will construction begin on the Walla Weir?
- (8) When is the expected completion date and what is the expected cost?
- (9) What is the present allocation provided for agricultural and urban purposes for the area (a) north of the Kolan river, (b) between the Kolan and Burnett Rivers, (c) south of the Burnett River and (d) in the Isis/Childers district?
- (10) Due to the dry conditions what percentage of allocations are presently provided for agricultural purposes and when will these allocations be reviewed?

- (11) What provision is made for a water allocation (a) for future urban and rural residential development and (b) for future industry needs?
- (12) Has a specific water allocation been made for these needs?
- (13) What are the current operating costs, including electricity pumping costs, for supplying water on a ML basis to the Bundaberg area north and south of the Burnett River and the Isis area?
- (14) Will excess water charges be levied on water users who use water in excess of their allocations?
- (15) What are the current excess water charges?
- (16) What are the current water charges for supply to the various water users?
- (17) Is the Government taking any positive action to ensure extra water supplies to the Bundaberg district; if so, what are they?

Mr Hobbs (17/12/96):

(1) The water available from Fred Haigh Dam (Monduran Dam) at 26 November 1996 was 123,190 megalitres (21% of capacity).

(2) Total capacity of Fred Haigh Dam is 586,000 megalitres, including 45,000 megalitres of dead storage.

(3) Over the last 5 years, the volume of water in Fred Haigh Dam exceeded 50 per cent of its capacity approximately 50% of time. The storage dropped to 18% in December 1995.

(4) Total storage capacity for storages on the Burnett and Kolan Rivers serving Bundaberg is:

SYSTEM	STORAGE CAPACITY	ML
Kolan River	Fred Haigh Dam	586,000
	Bucca Weir	9,856
	Kolan Barrage	3,958
	SUBTOTAL	599,814
Burnett River	Claude Wharton Weir (Gayndah)	12,600
	Ben Anderson Barrage	27,600
	SUBTOTAL	40,200
TOTAL		640,014

(5) The water presently held in these storages as at 26 November 1996 was:

SYSTEM	AVAILABLE WATER	ML
Kolan River	Fred Haigh Dam	123,190
	Bucca Weir	2,641
	Kolan Barrage	1,947
	TOTAL	127,778
Burnett River	Claude Wharton Weir (Gayndah)	6,000
	Ben Anderson Barrage	12,330
TOTAL		146,108

(6) Walla Weir storage capacity will be approximately 29,000 ML. The purpose of the weir is to increase the reliability of existing irrigation allocation across the entire Bundaberg Irrigation Project and to reduce the period of restrictions due to inadequate transfer capacity from Fred Haigh Dam. No new irrigation allocation will be introduced. An allocation of 1200 ML is proposed to be sold to the rural residential sector for stock watering and domestic purposes.

(7) Walla Weir has been approved by Federal Government and construction activity will commence in early 1997.

(8) Construction of Walla Weir is anticipated to be completed by mid 1998 with the most recent cost estimate of \$16 million.

(9) The present nominal allocation for the Bundaberg Irrigation Area is:

SUPPLY SOURCE	DELIVERY SYSTEM	IRRIGATION ML	URBAN ML
Kolan River	Areas north and south of Kolan River: Gooburrum, Kolan River, & Abbotsford Surface Water.	38,000	0
Pumped from Fred Haigh Dam	Area between Kolan and Burnett Rivers: Gin Gin & Bingera Surface Water.	40,000	50
Burnett River	Area south of Burnett River: Burnett River & Woongarra Surface Water.	56,600	6,970
	Isis Surface Water	50,000	0
Gooburrum Groundwater	Area between Kolan and Burnett Rivers.	22,400	465
Woongarra Groundwater	Area south of Burnett River.	30,000	7,593
Barns Groundwater	Area south of Elliott River.	5,500	0
	TOTAL	242,500	15,078

(10) The surface water announced allocation for irrigation is currently 50% of nominal allocation.

Groundwater announced allocations for irrigation are:

North of the Burnett River (Gooburrum), they range between 35% along the coast to 75% inland;

South of the Burnett River (Woongarra), they range between 30% along the coast to 75% inland; and South of the Elliott River (Barns), the allocation is currently 60%.

Announced allocations are reviewed by the Advisory Committee, on a quarterly basis or after significant rainfall events. Groundwater allocation is for six months and will be reviewed in January 1997.

(11) The present infrastructure is approaching full commitment and currently there is no provision for additional urban or industrial supplies. Bundaberg City has some surplus surface water allocation. The Burnett Shire problems stem from saline intrusion into their bores. Until recently Burnett Shire had not initiated discussion on additional supplies and no formal requests for allocation have been made. No major industrial requirements have been identified but opportunities have arisen at various times. The Department of Natural Resources originally included an urban allocation of 4,000 ML in the planning of Walla Weir however, financing for the Weir has been approved under the Sugar Infrastructure Package on the basis of increased reliability alone.

The Department had also considered a quantity of groundwater for possible urban use, however the continuing drought and the deterioration in the salt situation has led to a reconsideration of this matter. The system is currently overcommitted but has been recharged in some areas by introduced surface water.

(12) There is therefore no specific water allocation set aside for future urban or industrial needs from the current infrastructure. This matter will be addressed in a major study referred to later in the response to question 17.

(13) Actual direct operating costs (1994/95) including electricity pumping costs to the following areas:

North of Burnett River (Gooburrum System)—
\$17.04/ML

South of Burnett River (Woongarra System)—
\$28.01/ML

Isis Area (Isis System)—\$42.85/ML

(14) Surface water irrigators exceeding their announced allocation will incur excess water usage charges and may be prosecuted for breaching the conditions of their Waterworks Licence. Groundwater irrigators are not permitted to use excess water. Use is monitored and irrigators are advised to arrange temporary transfers before they reach their announced allocation.

(15) Excess water charges are:

For up to 20 megalitres over the announced allocation the charge is the normal distribution rate plus 50 per cent of the channel water rate.

For an excess greater than 20 megalitres over the announced allocation the charge is the normal distribution rate plus 100 per cent of the channel rate.

(16) As at 30 November 1996 water charges (1995/96 water year) for the Bundaberg Area are:

DELIVERY METHOD—CHARGE

Channel Water—\$37.05/ML

Regulated Streams Water—\$11.80/ML

Groundwater—\$4.80/ML

Groundwater in the Parish of Barns (South of the Elliott River)—\$1.25 / ML

(17) The Government has a number of initiatives that will assist with the water supply problems in the Bundaberg area:

Stage 1 of the Walla Weir project has been approved for construction to increase the reliability of supplies. When this is completed the Government will have the option of raising the level with an inflatable dam to make a further 21,000 ML of new allocation available. A similar option is available with the existing Bucca Weir.

The Government has recently proposed an Urban Water Study with the four Bundaberg Local Authorities and the Department of Natural Resources aimed at identifying sources of additional supply to meet short and medium term urban and industrial needs. This study will consider new infrastructure and minor extensions to the existing system, efficiency gains, effluent reuse, possible groundwater alternatives. Initial meetings were held last week and it is anticipated that a strategy could be in place within six months.

For the longer term, the Water Infrastructure Task Force is currently examining submissions for new infrastructure around the State. Submissions for additional supplies for Bundaberg were presented in a coordinated catchment plan put forward by the Burnett Water Development Group. The Bundaberg component was developed locally by the Bundaberg/Isis Local Management Group. These submissions were aimed at relief of the current groundwater problems and securing the long term supplies to the area. Once the outcome of the Task Force deliberations is known (February 1997) it is envisaged that a Regional Planning Study of the needs of the entire Burnett Catchment will be undertaken to examine these sources of supply in detail. This work would incorporate previous strategic studies undertaken by the Department of Natural Resources in the South Burnett and Upper Burnett and that currently under way by the Wide Bay 2020 Water Committee.

1306. Public Housing, Allocation to Disabled Citizens

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (26/11/96)—

With reference to the proposed changes to the Public Housing system—

- (1) Will people with disabilities continue to be housed in public housing with purpose built accommodation?
- (2) What percentage of housing will be allocated for people with disabilities?

- (3) Will the Coalition Government give a guarantee that those already occupying disability housing will have security of tenure, that their homes will not be sold, and that they will not be subjected to higher rental payments?

Mr Connor (2/1/97):

- (1) Yes.
- (2) People with disability are a priority target group. People with disabilities will be housed according to their needs and supply of suitable accommodation.
- (3) Tenants requiring and occupying accessible housing will have security of tenure, and those properties will be retained as public housing while they are required to house people with a disability.

1307. Environmental Protection Policies

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Environment (26/11/96)—

With reference to delays in finalising Environmental Protection Policies as subordinate legislation to the Environmental Protection Act—

- (1) What is causing these delays?
- (2) At what stage are the EPPs for water, air, noise, mining and petroleum, waste and the Brisbane River?
- (3) Is he reviewing the whole issue of EPPs and is he seriously considering abandoning them in favour of an alternative scheme; if so, what is the alternative scheme and what is it called?
- (4) When can we expect to see progress on this alternative scheme?

Mr Littleproud (18/12/96):

In answer to your questions I would advise that the most significant factor in the delay in the implementation of the subordinate legislation of the Environmental Protection Act, namely the various environmental protection policies, is the enormous disarray in which the previous Labor government left the legislation.

On coming to power this Government established the Ministerial Advisory Committee on the Environment to review the existing legislation and this Committee made something in the order of 100 recommendations. These to some extent defined the deficiencies this Government inherited.

Many of the recommendations of that Committee have now been given effect and in response to the more detailed aspects of your question I would advise as follows.

1. The Environmental Protection Act 1994 specifies the minimum consultation requirement for preparing Environmental Protection Policies (EPPs) as two periods of 40 days for lodging submissions. However, additional consultation is generally necessary to fully examine the matters raised in the submissions. Such consultation has proven time consuming in seeking to resolve the many relevant issues within the community so that fair and practicable policies are developed.

2. EPP for Water

The draft EPP for Water has been through both rounds of public consultation and due consideration has been given to public submissions. The final draft has been prepared and considered by the Environment Protection Council of Queensland. It is anticipated that the EPP for Water will be finalised shortly for commencement in 1997.

EPP for Air

The draft EPP for Air has been through both rounds of public consultation and due consideration has been given to public submissions. The final draft is being prepared following review by the Environment Protection Council of Queensland. Further work may be required in relation to nuisance issues before the EPP for Air is ready for consideration by Government. It is anticipated that the EPP for Air will be finalised around mid-1997.

EPP for Noise

The draft EPP for Noise has been through both rounds of public consultation and due consideration has been given to public submissions. The final draft will be considered by the Environment Protection Council of Queensland early in 1997. Further work may be required in relation to nuisance issues before the EPP for Noise is ready for consideration by Government.

EPP for the Mining and Petroleum Industries

The proposed EPP for the Mining and Petroleum Industries has been through the first round of public consultation and the public submissions have been reviewed. Work on preparing the draft EPP will formally commence in December 1996. It is anticipated that the EPP will be finalised in late 1997.

EPP for Waste Management

The proposed EPP for Waste Management has been through the first round of public consultation and the public submissions have been reviewed. Work on preparing the draft EPP is well advanced and it is anticipated that the EPP will be finalised in mid-1997.

EPP for the Brisbane River

Preliminary work has focussed on identifying key issues and options and strategies for the environmental protection of the Brisbane River. The proposal to prepare an EPP is still under consideration. However, other options are also being considered and a report to the Government is expected in the near future.

3. Naturally, I am reviewing the progress of the EPPs and the process of consultation necessary for their preparation. By establishing the Environment Protection Council, the Government has created a forum for key stakeholders to critically review major environmental policy issues and provide recommendations for consideration by Government. However, the Government has made unambiguous statements that the Environmental Protection Act will be supported and EPPs are an essential component of the legislation.

4. As stated above, the Government has made unambiguous statements that the Environmental Protection Act will be supported and EPPs are an essential component of the legislation.

1308. Housing Department, Interest Rates

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (26/11/96)—

When will the Department of Housing, Home Ownership Division, bring their interest rates in line with the private sector financial institutions?

Mr Connor (2/1/97): Following the latest round of reductions, announced by the four major banks on 11 and 12 December 1996, the Department's variable interest rate has been reduced from 8.75% p.a. to 8.25% p.a. effective from 1 January 1997.

Some private sector lenders will not pass on this reduction to existing borrowers until near the end of January 1997.

1309. Public Trust Auctions of Q-Fleet Vehicles, Rockhampton

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (26/11/96)—

With reference to auctions being conducted by auctioneers from the Public Trust Office in Rockhampton wherein Q Fleet vehicles are sold—

- (1) How many such auctions have been held in Rockhampton since January?
- (2) How many vehicles were sold at each of these auctions?
- (3) At each of these auctions, how many cars were sold to dealers and how many were sold to private individuals?
- (4) Are there any restrictions placed on how often an individual can purchase vehicles?
- (5) Are there any restrictions on the number of vehicles an individual can purchase at auction?
- (6) What checks and balances are in the system of sale of vehicles to prevent illegal "backyard" traders from purchasing vehicles?

Mr Beanland (23/12/96):

(1) The Public Trustee of Queensland has conducted monthly auctions in Rockhampton since 1991. There has been a monthly auction since January.

(2) and (3) I table the Attachment.

(4) and (5) There are no legislative restrictions placed on how often a person may purchase vehicles or how many vehicles can be acquired by any person.

(6) Consumer Affairs have an active investigation and compliance program which targets unlicensed motor dealings activity. That Office investigates and successfully prosecutes approximately forty persons each year for unlicensed motor dealing activity.

1310. Extractive Industries

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (26/11/96)—

With reference to the approval by Caloundra City Council for the expansion of quarry operations in the Glasshouse Mountains and the growing mistrust among ratepayers in many local authorities of the ability of councils to accurately reflect community sentiment in its dealings with extractive industry applications—

- (1) Will he outline progress that has been made toward the relocation of responsibility for extractive industries from local authorities to his department?
- (2) Will he advise the House of the position of the Coalition Government in relation to such a move?

Mr Gilmore (23/12/96):

(1) An Extractive Industry Unit was established in the Department of Mines and Energy in July 1995. The initial focus of the Unit's work was on resource assessment and planning protection. In establishing the Unit it was intended that long term funding would be through an industry levy based on production. Legal and other difficulties in establishing appropriate funding arrangements resulted in suspension of the Unit's activities in July 1996.

(2) Issues relating to the resumption of the Extractive Industry Unit's activities are being addressed, and will subsequently be considered by the Queensland Government.

1311. **Mr K. Sinclair; Corrective Services Commission**

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (26/11/96)—

With reference to the death in custody of Karl Frederick Sinclair, who was found hanging in his cell at the Townsville Correctional Centre on 19 November and who died in hospital the following day, and to media reports in which his partner Lisa Castle claims (a) that Townsville Correctional Centre staff had advised her that Sinclair was suicidal, (b) that he was in good spirits the previous day and (c) that Sinclair was concerned for her safety and his own safety following threats in the Townsville Watchhouse by four men who claimed that there was a \$12,000 bounty on his head, and that Sinclair's friend and Garbutt businessman, Jeff Reindl, claims that Sinclair was murdered in prison by the four men who threatened him in the Townsville Watchhouse who allegedly told him "Hurry up and get to Stuart so we can collect", and to the fact that Sinclair was the seventh prisoner to die in Queensland Corrective Services Commission custody since 1 July, and the fourth Townsville inmate in a month—

- (1) Was Karl Frederick Sinclair assessed as suicidal by the Queensland Corrective Services Commission and was he being monitored as a suicide risk in the Townsville Correctional Centre?
- (2) If he was not assessed as being suicidal and was not being monitored, has he investigated which staff advised Lisa Castle that Sinclair was suicidal and why?

- (3) What steps have been taken to investigate the assertions by both Lisa Castle and Jeff Reindl that Sinclair was threatened in the Townsville Watchhouse by four men and that there was a \$12,000 bounty on his head?
- (4) Was the Queensland Corrective Services Commission aware of the threats to Sinclair and what steps did they take to protect Sinclair while he was in custody?
- (5) What steps are being taken to protect Lisa Castle?
- (6) What steps are being taken by the Queensland Corrective Services Commission at Townsville Correctional Facility to address this alarming trend of deaths in custody?

Mr Cooper (20/12/96):

(1-4) Karl Frederick Sinclair died as a result of hanging at the Townsville Correctional Centre on 19 November 1996.

Three investigations will be conducted into this incident.

The police unit specialising in Corrective Services (CSIU) will investigate any possible criminal conduct relating to the death. This investigation is in progress.

The QCSC has appointed two inspectors, one external to the QCSC to investigate the incident and report on the management of the prisoner in custody. This investigation is in progress.

Finally, a full Coronial Inquiry will be held into the death where persons who have relevant material can be examined under oath.

I do not propose to pre-empt the findings of these inquiries. Should the member for Waterford have any information which could assist in the proper investigation of this matter he should refer it immediately to the Queensland Police Service or the Queensland Corrective Services Commission.

(5) Should Lisa Castle request protection her request will be assessed in the usual manner.

(6) There have been five deaths this year at the Townsville Correctional Centre. Two of these have been reportedly by natural causes. Prior to this there had not been a death at the centre since July 1994. The centre and the QCSC are extremely conscious of their responsibility for the care of prisoners in custody and are continually introducing new measures and procedural improvements to reduce the frequency of these distressing occurrences.

1312. **Inlander Train, Mount Isa-Townsville**

Mrs WOODGATE asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (26/11/96)—

With reference to reports that the Inlander train which operates between Mt Isa and Townsville is to be taken out of service—

Will he deny this and state that the present service will be retained?

Mr Johnson (2/1/97): Queensland Rail Traveltrain currently has no plans to withdraw the

Inlander train from service. The Inlander carriages which were due for overhaul, will be upgraded during the 1998/99 financial year.

1313. Office of Sport and Recreation Grants, Nudgee Electorate

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (26/11/96)—

With reference to all categories of grants administered by the Office of Sport and Recreation (and its predecessor) (26/11/96)—

- (1) Which organisations and/or individuals in the Nudgee Electorate received funding grants during 1995-96?
- (2) What category of grant applied in each case (e.g. minor facilities, Queensland Academy of Sport, etc)?
- (3) How much money was granted in each case?

Mr Veivers (23/12/96): In response to the specific questions made by Mr Roberts, I can advise as follows:

In 1995/96 the former Department of Tourism, Sport and Youth provided funding to organisations under the following programs:

National Standard Sport Facilities Program
 Community Recreation Centres Program
 Community Sports Development Program
 Minor Facilities Program
 Local Government Recreation Planning Pilot Program, and
 Individual scholarships for Queensland Academy of Sport athletes.

The following organisations in the Nudgee Electorate received funding grants under the various programs during 1995/96.

1995 Community Sports Development Program—Grant Value
 Brothers Swimming Club Inc—\$3,000
 Aspley Little Athletics Centre Inc—\$3,000
 Brothers Athletics Club Inc—\$925
 Boondall State School Amateur Swimming Club—\$3,000
 North Brisbane Australian Football Club Inc—\$3,000
 Virginia Golf Club Inc—\$790
 1996 Community Sports Development Program—Grant Value
 Boondall State School Amateur Swimming Club—\$3,000
 Taigum Swimming Club Inc—\$3,000
 Nundah and District Youth Club Inc—\$3,000
 1995 Minor Facilities Program—Grant Value
 North Brisbane Australian Football Club Inc—\$30,000

1314. Women's Infolink

Ms SPENCE asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (26/11/96)—

With reference to the office of Women's Affairs website—

- (1) How many people are accessing Women's Infolink homepage (a) each month and (b) each week?
- (2) What is the geographic reach of users of this website?

Mrs Sheldon (2/1/97):

(1) Although linked, the Women's Infolink site is not a part of the Office of Women's Affairs website. They are separate sites located on two separate servers. As the question of access is made in reference to the Office of Women's Affairs website it is responded to as such. The Office of Women's Affairs website has been accessed a total of 1323 times since its launch on September 13, 1996. In monthly terms, this total breaks down to 529 visits for the second half of September, and 343 visits for the month of October. As of 12:00pm on the 28 November, there were 451 visits to the site in November. Over the course of the eleven weeks since its launch there has been an average of 120 visits each week.

(2) As any casual observer of the Internet can explain, homepages and sites are called websites because they reside in the World Wide Web. Hence users of the site access it from all over the world, including most areas of Queensland. Eighty-five percent of these visits have originated from within Australia. Most visitors to the site appear to reside in Queensland. The cost of Internet access in regional areas of Queensland is of major concern to the Queensland Government. In the State Budget, I announced several initiatives which will help bring information technology to rural and regional Queensland. Under the State Library's InterLINQ project, 18 regional public libraries will gain free public access to the Internet. The Education Department will spend \$7.2 million to upgrade and enhance computers in schools and \$2 million has been specifically earmarked for schools to begin accessing the Internet and online services. The Queensland Government recently established an information planning board to decide on the new strategic direction for managing whole-of-government telecommunications.

1315. Victims of Crime, Compensation

Mr FOLEY asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (26/11/96)—

With reference to the ex-gratia payment of criminal compensation to victims of crime in respect of offences occurring before the commencement of the Criminal Offence (Victims) Act 1995—

- (1) Has he departed from the Labor Government's practice of paying the full amount of the court order to victims of crime?
- (2) Has he adopted a practice of not paying to victims of crime the component of the order in respect of economic loss; if so, does this not

demonstrate the lack of fairness on the part of the Government in dealing with victims of crime?

- (3) Is he aware of the significant increase in the quantum payable to victims of crime under the scale of injuries set out in the Criminal Offence (Victims) Act 1995 designed to offset the absence of provision for economic loss under that scale?
- (4) Has he yet prepared and distributed pamphlets for victims of crime setting out the fundamental principles of justice for victims of crime and their entitlement to criminal compensation payments?
- (5) Will he involve victims of crime, homicide victim support groups, rape crisis workers, domestic violence workers and other community groups in a review of the Criminal Offence (Victims) Act 1995 as envisaged by the Labor Government?

Mr Beanland (23/12/96):

(1) Like the Labor government's practice, this government's practice in most cases is to pay the full amount of the court order to victims of crime. However, in exceptional circumstances, the present government may consider the reduction of the amount of a court order on particular policy grounds.

(2) Economic loss in awards under the Criminal Code only began to be widely included in orders made by courts after the decision of *McClintock v. Jones* decided on 7 April 1995. Following the introduction of the Criminal Offence (Victims) Act 1995 (COVA) by the Honourable Member as the then Attorney-General, economic loss is no longer included in awards to victims for injuries occurring after the 18 December 1995. However, as payments made by the State under both the Criminal Code and the Criminal Offence (Victims) Act are acts of grace and are not intended to replace the obligations of the offender to make payments, it is likely that economic loss may be excluded (subject to any special circumstances) from *ex gratia* payments claimed under the provisions of the Criminal Code where the application was lodged with the State after 1 April 1996.

(3) It is not accepted that the scale in the schedule to COVA provides a significant increase in the quantum payable to victims. Pursuant to the Criminal Code, the maximum payment that could be made to victims was \$74,050. The maximum that can be paid to victims pursuant to COVA

is \$75,000. In fact, the provision of the Criminal Code was tied to the Workers' Compensation table which has now increased to \$100,000. Had the previous Government not introduced COVA, the maximum victims could have received under the Criminal Code would in fact have been \$100,000.

(4) I refer the Honourable Member to part (3) of my answer to his Question on Notice No. 1139, Thursday, 30 October 1996, wherein I advised that an appropriate pamphlet is currently being prepared for the assistance of victims. This pamphlet,

however, will not only deal with the fundamental principles of justice and entitlements to compensation but will try and bring together other information of assistance to victims such as details of where support or counselling services can be obtained. In order to provide a document that will be of real benefit, investigations of material available in other jurisdictions is being carried out. Further, to try and simplify the processes for compensation applications, draft application forms have already been circulated on a trial basis to assess their adequacy. Such forms provide assistance and a guide to applying for criminal injury compensation.

(5) The Government will involve victims of crime groups, homicide victims support groups and similar community groups with an interest in the rights of victims in a review of COVA. Further, departmental staff have worked closely with members of such groups in delivering the benefits available under COVA.

1316. Trapping of Wombats, Epping Forest National Park

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Environment (26/11/96)—

With reference to plans to trap a number of wild Northern Hairy-Nosed Wombats in Epping Forest National Park and relocate these to a captive breeding program in Dubbo's Western Plains Zoo—

- (1) How many wombats of each sex have been permitted to be trapped for this project?
- (2) How many more will be needed to establish the captive colony and of which sex?
- (3) How many wombats of each sex are left at Epping Forest?
- (4) What success rate has been achieved by Western Plains Zoo in breeding wombats of any species in recent years?
- (5) What expertise does Western Plains Zoo hold in wombat breeding and husbandry?
- (6) What funding is the Department of Environment directing to this trapping/relocation work over and above salaries of staff involved?
- (7) What numbers of Department of Environment staff are working on this project and for what length of time?
- (8) What funding is the Western Plains Zoo directing towards this project over and above salaries?
- (9) How much of this funding is being directed towards enclosure design and construction?
- (10) Which Australian zoos have successfully bred and reared in captivity either the Common Wombat or the Southern Hairy-Nosed Wombat in recent years and in what numbers?
- (11) Is he satisfied that sufficient knowledge exists of the breeding needs of the wombats in captivity to warrant this taking from the wild of one of the world's rarest mammals; if so, on what does he base this?

- (12) Does he believe these relocated wombats will have a better chance of breeding at Western Plains Zoo than they do at Epping Forest National Park; if so, why?
- (13) Did he explore the possibility of establishing a second wild colony of wombats within their previously known range in Queensland as an alternative to a captive breeding program; if so, why didn't he adopt this strategy?
- (14) Faced with the loss already of one animal during capture and the problems still to be overcome in getting these wild animals to adapt to captivity, and then breed, to then be successfully re-introduced to the wild, does he intend to proceed with this project?
- (15) If the intention is to proceed, will he give a guarantee that there will be no further losses during capture, movement and introduction to captivity?
- (16) Is he satisfied that this captive breeding program is in the best interests of the survival of the Northern Hairy-Nosed Wombat as a species?
- (17) If the wombats at Dubbo Zoo fail to breed in captivity, will he undertake to return them to the wild?

Mr Littleproud (18/12/96):

1. One male.
2. Three more initially, including one more male and two females.
3. The latest estimate (1993 trapping program) was 40 males and 25 females.
4. None. Breeding of wombats was not a priority for Western Plains Zoo until the current project began.
5. Western Plains Zoo has sound international credentials for breeding endangered species and is a participant in a number of international breeding programs.
6. None. All funding for the trapping and establishment of the captive management program is provided by Environment Australia and Western Plains Zoo.
7. One. This comprises a small proportion of his general duties which are directed at the entire recovery program for the northern hairy-nosed wombat.
8. Western Plains Zoo has a proposed budget for the captive management of northern hairy-nosed wombats in 1996/97 of \$40,000, exclusive of salaries.
9. \$10,000.
10. Perth Zoo bred one southern hairy-nosed wombat in 1996. Data are incomplete for common wombats, however, captive births for this species are much more common (eg. Ballarat Wildlife Park has bred four common wombats in the last eight years). Outside Australia, Brookfield Zoo in Chicago, USA, has bred 15, and Toronto Zoo has bred one southern hairy-nosed wombat.

11. The Department of Environment advises they are satisfied in this respect. Although wombats do not have a good record of breeding in captivity, there have been at least 16 documented births of southern hairy-nosed wombats in zoos. The northern hairy-nosed wombat recovery team, which includes scientists, wildlife managers, and conservationists, believes that much of the reason for this paucity of births is that display considerations have been more important than providing optimal conditions for breeding.

12. The recovery team considers that trends in the northern hairy-nosed wombat population in the last 10 years (no increase in numbers, a five-fold reduction in breeding, a skewed sex ratio) and the current drought (Belyando Shire has been drought-listed for 50 continuous months) warrant an attempt to breed northern hairy-nosed wombats in captivity.

13. The Department did explore such a possibility. The successful establishment of a second wild population of northern hairy-nosed wombats would require the transfer of at least 12 individuals compared to only four for the captive population. The removal of 12 individuals would have a major impact on the wild population and currently no additional secure intact habitat is known.

14. The project is proceeding.

15. As with any project involving animals, endangered or common, no guarantee can be given that there will be no mortality.

16. I am advised that the project is based on the best scientific advice available and the decision to proceed was made in the long-term interests of the northern hairy-nosed wombat after much consideration by the recovery team.

17. This would be done subject to satisfactory evidence that reintroduction would not bring with it the risk of disease which may threaten the wild population.

1317. Public Housing, West End

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (26/11/96)—

With reference to proposed public housing developments in the West End area—

- (1) When will construction start on the proposed units on the cleared blocks in Boundary Street, West End and Drake Street, Hill End?
- (2) When will these projects be completed?
- (3) What arrangements, if any, are in place to maintain the overgrown Drake Street property in a clean and safe condition?
- (4) What accommodation arrangements have been made for the people with disabilities allocated to the specially designed units planned for Drake Street for completion by the end of 1996?

Mr Connor (2/1/97):

(1) The Department expects the cleared site in Drake Street, West End to be available to a construction contractor in late February 1997. The site is currently out to tender and commencement will depend upon determination of the successful tenderer.

Construction has not yet been scheduled for Boundary Street, West End. Until agreement is reached on the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement no forward capital works programs can be developed.

(2) The Department expects construction of housing on the Drake Street site to be completed by October 1997.

As construction has not yet been scheduled for Boundary Street, no completion date can be provided.

(3) The Drake Street site is securely fenced, preventing illegal access, and has been mowed by the Department's contractors.

(4) Currently two people with disabilities are allocated to the specially designed units at Drake Street. One client is already due to be housed and, in concurrence with Departmental policy a rental subsidy application has been submitted. The other client is not yet due to be housed and therefore no other arrangements have been made.

A third disability client previously allocated to the Drake Street units has been housed in Departmental accommodation in another Area Office.

1318. Public Transport, Underwood; Clark's Bus Services

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (27/11/96)—

With reference to concerns expressed by residents of Underwood at a recent Neighbourhood Watch meeting about the standard of public transport services provided to the area by Clark's Bus Services—

- (1) What are the terms of tender accepted by Clark's Bus Services to provide public transport services in the Underwood area?
- (2) What is the standard to service expected of Clark's Bus Services with respect to frequency of services?
- (3) Have the terms of tender, including any standards of service to the community, been met by Clark's Bus Service?
- (4) If the terms of tender and standards of service have not been met, why not?
- (5) What action has his department taken to ensure compliance with the terms of tender and the standards of service by Clark's Bus Services?
- (6) If no action has been taken so far, will he now instruct his department to investigate the concerns expressed by local residents and ensure that the terms of tender and standards of service required of Clark's Bus Services are implemented?

Mr Johnson (2/1/97):

(1) and (2) Clark's Bus Service has entered into a service contract with the Department that prescribes performance standards in respect of:

- service frequencies and accessibility levels;
- fleet standard and average fleet age;
- maximum fares to be charged, including any concessions; and
- customer service and information.

In return for meeting these standards within the 5 year life of the contract, the contract grants Clark's an exclusive right to provide scheduled passenger services within the Logan service area and between the service area and the Brisbane CBD.

The improvement in services that Clark's are obliged to introduce over the life of the contract is quite dramatic—from some 1700 return services per week, as at present, to almost 3000 return services. This is an overall increase of 60% in round terms.

Clark's contract with the Department is a commercial service contract, under which the operator's revenue comes principally from the fare box.

To this end, the Department is in the process of phasing out the current Gross Fare Revenue subsidy across the life of the first generation of commercial service contracts. For subsequent contracts, the intention is that the only Government funding will be for the reimbursement of concession fares.

However, it is a characteristic of the industry that increases in patronage lag behind increases in services or the introduction of new services. The Government recognises the contract holder may need to be supported financially in the short term to be able to implement the dramatic service improvements prescribed under the contract. This financial support is being provided through transitional funding available to the contract holder in the form of the phasing out of Gross Fare Revenue subsidy previously mentioned.

(3) and (4) Like any other contract holder, Clark's have the full five year term of the contract to reach the prescribed levels of service. Clark's, however, proposed to implement their service improvements progressively over a three year period, aiming to have their network reforms in place by the time of the mid-term review of the contract—i.e. by around March 1998.

In June 1996, Clark's advised the Department they planned to introduce, as the first step in achieving the prescribed minimum service levels, a vastly improved route network and increased service frequencies in Springwood, Rochedale and Beenleigh in particular, as from either 26 August or 2 September, 1996. This network was designed for Clark's by a nationally respected transport consultant.

In July 1996, Clark's began to suffer an unexpected loss in revenue as a result of external factors beyond their control. In addition, Clark's have been carrying the burden of servicing a debt of some several hundred thousand dollars they invested in buying out the other existing operators in the contract area.

A combination of these two factors has constrained Clark's capacity to sustain the cost of introducing their proposed service improvements in the Logan contract area.

(5) and (6) The Department has been negotiating with Clark's recently to assist in resolving the issue of improved services in the contract area. Clark's have agreed to introduce a more sustainable set of service improvements in the Logan service area.

Discussions between the Department and Clark's are to continue, in respect of the timing of these improvements and the possibility of varying the transitional funding available to the operator to support the introduction of the improved services.

1319. Dental Health Professionals, Training Courses

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Health (27/11/96)—

Does the Government support the proposal by the Dental Technicians Association, the Dental Prosthetists Association, the Commercial Dental Laboratories Association and the Therapist/Hygienist Association to upgrade all training courses to Degree level and to teach all the professional streams in one Oral Health Centre at Griffith University; if so, will he prevail upon the Australian Dental Association to participate in the design of this proposal which will make Queensland the leader in oral health education?

Mr Horan (2/1/97): Queensland Health supports the upgrading of training and education courses to assure both the quality and safety of dental services to the public. Queensland Health's primary focus is the delivery of health services to the public of Queensland rather than education which is the primary responsibility of universities and other training bodies.

However Queensland Health does enter into productive relationships with a range of educational institutions to facilitate training activity.

The Australian Dental Association together with the other professional bodies indicated are independent of Queensland Health and entitled to publicly express the views of their membership. A number of the professional associations mentioned have not publicly endorsed the proposal of Griffith University.

Queensland Health is developing in conjunction with the University of Queensland and the Queensland University of Technology a degree program tentatively called the Bachelor of Oral Health. This degree will combine health promotion, dental hygiene and dental therapy. It is anticipated it will be attractive to both present and future dental therapist and dental hygienists.

1320. Victoria Park Infant School Campus, Mackay

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Education (27/11/96)—

With reference to the old Victoria Park infant school campus located at Shakespeare Street, Mackay—

What does he intend to do with this asset?

Mr Quinn (24/12/96): The Victoria Park Infants School has been declared surplus to the needs of the Department of Education.

The portion of the site containing the Infants School will be excised from the balance of the site and disposed of through the provisions of the Government Land Management System. Revenue from the sale of the site will be reinvested into education initiatives.

1321. Farrington House, Alderley

Mr BEATTIE asked the Minister for Environment (27/11/96)—

With reference to the heritage listed Farrington House at Alderley which is currently for sale—

- (1) What plans did the present owners have for building in under the house?
- (2) Did these include a garage and rumpus room?
- (3) Did the present owners intend to put a pool into the grounds of Farrington?
- (4) Were any of these plans submitted to the Heritage Council; if so, were they approved?
- (5) Does he believe putting a garage and rumpus room under Farrington and a pool in its grounds are in the best heritage interests of Farrington?
- (6) What advice did he receive from heritage experts in his department on this matter?

Mr Littleproud (18/12/96):

1. The present owners of Farrington House planned to replace the existing laundry and store rooms which are situated in the undercroft area of the house with a garage, store/workshop, bedroom, bathroom, laundry, store and rumpus/billiard room.

2. Yes

3. Yes

4. Plans for building in under the house and for a pool in the grounds, were submitted to the Queensland Heritage Council and approved under Determination 558/600046 dated 24 August 1995, that is, during the term of the Labor Government.

5. Under the provisions of the Queensland Heritage Act 1992 the approval of development in relation to heritage registered places is the responsibility of the Queensland Heritage Council.

6. None, as I have no role in this matter.

1322. Southedge, Power Supply

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (27/11/96)—

With reference to the infamous Southedge development proposed by Mr George Quaid—

- (1) Does the nearly completed Turkinjee to Port Douglas power line pass through or near the Southedge property?
- (2) What capacity can this line carry?
- (3) What is Port Douglas's current electricity consumption?
- (4) Has he had any discussions with Mr Quaid or his representatives regarding the supply of electricity to the proposed Southedge development; if so, what were the outcomes of these discussions?
- (5) Has Mr Quaid made application to take power from this line; if so, what power requirements does he have?
- (6) What time frame is Mr Quaid working to in requiring this power?
- (7) Is he supportive of the proposed Southedge development; if so, does he intend to support this electricity application?

Mr Gilmore (23/12/96): The 132 kV transmission line from Turkinjee to Port Douglas passes through property adjacent to that owned by Mr Quaid in the Southedge area.

The practical maximum capacity of the transmission line and substation system to the Port Douglas area is 20 MVA. The capacity of this line is a function of the voltage and distance. The effective transfer capacity of the transmission line is approximately 60 MVA—however, additional transformers would be required to enable the actual transfer of that capacity.

The current demand for the Port Douglas/Mossman area is 14 MVA. The existing lines to the Port Douglas/Mossman area are now carrying in excess of their safe capacity and the supply to that area could be at risk should storms, vehicles or equipment failure cause a problem to any element of the system.

This transmission project was developed solely to meet the needs of the Port Douglas/Mossman area, and once completed the new system will have the capacity to meet the requirements of the area until 2006. Thereafter, additional transformer capacity at the Craiglee substation could be installed to increase the capacity of the line to meet any further growth in demand.

No.

Mr Quaid has made no application to the Far North Queensland Electricity Board (FNQEB) for the provision of electricity to the proposed Southedge development. However, FNQEB officers did discuss the issue of supply to the Southedge subdivision at the time the transmission line route was being negotiated. Since that time, the development has not progressed to the stage where any firm requirements have been indicated to FNQEB.

FNQEB have indicated that future applications for supply in that area would be met by through the existing 66 kV transmission lines or extensions to the 22 kV system to reach the area. It is not intended that the new transmission line would be used in this way.

I have no knowledge of any time frame for further development of the Southedge property, and there is currently no time frame for the provision of electricity to any developments in the area.

I have not been briefed as Minister on any development proposal. However, I would most certainly support an application for power supply for any development.

The provision of electricity supply in the area is the legislative responsibility of FNQEB. The provision of electricity supply would therefore be considered on the same commercial basis as supply to any similar development should a service be required.

1323. Baillie Henderson Hospital

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Health (27/11/96)—

With reference to the prolonged process employed by him to address the recommendations of the Health Rights Commission Report into the Baillie Henderson Hospital in Toowoomba—

- (1) To clarify the substance of his actions in this matter, will he table the Crown Law advice he used to delay tabling the reports of the HRC in Parliament?
- (2) With respect to his comments in his Ministerial Statement of 26 November concerning the death of a patient at Baillie Henderson, which has been referred by the Criminal Justice Commission to the Attorney-General recommending he order an inquest, and given the seriousness of the allegations in this matter, will he also be recommending to his colleague the Attorney-General that he commence proceedings to establish an inquest to add weight to the CJC's recommendation in this regard; if not, why not?

Mr Horan (2/1/97):

(1) No. It is not the policy of the Government to table confidential legal advice provided to Ministers by Crown Law. However, my previous statements to the House on 8 August and 5 September 1996 explained why, at that time, I chose not to table the HRC Report and associated responses. My most recent statement to the House on 27 November 1996 regarding the Health Rights Commission's (HRC) investigation of the Baillie Henderson Hospital outlines in some detail the history of this matter and the reasons for my having deferred the tabling of the reports until now.

(2) The matter of whether or not to establish an inquest into the death of a patient at Baillie Henderson Hospital is presently being considered by the Attorney-General, who will make his decision in due course. As the decision to order an inquest is a matter within the Attorney-General's sole discretion, and one which he will make after considering the facts of the matter, it is not necessary or appropriate that I make representations on this matter.

1324. Limestone Mining, Mount Larcom; Queensland Cement and Lime

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (27/11/96)—

With reference to QCL's limestone mining operation in the Mt Larcom area of Central Queensland—

- (1) Is he aware of the drop in local water levels both above and below ground as a result of this mining?
- (2) Does he believe this effect on local water levels is an acceptable side effect of this mining in this day and age?
- (3) What investigations has his department made of this water depletion, what area is affected and to what extent?
- (4) What efforts have QCL made to address the problem and what results have been achieved?
- (5) What alternative water supply arrangements have QCL made for affected landowners?
- (6) What action is he intending to take to address this problem and when?
- (7) Does QCL have an Environmental Management Overview System in place for mining operations?
- (8) What expansion plans does QCL have for this mine?
- (9) Does he intend to issue an Environmental Order against QCL to address this problem in much the same way as he did against Consolidated Rutile recently in their North Stradbroke Island sandmining operation?

Mr Gilmore (23/12/96):

(1) I receive regular updates by regional staff and meetings with the local community on the matter. Regional staff attend regular community liaison group meetings: a forum set up by QCL East End Mine personnel and the community, and including representatives from my Department and the Department of Natural Resources.

The matter of likely depletion of groundwater was anticipated when mining was proposed. Ways of managing depletion of groundwater resources for affected landholders were included in the special conditions attached to the mining leases on grant in 1976 and are now incorporated in the East End Mine Project Environmental Management Overview Strategy which was accepted by my Department in July 1996.

The matter of depletion of surface water was not brought up as a likely problem. The current information indicates that no impacts of the surface water in local creeks has occurred. While this effect generally can be associated with groundwater depletion, and a surface water monitoring program involving weirs on local creeks has been put in place by QCL, evidence has yet to suggest a surface water impact. Further hydrological studies recently commissioned by QCL will assess this matter further.

(2) Given the requirements in the East End Mine's Environmental Management Overview Strategy

requiring the mine to provide a supplementary water supply for landholders affected injuriously by depleted groundwater as a result of the operation of the mine, the impact is capable of being managed without unacceptable impacts.

(3) In August 1996, at my request, QCL provided me with a report on the monitoring of groundwater in the vicinity of the East End Mine and action they have carried out to provide alternative water supplies to affected landholders. An analysis of this report was provided to me by my Department's officers and the correspondence and documentation supplied by QCL confirms information already with my Department and shows that QCL is currently operating in compliance with the Special conditions on groundwater which were attached to the relevant leases at grant.

Because of the specialised nature of groundwater hydrology and the management of groundwater resources, officers of the Department of Natural Resources have been actively involved in that area. The original conditions related to the Commission of Water Resources in 1976 and that Department has continued with its involvement since that time.

Under a protocol set up by QCL and the community, hydrologists from the Department of Natural Resources are available to arbitrate if landholders feel that their groundwater is depleted but QCL does not. My Department provides a regulatory dimension to this process as the outcomes of these procedures are a requirement under the Mineral Resources Act 1989 in that the Environmental Management Overview Strategy is a condition of the mining leases in the project.

(4) QCL have a regular monitoring program to assess the level and extent of the impact. They have developed procedures within the Community Liaison Group to determine the best means of providing alternative water supplies to individual landholders who may be affected—leading to a clean process available to landholders who consider they may be affected.

Further groundwater modelling is being undertaken by QCL to better define regional groundwater characteristics, and the level and extent of groundwater depletion caused by the mine.

(5) The alternative water supply QCL have made for affected landowners are:

(deepening or replacement of bores

(delivering of water via water truck

(investigation of other alternatives are ongoing

(6) There are management procedures already in place to address any problems and ongoing and future hydrological research should be sufficient to address the issue of groundwater for the life of the project. My Department is supporting (via the Community Liaison Group) development of means of supplementing depleted water supplies to provide more permanent solutions for affected landholders. The work already completed and proposed cannot assuage the effects of drought and the landholder concerns that are associated with it.

(7) QCL does have an Environmental Management Overview Strategy in place for its mining operations. The Environmental Management Overview Strategy was accepted by my Department in July 1996.

(8) QCL intend to expand the mining of limestone from one (1) to two and one half (2.5) million tonnes per annum from the East End Mine with consequent increases in cement production from the Fishermen's Landing Cement Works.

(9) QCL have not operated in breach of the project Environmental Management Overview Strategy special conditions or the Mineral Resources Act 1989. There is therefore no reason for a Notice to Show Cause under Section 106 of the Mineral Resources Act 1989. The site (as for all Queensland mining operations) is included in regular inspection and assessment by officers of my Department's Environmental Compliance Assessment Division.

1325. Railway Workshop Jobs, Townsville

Mr ELDER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (27/11/96)—

With reference to (a) his numerous acknowledgments that Queensland Rail is continuing to follow the overall direction of the workshops strategy developed under Labor, (b) his admission at Estimates Committee hearings that he fully supported the reduction of a further 750 workshop jobs over the next 2-3 years and (c) his claims of responsibility for retention of certain maintenance functions in Townsville, moves that commenced under the previous Government—

- (1) Will any extra jobs be saved in Townsville as a result of these decisions; if so, where will extra jobs be lost from?
- (2) Is there a base level for the number of jobs in the workshops in Townsville that is acceptable to him if they are unable to meet his requirement to effectively compete for work; if so, what is that level?

Mr Johnson (2/1/97): The Workshops Strategy developed by Queensland Rail during the term of the Labor Government considered major levels of investment to bring Shop resources in line with modern practice over a five-year period.

In line with the change of mix of work required to support the overall heavy maintenance of QR's forecast fleet level, the employment numbers were planned to reduce substantially.

Having completed three of the five-year plan which supports the overall Workshops Strategy, permanent workforce levels have reduced in line with the estimated numbers. Unlike Labor, the Coalition was uncomfortable with this extensive reduction in staff numbers. Upon obtaining Government in late February, Queensland Rail was encouraged to adopt a more compassionate approach to the workshops and asked to try and identify opportunities for displaced workers. Additional project work, both generated externally and, as a result of increased activity for supporting the modification and construction of new QR rollingstock has been

entered into, thereby creating opportunities for otherwise surplus employees to be employed plus the opportunity to recruit skilled employees on a fixed-term basis. (The overall number of 750 quoted considers all types of employees, not just permanent employees)

In Townsville, extensions of existing work programs have enabled both the recruitment of fixed-term people and the employment of those people who would be otherwise surplus to continue beyond the original closure dates of the original Workshops Strategy as designed by Labor. Additional Plant Development funding beyond that previously considered for the South Yard will ensure potential to continue to perform meaningful work within the Shops.

Indeed, as a direct result of the additional development at Townsville South Yard Workshop, and the extension of work projects for maintenance and construction, the workforce has increased over the past three months.

Workload in Townsville however, is not totally predictable in the long term and whilst surplus employees will continue to be retained, and the different skill requirements in the short term met from the recruitment of fixed term employees or training of surplus, it is anticipated the permanent workforce beyond 1996/97 will reduce in line with normal attrition and also employees seeking to take VERS which has approximated at about 10% over the last few years.

The overall Workshops Strategy which considered future operational levels of employment within Shops was supported by the VERS policy and in addition Government Support was given for surplus employees. Both elements continue to be maintained by the Coalition Government.

Workshops will, under this scenario, continue to meet its competitive goals as identified within the Original Strategy. The opportunities for additional Capital and External work should continue under this competitive Structure.

1326. Whale-watching Permits

Mr NUNN asked the Minister for Environment (27/11/96)—

With reference to the four new whale watch permits he offered this year to southern Queensland operators—

- (1) Who were the four permits offered to and when?
- (2) Who took up the permits and why was the fourth permit not taken up?
- (3) What operator conditions applied to these permits?
- (4) Of the operators who took up the permits, which had boats, how many boats and what were the names of these boats?
- (5) Did any of the operators run two different boats off the one permit and was this agreed to by the department?

- (6) Did one of the operators get two of the licences and have no boats and has in fact been in Hervey Bay recently trying to acquire a suitable boat?
- (7) What action has he taken to restrict illegal whale watching operations being advertised out of Noosa and the Gold Coast?
- (8) Why did one of the applicants for the southern whale watch permits hand deliver her application, supposedly addressed to his department, to his Ministerial Office?

Mr Littleproud (23/12/96):

- (1) The whale watching permits were not offered, but issued in response to applications to the following companies and or persons with each permit attached to a vessel:

Tangalooma Island Resort Ltd; Brian Osborne; "Tangalooma", 31 May 1996

All Boat Charters; Greg Bradford; "Tom Cat II"; 13 September 1996

All Boat Charters; Greg Bradford; "Flinders Reef"; 13 September 1996

Ms Kerry McTaggart; "Scuba Sport"; 13 September 1996

- (2) One applicant elected to withdraw his application.
- (3) The whale-watching permits issued for Moreton Bay contain a number of conditions to control the activity including:

specified area adjacent to Cape Moreton;

adherence to the Department of Environment Code of Ethics for Commercial Whale Watching in Moreton Bay Marine Park;

restrictions on methods of approach, distance from and direction of approach to whales including not within 100 metres, not within 300 metres of pods with calves, only approach from landward side, etc.;

provision of an approved educational program; and

provision of adequate seating, protection from the elements and viewing space for passengers.

- (4) Refer to Question 1.
- (5) No.
- (6) One company did apply for two permits each for an individual vessel and was subsequently issued two permits.
- (7) The Department of Environment has not been made aware of any illegal operations being conducted out of either Noosa or the Gold Coast. If any such operations had come to the attention of the Department appropriate action would have been taken.
- (8) The application from one proponent was registered in the Southeastern Region on 5 July 1996 accompanied by a covering letter dated 4 July 1996. The same proponent brought a copy of her submission with her to a deputation with Ministerial staff on 8 August 1996.

1327. Police Resources, Redcliffe Police District

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (27/11/96)—

With reference to the announcement by him that five additional police are to be allocated to Redcliffe—

- (1) Are these additional police allocated to the Redcliffe Police District, which incorporates Caboolture, Woodford and other areas, or are they specifically appointed to the Redcliffe Station?
- (2) What are current police numbers for the Redcliffe Police District and for Redcliffe Police Station?

Mr Cooper (20/12/96):

- (1) The officers referred to are first year constables, who are all initially attached to District Offices for training purposes. During their training period, the five new officers will perform duties at various establishments throughout the Redcliffe Police District.

- (2) Actual police strengths as at 1 December 1996 were:

Redcliffe Police District—178

Redcliffe City Police Station—46

1328. Public Housing, Archerfield Electorate

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (27/11/96)—

With reference to the provision of public housing in the Archerfield Electorate—

- (1) How many detached houses, town houses and housing units of other types, will be provided in Archerfield during 1996-97?
- (2) How many of the above types are proposed for 1997-98?
- (3) Which suburbs will be the location of the above units?
- (4) How many detached houses and other units in Archerfield will be refurbished during 1996-97 and 1997-98?
- (5) When will the existing vacant allotments in Acacia Ridge and Coopers Plains be used to provide urgently needed public housing?

Mr Connor (2/1/97):

- (1) This financial year my Department has plans to provide 79 units of accommodation in the Archerfield Electorate. This consists of 38 detached houses, 23 senior units, 14 attached houses and 4 duplexes.

(2) With reference to 1997/98, until agreement is reached on the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement, no public housing forward capital works programs have been developed.

- (3) The locations of the properties to be provided in 1996/97 are as follows:

Forest Lake
 Acacia Ridge
 Coopers Plains
 Sunnybank
 Salisbury

(4) This financial year there are no plans for upgrades of dwellings in the locality of Archerfield. The 1997/98 upgrade program will be developed within the context of the 1997 budget.

(5) This financial year my Department will provide public housing at Acacia Ridge and Coopers Plains.

1329. Baillie Henderson Hospital

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (27/11/96)—

With reference to the series of investigations into the Baillie Henderson Hospital in Toowoomba triggered by the Health Rights Commission's (HRC) inquiry into allegations made against the facility and to recommendation 22 of the report (concerning intellectually disabled residents) tabled in Parliament by the Minister for Health and prepared by the Director of Mental Health Services, Queensland Health and the District Manager, Toowoomba District Health Service and the Executive of the Baillie Henderson Hospital in response to the HRC's report recommendations—

Will he take to Cabinet, as a priority, recommendation 22 of the Health Rights Commissioner's Report, also endorsed by Dr Whiteford's report, that the Department of Family, Youth and Community Care assume responsibility for the care of patients with an intellectual disability at Baillie Henderson as soon as possible; if so, when?

Mr Lingard (6/1/97): The issue of the support of people with an intellectual disability who are resident at Baillie Henderson Hospital is a very serious matter which requires very detailed consideration by the Government. I will be discussing the issue in some detail with my colleague, the Honourable the Minister for Health, Mike Horan. As indicated in the Health Rights Commission report, the continuing support of this group of people in the Baillie Henderson Hospital remains a problem.

However, as Honourable Members will be aware, there will be a substantial cost differential between the costs of supporting these people in the Hospital and in a model consistent with the practice of my Department. It will be necessary to balance these demands against the very real demands being made by many families of people with disabilities currently living in the community with little or no support. Preliminary estimates of this additional cost for Baillie Henderson Hospital residents are in the order \$5 million per year as well as the capital costs for providing accommodation which could be as high as \$12 million.

Honourable Members may also be aware that this is an issue that has been the subject of a number of discussions between the two Departments over a

number of years so a quick fix situation is not possible. However we will now examine ways in which to progress this matter to a satisfactory conclusion.

1330. Wynnum North State High School

Mr LUCAS asked the Minister for Education (27/11/96)—

With reference to the Wynnum North State High School—

- (1) Is he aware that the Parents and Citizens' Association submitted concept plans to the Department of Education (paid for by the Parents and Citizens' Association out of its own funds) for the construction of a performing arts theatre and complex at Wynnum North State High School?
- (2) Were the plans used by the Government as the basis for the design and construction of a performing arts theatre and complex elsewhere in Queensland?
- (3) How many performance theatres are there in existence (or planned for construction) in schools in Queensland, and what is the enrolment of each school?
- (4) What are the departmental guidelines or requirements that must be satisfied for the department to recommend funding for the construction of a performing arts theatre and complex?
- (5) Bearing in mind that Wynnum North State High School is recognised for the excellence of its program in the area of dramatic and performing arts (and has been designated as a provider within the performing arts area under the convergence of general and vocational training), will the Government commit itself to the construction of a performance theatre and complex at the school?

Mr Quinn (24/12/96):

- (1) Yes. Preparation of these plans was paid for partly by the Parents and Citizens Association and partly by subsidy from a federal grant through the Community, Cultural, Recreation and Sporting Facilities program of the Department of the Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories.
- (2) The plans for this complex were submitted to a secondary Design Standards Reference group and a significant number concepts and aspects within the plan were embodied in the current Departmental plans for Performing Arts complexes.
- (3) Schools with Performing Arts complexes that have been built since the adoption of existing plans are:

Windaroo Valley SHS—new school enrolment: 947

Tullawong SHS—new school enrolment: 712

Mountain Creek SHS—new school enrolment: 706

James Nash SHS—enrolment: 810

(4) For funding to be recommended for the construction of a performing arts complex a school must have:

- (a) an enrolment driven need for a facility of this size; and
- (b) an emphasis on performing arts in its curriculum.

(5) A performing arts complex has not been included in the 1996-97 Capital Works Program of the Department of Education. Nominations for possible inclusion on the draft 1997-98 program will be considered in the near future as part of the standard statewide prioritisation process.

1331. Tourist Projects

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Environment (27/11/96)—

With reference to research by Griffith University international centre for ecotourism research that states 23 per cent of 171 major Australian tourist projects started construction but were never completed—

- (1) As many of these projects were in Queensland and on the coast, has his department conducted any investigation or study into the damage done to the environment?
- (2) What action has been taken to have the relevant companies return sites to their original state?

Mr Littleproud (18/12/96): The research work by Ralph Buckley—on which these questions are based—looked at Australian tourism projects over the last 15 years (since 1980). Professor Buckley found that of 171 major tourism developments:

- only 22% were completed;
- 27% were approved, but were put on hold indefinitely or not commenced;
- 23% were started, but not completed and of these 25% experienced financial difficulties; and
- 28% were not approved or applications had lapsed.

These were national figures.

In his press releases, Professor Buckley cites several Queensland examples.

In answer to the two questions:

The Department of Environment has conducted no audit of coastal tourist resort projects to determine their status of construction during either the term of the Labor Government or the present Coalition Government.

In recent years the Department has emphasised the need for environmental management plans setting out the particular environmental matters that should be addressed by development companies and their agents to ensure compliance with best practice environmental management.

This approach is consistent with the direction of licensing or approval of environmentally relevant activities under the Environmental Protection Act 1994 as well as the general environmental duty obligations and is consistent with the approach applied to approvals for major developments within the Great Barrier Reef Region.

2. In the case of sites within the Great Barrier Reef region, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority has drawn on bonds in a number of instances including:

- salvage of the sunken debris from the "Fantasy Island" pontoon off Townsville (entire bond used);

- stabilisation of the Magnetic Quays the site after both the developer and then the receivers left the site (part of bond used); and

- stabilisation of the reef flat at Daydream Island after it was damaged by machinery (part of bond used).

In recent years the Department of Environment has established deeds of agreement with proponents including bonds to rectify any environmental harm which may occur. For example, the agreement for development on Keswick Island contains such provisions as do those for Woodwark Bay (Whitsunday Peninsula) and Oyster Point at Cardwell.

Earlier developments such as Aqua Del Rey's Laguna Quays required environmental monitoring to ensure that work did not cause unacceptable impacts or environmental harm, particularly during the construction phase.

1332. Eastern Arterial; Pine Rivers Shire

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (27/11/96)—

With reference to requests from Pine Shire Councillors for him to meet a delegation of Pine Rivers citizens led by those councillors to discuss their concerns about the Eastern Arterial proposal, and to his refusal to meet with these councillors or citizens and to the fact that he is believed to have arranged an alternative meeting with selected persons in the area understood to support the proposal and to my request to his office that he should meet a deputation of Pine Rivers citizens wishing to discuss the matter, a request his office has not yet responded to—

Will he agree to hear both sides of the community on this issue before proceeding, and therefore agree to meet the delegations of genuine citizens and hear their concerns in good faith?

Mr Johnson (2/1/97): Meetings with delegations from Pine Rivers Shire were arranged through Mr John Goss MLA, Member for Aspley, on Wednesday 27 November 1996. I was occupied in the House; however, my Chief Policy Officer and officers from Main Roads attended the meetings.

The first delegation represented the Eastern Pine Rivers Land Owners Conservation Group and the second comprised residents from the Mango Hill and Griffin areas of Pine Rivers Shire.

Councillor Bev McClymont attended the first meeting and both Councillors McClymont and Jeremy Ryman participated in the second meeting.

The Government has made no decision to proceed with a road that has been referred to as "the Eastern Arterial". However, the reality is that, even with eight lanes, the Bruce Highway through Pine Rivers Shire would not cope with both through and local traffic.

As residential development and growth occur in the Shire and to the north, an arterial road system will be needed to cater for local traffic.

Should traffic modelling currently under way by Main Roads show benefits in providing for an "Eastern Arterial", then a full Impact Assessment Study will be commissioned.

Such a study would involve wide public consultation on the need for and possible location of an "Eastern Arterial". This will give all residents in Pine Rivers Shire the opportunity to air their concerns and have them considered in "good faith".

1333. Quaid Road; Southedge; Brooklyn Station

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (27/11/96)—

With reference to his ongoing dealings with Mr George Quaid of Southedge Pastoral Co—

- (1) When will payment for Mr Quaid's Daintree properties be finalised?
- (2) What amount is still outstanding?
- (3) What negotiations has he had with Mr Quaid over the opening of the Quaid Road to Southedge?
- (4) Has he approached the Mareeba Office of the Water Resources Commission on Mr Quaid's behalf in an attempt to progress approval of his second dam at Southedge; if so, what interest does he have in Mr Quaid's Southedge project?
- (5) Is he aware of Mr Quaid's intention to clear significant parts of Brooklyn Station at the headwaters of the Mitchell River with the intention of growing sugarcane?
- (6) Does he believe Brooklyn Station has significant environmental values; if so, what are they?
- (7) Does he intend to protect these values in the event Mr Quaid applies for a land clearing permit?

Mr Littleproud (18/12/96):

- (1) The second and final payment of \$2.7 million for Mr Quaid's 23 Daintree properties, offered as part of the Daintree Rescue package, pursuant to the contract was made on 4 July 1996.
- (2) See (1).

(3) While I have had discussions with Mr Quaid, I have certainly not been involved in negotiations. The Wet Tropics Management Authority has received a written request from Mr Quaid's property consultant to amend the draft Wet Tropics Plan recognising the existence of the private road from Southedge to Wangetti Beach, and requesting that the road is gazetted for public access. The Wet Tropics Ministerial Council noted the request and has called for a reassessment of the Southedge Road following input from other State, Commonwealth and Local Government agencies.

(4) No.

(5) I am advised that the Department of Environment is aware of the proposal at Brooklyn Station to clear land for sugar cane production. An application from the Mossman Central Sugar Mill for a waterworks licence to irrigate at Brooklyn Station was withdrawn in March 1996, and the proposal is currently in abeyance.

(6) I am advised that Brooklyn Station has significant environmental values and is noted for its terrestrial biodiversity. Many other Queensland properties could be similarly described.

(7) Land clearing permits are not the responsibility of the Minister for Environment. The proposal to clear land at Brooklyn Station however did trigger the requirement for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and the Department of Environment contributed to the terms of reference. The EIS did not proceed once the proposal was withdrawn.

1334. Community History (Indigenous Heritage) Grants Program

Mrs WOODGATE asked the Minister for Environment (27/11/96)—

With reference to the calls by his department for applications for the Queensland Community History (Indigenous Heritage) Grants program for 1996-97—

- (1) What total funding is available for this program for 1996-97 and how does this compare with 1995-96?
- (2) What funding is available for the Queensland Heritage Grants Program and the Queensland Community History Grant program for 1996-97?
- (3) How many applications were received in 1995-96 for the Queensland Community History (Indigenous Heritage) Grants program and what was the average amount of each grant?
- (4) Who decided which applications to the Community History (Indigenous Heritage) Grants program are to receive funding?
- (5) Will he make the funding of studies conducted under the Community History (Indigenous Heritage) Grants program available to anthropologists and other students or does he intend to also suppress this information as he has done with existing anthropological information currently held by the department?

Mr Littleproud (23/12/96):

(1) I am pleased you are interested in this initiative of the Coalition Government. The actual level of funding available in 1996-97 is \$333,000. This is the first year in which this program has been offered, so there are no earlier figures for comparison.

(2) The funding available in the Queensland Heritage Grants Program for 1996-97 is \$154,000. The funding available in the Queensland Community History Grants Program for 1996-97 is \$30,000.

(3) See (1).

(4) The applications to the 1996-97 Queensland Community History (Indigenous Heritage) Grants Program will be assessed by the Director, Cultural Heritage, the Executive Legal Consultant, Native Title Legal Practice Group, Office of Crown Law, and a member of the Aboriginal community.

(5) The eligibility criteria for the Queensland Community History (Indigenous Heritage) Grants Program state that applicants must be of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent or association. Anthropologists or other students who meet these criteria would be eligible to apply.

Successful applicants will be required to submit reports as part of the acquittal requirements of the grant funding. People who wish to access the reports should contact the Department of Environment.

1335. Challinor Centre; Basil Stafford Centre

Mr HAMILL asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (27/11/96)—

With reference to statements by him concerning alternative accommodation for residents of the Challinor Centre and the Basil Stafford Centre—

- (1) How many people have left these centres since 30 June and been accommodated in the wider community?
- (2) How many residents will similarly leave these institutions for alternative accommodation over the period to 30 June, 1997?
- (3) How many residents will remain at (a) Challinor Centre and (b) Basil Stafford Centre, by 30 June 1997?
- (4) How many current residents of these centres are now being advised that they are not now able to leave these centres this year for alternative community accommodation?
- (5) What funds have been allocated in 1996-97 for alternative accommodation for Challinor Centre and Basil Stafford Centre residents?

Mr Lingard (16/12/96):

(1) I am pleased to be able to advise you that since 30 June 1996, four (4) residents of Basil Stafford Centre have moved to accommodation in the wider community, and that thirteen (13) residents of Challinor Centre have also moved.

(2) I have recently approved the funds for another five (5) residents of Basil Stafford Centre to move into accommodation in the wider community. Planning for a number of other Basil Stafford residents is continuing. You will of course be aware that negotiations are occurring regarding the Challinor site being taken over by the University of Queensland. Should this occur, then it is likely the Challinor Centre will close within the next eighteen (18) months with residents progressively moving to alternative living arrangements. Given the progressive movement, it is not possible for me to anticipate how many residents of Challinor will move into the wider community by 30 June 1997.

(3) Again, I cannot predict how many residents will remain at Challinor Centre by the 30 June 1997 because of the likely progressive closure. Nor is it possible for me to be precise about the number of residents who will remain at Basil Stafford Centre by 30 June 1997 because planning for a small number of residents to move into the community is continuing.

(4) I will soon be writing to all families whose family members are residents of Challinor Centre to advise the outcome of the negotiations with the University of Queensland. Should the Centre be closing, then all residents will be leaving. When I approve funds to move residents of Basil Stafford Centre into the wider community, families are routinely advised of this approval.

(5) As published in the 1996-97 State budget papers, \$4 million recurrent funds were allocated for moving residents of Challinor and Basil Stafford Centres to the wider community. An additional amount of \$3.9 million in non-recurrent funds was also allocated to assist in this process. It is likely that additional funds will be committed to enable Challinor residents to move into the wider community as the Centre progressively closes.

1336. Public Housing, Bundaberg and Wide Bay Regions

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (27/11/96)—

Will he advise (a) the number value and type of accommodation units built in the Bundaberg City and district and the Wide Bay Region for the years 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 and budgeted for 1996-97, (b) the total housing stock and waiting lists for all types (classes) of accommodation for Bundaberg City and district and the Wide Bay Region and (c) the funds spent on accommodation upgrading and maintenance for the years 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 and budgeted for 1996-97 for Bundaberg City and district and the Wide Bay Region?

Mr Connor (2/1/97):

In responding to this Question on notice, "Bundaberg City and district" has been defined as Bundaberg Local Authority. Wide Bay Burnett Area Office data incorporates that of the Bundaberg Local Government Authority.

- (a) For Bundaberg Local Government Authority.
- 1991/92 35 Dwellings * Value ** \$2,894,119.
 - 1992/93 68 Dwellings Value \$ 5,546,573.
 - 1993/94 45 Dwellings Value \$4,385,353.
 - 1994/95 51 Dwellings Value \$3,839,655.
 - 1995/96 36 Dwellings Value \$4,374,263.

For Wide Bay Burnet Area

- 1991/92 108 Dwellings Value \$8,190,852.
- 1992/93 214 Dwellings Value \$17,493,318
- 1993/94 139 Dwellings Value \$12,816,231
- 1994/95 153 Dwellings Value \$13,449,114
- 1995/96 79 Dwellings Value \$9,222,382

*Dwellings numbers indicate number of Dwellings across 1, 2, 3, 4+ bedroom accommodation.

** Value represents building and Land costs.

During the 1996/97 financial year, 10 public rental dwellings are planned to be constructed or purchased in the Bundaberg Local Authority. Construction/purchase costs for these dwellings are estimated at \$1,000,000. This financial year, construction and purchase of 35 dwellings are planned for Wide Bay Burnett Area Office (including the 10 dwellings for Bundaberg Local Government Authority). These 35 dwellings are estimated to cost \$3,500,000. A \$34M (300 home) spot purchase program has just been approved. The Bundaberg region will receive its share according to my policy of providing housing in the areas of greatest need.

(b) With reference to total housing stock and wait list for all types of accommodation in Bundaberg Local Authority and Wide Bay Burnett Area Office: The Department's stock in the Bundaberg Local Authority contains 796 units of accommodation. As at 30 September 1996, there were 560 clients on the Department's wait list in Bundaberg Local Authority. The Department's housing stock in the Wide Bay Burnett Area Office contains 2,210 units of accommodation. As at 30 September 1996, there were 1,466 clients on the Department's wait list for the Wide Bay Burnett Area Office. The Wide Bay Burnett wait list and housing stock incorporates the wait list and housing stock for Bundaberg Local Authority.

(c) My Department has advised that due to reporting changes, historical maintenance and upgrade expenditure by Local Authority and Area Office are unavailable. Upgrade expenditure during 1995/96 in the Wide Bay Burnett Area Office was \$308,000 and \$740,000 was spent on maintenance. It is proposed in the 1996/97 financial year that \$634,000 will be spent on responsive and planned maintenance in the Wide Bay Burnett Area Office. Should need for maintenance increase in the Wide Bay region, my Department will reallocate funds accordingly.

As a result of a recent Cabinet decision, \$8 million has been approved to provide smoke alarms to all existing public housing stock. The Wide Bay-Burnett Area Office will be allocated funds for this program in the new year, additional to the \$127,000 already allocated for upgrades in 1996/97.

The Wide Bay Burnett Area Office's upgrade and maintenance budget incorporates Bundaberg Local Authority.

1337. **Preschool Children, Developmental Assessment**

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Health (27/11/96)—

With reference to pre-school age children who are in need of a full developmental assessment due to learning difficulties and/or other developmental problems—

- (1) What are the waiting times for such assessments for each location at which this service is provided within the Brisbane Metropolitan area and the Woody Point Special School?
- (2) What actions are being taken to reduce the waiting times for this necessary service?
- (3) What funds have been allocated for this service in 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97?

Mr Horan (2/1/97):

(1) & (2) Labor's commitment to child health was demonstrated by its abolition of the Division of Child Health, and its failure for seven years to give child health services any senior position within Queensland Health. As a result, child health services suffered and waiting lists grew.

I am advised that waiting times for developmental assessment of children under the age of five by public health services, typically vary from 3—12 months, but some referrals are assessed immediately and others after a longer wait. Infants and toddlers with delayed developmental milestones are prioritised and urgent referrals can be assessed by a medical officer within three weeks.

In contrast, child health has been made a priority by the Coalition, through the establishment of the Child Health Project: this is the fulfilment of a commitment made to the people of Queensland during the 1995 State Election. Recruitment of staff for this Project is underway. The Project will develop strategies to improve services for developmental assessment and therapy. In addition, the Coalition Government has funded the Royal Children's Hospital Health Service to engage a consultant with the aim of achieving better integration and coordination in existing child health services.

Queensland Health also values the responsibility for assessment and treatment of children with disabilities which is taken by the Department of Education (Special Education Development Units), the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care (Intellectual Disability Services) which provide a range of medical and therapy services. The private sector also has a significant and valued role in the provision of services for children with developmental or behavioural problems.

(3) Queensland Health does not fund these services discretely so it is difficult to provide precise funding levels. However, I am advised that there has been no reductions in paediatric budgets and in some areas budgets have been increased in the 1996/7 financial year.

1338. Juvenile Detention Program

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (27/11/96)—

With reference to the 1996-97 Budget for the Juvenile Detention Program of the Queensland Corrective Services Commission, which, with figures provided in his Program Statement, and the major Budget Papers, both himself and the Deputy Director General, Stan Macionis advised the Estimates Hearing that this budget was subject to further finalisation over a three month period and as the QCSC took over juvenile detention on 15 August, that three month period has now elapsed—

- (1) Has the Juvenile Detention Program 1996-97 Budget been finalised?
- (2) Does this budget vary from that provided in the 1996-97 Budget Papers and Program Statement?
- (3) What is the complete detail of the variations?
- (4) What are the projected changes to staff numbers?
- (5) What are the cost savings projected to be achieved?
- (6) What is the final projected number of inmates?
- (7) What capital works will be undertaken or begun in 1996-97?
- (8) What rationalisation of juvenile detention centres will take place and /or begin in 1996-97?

Mr Cooper (20/12/96):

(1) to (5) Responsibility for Juvenile Detention Centres was transferred to the QCSC on 15 August 1996. A review of juvenile detention centre operations was commenced. This detailed review of juvenile detention services will be completed by 31 December 1996.

Further discussions will then take place to finalise the budget allocation.

At this stage the 1996/97 budget allocation has not been finalised.

Similarly, issues such as staffing levels and other cost efficiencies will be considered in the light of the findings of this review.

Decisions on these issues will be taken in early 1997.

(6) The QCSC, working with staff from the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care has predicted an increase in the number of juveniles in detention. It is expected these numbers will continue to grow taking into account legislative change and population growth.

(7-8) Works to provide additional accommodation at the John Oxley Youth Detention Centre and the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre will be completed this financial year. The provision of extra accommodation and associated support facilities and classroom/program areas will be completed by May 1997.

An infrastructure plan for future capital works in the Juvenile Detention area is being considered by Cabinet.

This plan proposes the construction of new juvenile detention centres in southern and northern Queensland.

Until replacement facilities have been developed interim accommodation arrangements for additional numbers will be made at the Cleveland and John Oxley Youth Detention Centres. Minor repairs and maintenance will be undertaken at the three juvenile detention centres in order to maintain a safe working environment.

There will be no rationalisation of the three currently operating centres unless it is strongly recommended in the review.

1339. Capital Works Projects

Mr FOURAS asked the Minister for Environment (27/11/96)—

With reference to the Premier's instruction to his Director-General, some two weeks ago, to supply details of job creating, capital works projects that his department can undertake in 1996-97—

- (1) Which projects in what parts of the State and at what cost were submitted and what are their projected start up and completion dates?
- (2) Which of these projects were not originally funded in the 1996-97 Budget and will therefore require reallocated funding from Treasury?
- (3) What projects were programmed to start in 1996-97 but now will not?
- (4) Where are these projects, what is their projected cost and what are their new start up dates?

Mr Littleproud (23/12/96):

1. Construction of new Herbarium—\$5,935,000—tenders have been called to allow for construction to commence during 1996-97. Work will extend into 1997-98.

Upgrade of Ranger housing (statewide)—\$520,000
various projects ongoing throughout 1996-1997

Refurbishment of Toowoomba Regional Office—\$50,000
new lease approved November 1996, work to proceed January 1997—February 1997

Refurbishment of Townsville Regional Office—\$80,000
various projects ongoing to June 1997

Fit-out of Moreton Bay Base, Cleveland—\$60,000
completed September 1996

Fit-out of Cairns Regional Office—\$30,000
consolidation of regional office
accommodation—December 1996—May 1997

Refurbishment of Rockhampton Regional Office—
\$230,000

Project Services design stage under way,
completion anticipated April 1997

Fit-out of Charleville District Office—\$36,000

various works anticipated between
February-June 1997

Fit-out of Coen District Office—\$80,000

between November 1996—May 1997 (subject
to possible Wet Season rescheduling)

Minor Works (Brisbane)—\$30,000

ongoing throughout 1996-1997

Minor Works (Regional)—\$105,000

ongoing throughout 1996-1997

Plant and Equipment—\$297,000

supply to the above projects—various
completion dates

Marine Parks Operations Base—Roslyn Bay—
\$146,000

Finalise design and initiate works

Marine Parks Operations Base—Abel Point—
\$175,000

Site works and Stage 1 construction

In addition to the above, a significant number of
capital works projects are proposed within the
protected area estate of the Department of
Environment.

A complete list is shown in Attachment A.

These projects were all approved during the
Department's standard budget deliberation process
and have either commenced already or will
commence during 1996-97. Most projects are
scheduled for completion during 1996-97. However,
some major projects such as construction of
residences or new campgrounds will extend into
1997-98.

Nil

3.(a) Refurbishment of Naturally Queensland
Information Centre, Brisbane

(b) Fit-out of Roma District Office

4.(a) Refurbishment of the Naturally Queensland
Information Centre will be reviewed upon completion
of the accommodation strategy of 160 Ann Street
tenancy. Estimated cost \$80,000. Start up date
would be 1997-98.

(b) The fit out of the Roma District office will be
deferred until 1997-98. Estimated cost \$80,000.

1340. Transport (Gladstone East End to Harbour Corridor) Bill

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for
Economic Development and Trade and Minister
Assisting the Premier (27/11/96)—

If the Transport (Gladstone East End to Harbour
Corridor) Bill is passed by the Parliament what plans
are in place to protect remaining residents from dust,
noise and other impacts of the rail line given that at
least one residence is only 300 metres from this
industrial line?

Mr Slack (20/12/96): The Transport (Gladstone
East End to Harbour Corridor) Act was passed by
the Parliament on 29 November 1996.

The impacts associated with the operation of the
East End to Fisherman's Landing branch lines were
assessed in the Impact Assessment Study which was
approved by Government in February 1996.

One of the conditions of the approval was that an
Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the
construction and operation of the project, including
the rail branch lines, be prepared. This Environmental
Management Plan has now been completed and has
been reviewed by the Department of Environment.
The EMP forms part of the contract documentation
for the construction of the branch lines and will
ensure that impacts on the few residences in the
vicinity of the rail line are within approved guidelines.

The guidelines cover noise, vibration, dust, weeds
and fire control during construction and in the
operational phase.

1341. Whitsunday Shire Council/State Government Cannovale Development,

Mrs BIRD asked the Premier (27/11/96)—

With reference to media comments in the Proserpine
Guardian on 21 November that (a) Whitsunday Shire
Council and State Government are pressing ahead
with a major joint use development in Cannovale
(80ha Shute Harbour Road and Riordanvale Road)
and (b) comments by property owners whose land
may be used that they are unaware about the
project—

- (1) What is the cost of land being considered?
- (2) What will the land be used for?
- (3) When will property owners be consulted?
- (4) What strategic plans have been considered?

Mr Borbidge (2/1/97):

(1) The Department of Public Works and Housing is
still working to determine the extent of State
Government involvement in this Council initiative.
Therefore, no specific land requirements have been
identified.

(2) The State Government has as yet not determined
the services or nature of facilities that may be
provided. No land use study or master planning has
been conducted.

(3) As soon as the nature and extent of State and
Local Government involvement (if any) has been
determined, consultation can be conducted with
property owners regarding a suitable location.

(4) The vicinity recommended as the location for
such a development was identified by the
Whitsunday Shire Council in its new Town Plan.

1342. Goats Milk

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Health (27/11/96)—

With reference to the discontinuation of the exemption of goats milk from the legal requirement for pasteurisation in Queensland from 30 June 1997—

How will he control importation and sale of raw goats milk from interstate producers?

Mr Horan (2/1/97): I have made no decision in respect of the continuation or discontinuation of exemptions from pasteurisation for goats' milk.

In conjunction with my colleague, the Honourable the Minister for Primary Industries, I have established an expert committee, which is currently examining this issue. This committee, which includes industry representatives, will provide a report to me and the Minister for Primary Industries early in 1997. The committee has or will:

- I. consult with, and evaluate submissions from, all interested parties, and
- II. advise the Ministers on:
 1. whether the exemption should be lifted, varied, or retained,
 2. what measures of industry assistance should be effected to assist in any change, and
 3. transition arrangements, if required,

and the report of the committee will be considered by Cabinet.

I am not aware of any importation of raw goat milk into Queensland. However, the Mutual Recognition (Qld) Act 1992 provides a regulation making mechanism to prohibit importation of any product for a period of 12 months.

Few jurisdictions allow the sale of unpasteurised goats' milk, and even these may alter their position should Queensland do so. I am advised that the nature of the product and the market renders large scale importation of the product, from these few jurisdictions, most unlikely.

1343. Movement of Freight, Monto Rail Line

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (27/11/96)—

With reference to concerns among rail workers at Gladstone—

Will he assure rail workers that the freight section of Queensland Rail will utilise rail, not road, facilities to transport commodities from the Monto line to ports or processing plants; if not, will he direct that the coal and minerals section of Queensland Rail, rather than the freight section, be used for the movement of ilmenite and other commodities on the Monto line?

Mr Johnson (2/1/97): The Primary Industries division of Queensland Rail's Freight group is currently negotiating with Monto Minerals NL for the cartage of approximately 300,000 tonnes of bulk ilmenite from the Monto area to Gladstone.

The company is currently completing a feasibility study to determine whether the project is viable.

Monto Minerals has verbally advised Queensland Rail that it is the preferred carrier at this stage. Queensland Rail will definitely be transporting the ilmenite by rail if successful.

The project will include certain wagon modifications and an upgrade of the track section to "A" class standard between Monto and Taragoola.

1344. Families, Youth and Community Care Department, Mount Gravatt Office

Ms SPENCE asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (27/11/96)—

- (1) When will the Mt Gravatt Area Office of Families, Youth and Community Care move to Beenleigh?
- (2) Will the department retain any office space in Mt Gravatt?
- (3) How many officers will be stationed at Mt Gravatt in future?

Mr Lingard (16/12/96): The Mt Gravatt Area Office is not moving to Beenleigh and clients of my Department will be able to continue to access services in Mt Gravatt, and in other parts of the state, in the same way as they currently do.

My Department is, however, opening a regional office at Beenleigh. This is part of a major strategy in the Department which is aimed at improving services to clients through integrated, regionally based service delivery. This strategy is known within the Department as the Working Together Better strategy and it removes inefficiencies and duplications that had emerged between program areas within the Department.

Regional offices will include staff who have a role that covers the whole of the region such as coordinators of professional services and some administration staff. Some functions will be transferred from central office and will be performed in regions. I have been very explicit in instructing officers within my Department that any disruption to direct client services must be kept to an absolute minimum during the implementation of the Working Together Better strategy.

The location of regional offices was carefully considered and the decision to locate a regional office at Beenleigh is consistent with the SEQ2001 recommendations for the location of regional operations. The Brisbane South Region covers the area south of the Brisbane River in the city, east to the Redlands area and the Gold Coast and west to Beaudesert and the Logan area.

In the Mt Gravatt area the Department currently has a full floor of office accommodation at 18 Mt Gravatt-Capalaba Road and more than 1800 square metres of office accommodation in the Garden Square complex. There is no intention to move from this accommodation at the present time. There is in excess of sixty staff who occupy these offices, all of

whom are involved in the provision of direct client services.

The department also has office accommodation at the Nexus Building and regional management is currently based at this location. It is intended to relocate this office to Beenleigh, but it is unlikely that this will occur until at least December 1997. Approximately 55 staff work from this office and many of them will relocate to Beenleigh, though it is probable that some will remain in the Mt Gravatt area.

The Department also provides support to five Alternative Living Service houses in the Mt Gravatt area. These are houses which are rented by clients who have an intellectual disability, and 28 staff work with the clients in these houses.

In the future there will be approximately 100 staff working in the Mt Gravatt area providing services to clients from the same locations as they do at present. Regional management functions only will be relocated to Beenleigh, and this move will occur once satisfactory lease arrangements have been finalised.

1345. Art Forms, Development by Use of CD-ROM Technology and Internet

Mr FOLEY asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (27/11/96)—

- (1) What action is she taking to further the cause of cyberart?
- (2) In particular, what action is she taking to assist in the development of art forms using CD-ROM technology and art forms using the Internet?
- (3) Will she detail the budget allocation in respect of any program or programs in these areas?

Mrs Sheldon (2/1/97):

(1) and (2) To address both the needs of artists and the wider cultural community in relation to new technologies the State Government, through the Office of Arts and Cultural Development, has taken two significant steps; one was to invest in the QANTM Cooperative Multimedia Centre and the second being to introduce a specific program of assistance for artists and organisations working in the area.

(3) The QANTM Cooperative Multimedia Centre offers a range of programs (some targeted specifically at the youth and indigenous sectors) that deliver training, professional development, equipment access centres, multimedia master-classes and support through project-based activity for CD ROM and Internet site development.

In 1997 the Office of Arts and Cultural Development has also set aside specific funds of \$85,000 to:

provide support for the development of distinctive and innovative creative content for application in the Multimedia industry

facilitate the best practice application of new technologies to business enterprise development within the Arts Portfolio and the cultural industries.

1346. Tilt-train, Brisbane-Rockhampton

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (27/11/96)—

- (1) Will the Tilt Train which is to run between Brisbane and Rockhampton be crewed out of Bundaberg?
- (2) As a result of this and other restructure of the Rockhampton—Brisbane corridor workforce including the restructure of the Rockhampton payroll office in Rockhampton, how many jobs will be lost?

Mr Johnson (2/1/97):

(1) Queensland Rail, after a detailed examination of all options, has proposed that the Tilt Train will be crewed out of Bundaberg depot. Consultation with Unions and workplace representatives is being undertaken. This proposal provides the most efficient option for the crewing of the Tilt Train.

(2) The introduction of the Tilt Train planned for late 1997 will replace existing Spirit of Capricorn services to Rockhampton, some of which are worked by Rockhampton based train crew.

This will reduce the work required of Rockhampton and Maryborough based crews on the Brisbane—Rockhampton corridor for this type of work.

Rockhampton's workload over the Brisbane—Rockhampton corridor, specifically, will reduce by some eleven (11) shifts per week. However this will be at least offset by enhanced opportunities for Rockhampton crews on Freight Services over the corridor to enable Queensland Rail to take maximum advantage of the efficiencies available from the recently completed Mainline Upgrade Project.

At a consultative meeting with corridor workplace representatives, in Brisbane on 27/28 November 1996, Queensland Rail officers openly provided attendees with a discussion paper dealing with options for the way in which trains can be crewed on the corridor. This type of consultative meeting is an annual event.

Included within the discussion paper were revised depot workforce planning forecasts. The revision of staffing levels also occurs annually to take into consideration changes that are occurring in the industry.

In the context of Rockhampton depot the workforce plan forecast for the 1995/96 financial year saw that the depot could be operated by 116 drivers. The forecast was underpinned by a number of workplace changes, including the introduction of Driver Only Operations implemented in the time frames initially planned.

The revised workforce plan staff numbers provided to representatives on 27/28 November 1996 indicated that further operational changes would occur in areas within which Rockhampton crews work and the depot could possibly be operated by 106 Drivers at the end of June 1998. This is a reduction of ten drivers on the previous forecast.

Many of the changes predicted for Rockhampton and other train crew depots statewide are derived from the recently registered Traincrew Industrial

Agreement. The Agreement is quite revolutionary in that the benefits, which are largely achieved through staff reductions are equally shared between Queensland Rail and individual train crew through Queensland Rail's enterprise agreement processes.

Approximately 161 traincrew are currently employed at Rockhampton. It is stressed that the planned reduction in crews over the next eighteen months will occur through natural attrition. However, if staff wish to remain in Rockhampton they would not be forced out of Queensland Rail or out of Rockhampton.

At this stage, Queensland Rail has indicated there will be a reduction of up to 16 positions as a result of the restructure of payroll offices between Rockhampton and Brisbane. However, this would only occur when suitable employment strategies have been developed.

1347. Robert Wicks Research Station

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Natural Resources (27/11/96)—

With reference to a recent deputation from Inglewood Shire Council to himself and other Government Ministers complaining about the devastating affect this Government's policies were having on the town of Inglewood—

- (1) Were seven research jobs recently transferred from the Robert Wicks Research Station to Toowoomba; if so, why was this done?
- (2) Which research projects no longer occur at the Inglewood centre, and if they are continuing in Toowoomba, why is this new location more suited for the work?
- (3) How many research staff remain at the Inglewood centre?
- (4) What funding does the Inglewood centre have in the 1996-97 budget?
- (5) What long term future does the Inglewood centre have?
- (6) Has he been presented with plans to close it eventually?
- (7) Has he yet visited the Robert Wicks Research Station; if so, what were his impressions of it; if not, why not?
- (8) What research projects are currently being conducted at the Robert Wicks Research Station?
- (9) What has been the fate of the large captive population of dingoes that were housed at the research station?
- (10) What undertakings did he give to the deputation from the Inglewood Shire Council?

Mr Hobbs (17/12/96):

1. No. Five (5) positions are being shifted from Inglewood to Toowoomba, three (3) as vacancies. Two (2) vacancies resulted from the resignation of scientists, regrettably no longer willing to work at Inglewood. In addition, one (1) position has been shifted to Sherwood in Brisbane to amalgamate

chemistry labs and so gain efficiencies with equipment and staff. Two (2) positions are being transferred from Sherwood to Toowoomba to increase the critical mass of the pest animal research team and five (5) new positions have been created in Toowoomba for mice and rabbit calicivirus research. The total staff in Toowoomba will be twelve (12).

The reason for the changes is the consistent failure to attract strong fields of applicants for vacancies and particularly to retain experienced scientists. Alternatives, such as relocating to central Queensland, were evaluated before my Department accepted the two-centre model for the Robert Wicks Research Station. The location of most professional staff in Toowoomba will also improve the effectiveness of research through increased opportunities for collaboration and access to facilities and services.

2. My Department's pest animal research work is aimed at developing practical improvements to pest animal management and is therefore conducted on properties across Queensland. On-site experiments at Inglewood are necessary to support field research and there will be no change in this practice.

3. The Inglewood field station will have a staff of six (6)—one (1) research technician, the Emergency Control Officer, one (1) new rabbit control officer and three (3) maintenance/administrative staff. The scientists from Toowoomba and from collaborating agencies will work at the field station and supervise experiments as necessary.

The rabbit control officer is a new appointment to increase services in support of maximising the impact of rabbit calicivirus.

4. The Inglewood field station does not have a specific budget except for maintenance, but expenditure at the station will be approximately \$480,000 in 96/97, comprising \$340,000 for research, maintenance and administration, and \$140,000 for control services.

The control services budget includes \$62,000 for the appointment of the rabbit control officer. Expenditure by attendees at workshops and training courses will be additional..

5. Inglewood field station will continue to be required for its animal pen facilities. In addition to my Department's requirements, the facilities, including accommodation, will be marketed to other research agencies, both public and private. The station will also continue to be used as a meeting and training centre.

6. No.

1348. Prince Charles Hospital

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Health (27/11/96)—

With reference to an answer given by the Deputy Premier and Treasurer, Mrs Sheldon on 8 August to a question on Notice concerning privatisation of hospital services in the Fitzgerald Commission of Audit (Question 712, page 3013 Hansard) (27/11/96)—

- (1) What services at the Prince Charles Hospital does he consider "core business", that is, services which he says he will not privatise?
- (2) Do Queensland Health officers have the same understanding of core business or have departmental officers been directed to consider only medical and nursing services as core business?
- (3) Why has he then made progressive cuts to hotel and support services at the Prince Charles Hospital with the result that these services are suffering "death by a thousand cuts", thus achieving the Coalitions goal of privatising these aspects of services at the Prince Charles Hospital?
- (6) Does he believe reported rapes give an accurate picture of the incidence of rape in prison?
- (7) Does he believe rape in prison is an acceptable practice; if not, what is he doing to stamp it out?
- (8) Is he aware of the "culture of denial" that exists within the QCSC towards the issue of rape in prison; if so, what has he done to eliminate it?
- (9) Is he aware that the QCSC does not even have a policy to prevent or manage sexual assault in prison?
- (10) What priority is he giving to addressing this degrading practice that appears to be commonplace in the prisons under his control?

Mr Horan (2/1/97):

(1) & (2) The Prince Charles Hospital is a large and complex public hospital providing a wide range of specialist surgical, medical, psychiatric and aged care services. There has been no direction to consider only medical and nursing services as core business. All services, including infrastructure support services provided at this facility, are considered core business.

(3) I have every confidence that staff working in infrastructure support services have the skill and determination to meet industry standards, benchmarks, and improved work practices, particularly in catering, cleaning and linen services. Meeting these targets will see more resources flow to direct patient care, further reducing waiting times and increasing the standard of patient care. In this way, and through the delivery of high quality support services, staff in these areas are valued contributors to the new Queensland Health, where the patient is put first.

The Government is making no attempt to privatise existing hotel services. On the contrary, under the Coalition, these services will become the most efficient and effective public sector infrastructure support services in Australia.

1349. Rape in Prisons

Mr LIVINGSTONE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (27/11/96)—

With reference to a report on rape in prisons conducted by the Advocacy Network for Male Survivors of Sexual Assault which indicated that as many as one in four inmates could be raped while incarcerated in Queensland jails—

- (1) Does he agree with the findings of this report; if not, why not?
- (2) If he disagrees with its findings, what are the real figures and on what does he base these?
- (3) How many rapes were reported to authorities in 1996?
- (4) How many of these victims required and were given protection in prison or counselling?
- (5) How many inmates have been convicted of raping another inmate in prison in 1996?

Mr Cooper (20/12/96):

(1) While rape in prison is not an issue I would seek to minimise, I do not agree with the findings of the report on Sexual Assault in Queensland's Male Prisons released in November 1996. The report is not statistically valid. The conclusion that one in four inmates could be raped is derived from statistics relevant to another jurisdiction. The content is largely anecdotal and based on the alleged experience of ex staff of the Queensland prison system. The case studies appear to rely heavily on hearsay evidence as opposed to first hand accounts by the alleged victims.

While one sexual assault is one too many, sixty eight alleged instances of sexual assault over an indefinite time frame when there were 6745 prisoner receptions in 1995/96 does not extrapolate to constitute the statistic of one in four prisoners being raped while incarcerated in the Queensland prison system.

(2) In 1995-96 there were 22 reported sexual assaults. There were only 2 convictions. Two matters are yet to be dealt with and 13 charges were withdrawn by those who were the alleged victims. Five reported incidents are currently under investigation by the Corrective Services Investigation Unit, a branch of the Queensland Police Service.

(3) From January 1 to November 30, 1996 there were 17 cases of sexual assault recorded.

(4) The Custodial Corrections Procedures Manual defines the requirements for incident management. It stipulates that any prisoner who alleges to have been sexually assaulted must immediately be taken to the centre's medical area. Counselling is an automatic part of this process. The police must be advised of the allegation. In all instances prisoners would be assessed for continuing protective status. All victims were managed according to this process.

(5) Two.

(6) No; as in the general community there is a reluctance to report a sexual assault. Because of the nature of the prison culture there is a reluctance by prisoners to report an assault of any kind.

(7) No; rape in any context is not acceptable. It is illegal and any report is treated very seriously. Perpetrators are charged and victims are protected. The induction process in any prison is sensitive to

identifying at risk prisoners and these will be segregated for protection. There are a range of design features and routines and procedures to minimise the potential for such offences.

(8) I am not aware of any "culture of denial". The QCSC acknowledges that assault is a problem and one of its key performance targets is to reduce the level of assaults in correctional centres and community corrections centres. This is recorded in the QCSC Annual Report.

(9) The QCSC does have a policy in the Custodial Corrections Procedure Manual to manage sexual assault. In terms of prevention, it has a policy of identifying people at risk at reception and placing them on protection. Where possible, perpetrators are placed in areas/units where they have minimal contact with potential victims.

(10) I recognise that the matter of sexual assault while in prison is one which is of grave concern to the victims, actual or potential, to their families and to the broader community. The Director-General has given an undertaking to meet representatives of community organisations in the New Year to formulate further strategies to reduce the incidence of sexual assault. This is, and has always been, a matter which has been given a high priority in the management of Queensland correctional facilities.

1350. Rail Line, Bulimba Electorate

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (27/11/96)—

- (1) Will he consider electrifying the rail line from the West Moreton Coal fields to the Brisbane Port?
- (2) Does he think that the quality of life and well being of the mainly elderly people that live along this very busy freight line should be taken into account when planning State and National freight lines?
- (3) How many (a) coal trains (b) wheat trains and (c) freight trains travelled through the Electorate of Bulimba in 1994, 1995 and up till now in 1996?
- (4) How many train movements of the above mentioned trains occur between 7.00 am and 7.00 pm and alternatively 7.00 pm and 7.00 am?

Mr Johnson (2/1/97):

(1) The government has no immediate plans to consider electrifying freight rail operations from the West Moreton Coal fields to the Port of Brisbane. Trains also originate from as far west as the Darling Downs, so electrification would only affect a subset of all the trains using the line. Switching locomotives at some point in the transport chain would impose significant time and cost penalties and reduce the already limited flexibility Queensland Rail has with its locomotive fleet.

(2) The quality of life and well being of the people that live along this freight line is absolutely a consideration in planning State and National freight lines. However, it is wrong to think that electrification will solve the noise problem. The new generation

diesel locomotives now being acquired by Queensland Rail, are expected to be quieter than the existing generation of electric locos, although the predominant noise frequencies are different.

(3) No detailed history is kept of the total number and types of trains passing through particular locations. The following are estimates of traffic provided by Queensland Rail.

Numerous commodities transported by Queensland Rail are affected by seasonal conditions whilst coal and grain are subject to overseas market and shipping fluctuations, all of which prevent a consistent pattern of operation.

During 1994 and 1995 severe drought conditions continued throughout Queensland with the first major grain harvest for some seven years having commenced only two months ago, in October, 1996.

Current levels of traffic passing through the Bulimba Electorate to and from the Port of Brisbane are approximately as follows:

Grain: averaging 14 trains per day (7 in each direction), seven days per week.

Coal: averaging 12 trains per day (6 in each direction), five days per week.

Freight: 8 trains per day (4 in each direction), six days per week.

Total number Monday to Friday—170

Saturday—22

Sunday—14

Current total number of trains per week—206

However, during 1994, 1995 and up until October 1996 the following levels of traffic would have operated:

Grain: average 2 trains per week.

Coal: average 12 trains per day (6 in each direction), five days per week.

Freight: average 8 trains per day (4 in each direction), six days per week.

Total number Monday to Friday—102

Saturday—8

Sunday—Nil

Total number of trains per week 1994, 1995, and up to October 1996—110

(4) Whether trains run on a 24 hour per day basis is generally governed by shipping schedules.

Currently the movement of trains would occur approximately as follows:

between 7 am—7 pm average

Grain: 8 trains per day, seven days per week

Coal: 8 trains per day, five days per week

Freight: 5 trains per day, six days per week

Total per week between 7 am and 7 pm—126

between 7 pm-7 am

average Grain: 6 trains per day, seven days per week

average Coal: 4 trains per day, five days per week

average Freight: 3 trains per day, six days per week

Total per week between 7 am and 7 pm—80

During 1994, 1995 and up to October 1996, the movement of trains would have occurred approximately as follows:

between 7 am-7 pm

average Grain: 2 trains per week

average Coal: 8 trains per day, five days per week

average Freight: 6 trains per day, six days per week

Total per week between 7 am and 7 pm—78

between 7 pm-7 am

average Grain: Nil

average Coal: 4 trains per day, five days per week

average Freight: 2 trains per day, six days per week

Total per week between 7 am and 7 pm—32

1351. Public Sector, Contract Employment

Ms BLIGH asked the Premier (27/11/96)—

With reference to Coalition election policy on the Public Service which states that a review of contract employment across the Public Sector will be conducted with a view to improving security of tenure for Public Sector employees—

- (1) What is the status of this commitment?
- (2) Is the Office of The Public Service carrying out any investigation into the extent and nature of contract employment in the Public Sector?
- (3) In light of the extended contracting provisions of the Public Service Act, how does his Government propose to improve security of tenure for Public Sector employees?

Mr Borbidge (2/1/97):

(1) The results of the review of contract employment are contained within the provisions of the Public Service Act.

(2) The Office of the Public Service, in the preparation of the Public Service Act, considered the provisions of the previous legislation and its application, the extent of contract employment in other jurisdictions and comments contained in the Fitzgerald Report.

The previous legislation provided for the Governor in Council to declare any office, or class of office, other than that of Chief Executive Officer, to be an

office to which appointment shall be made upon a contract basis.

It is interesting to note that the former Goss Government initiated proposed amendments to section 19 of the then Public Service Management and Employment Act, which would have restricted contract employment to Chief Executives, the Senior Executive Service and contract holders who held contracts prior to the proposed amendment.

It is even more interesting to note that this amendment was never proclaimed. So what we have is a government who were philosophically opposed to the use of contracts making the necessary noises with respect to amending legislation to minimise contracts and then subsequently not proclaiming the amendment.

Prior to the proclamation of the Public Service Act, only Queensland and the Commonwealth did not have a requirement for SES officers to sign contracts of employment. The Commonwealth are to introduce contracts for SES. It would appear, that the United Kingdom government who recently issued a White Paper proposing contract employment for the SES structure, is also to take this direction.

During the debate on the Public Service Act the increased use of contracts for SES officers by the previous government was exposed, in that SES positions, subject to contract rose from 5.7% at June 1993 to 10.2% at June 1995.

Finally, the comments made by Tony Fitzgerald, in his report are worthy of noting:

"Contract employment rather than permanent tenure, does not make political interference or bureaucratic partiality any more likely, nor does it decrease the chances of public servants reporting misconduct."

And further:

"There are significant advantages, on the contrary, to a system of contract employment.

A sound contract system should achieve the object of providing an effective incentive to improve efficiency and productivity within the public service. Contract employment also provides a greater opportunity for regular interchange of employees at senior levels between the public and the private sectors."

(3) It was a conscious decision of the Government to introduce the concept of Senior Officer and phase out SES1, limiting contracts for SES to the more senior levels. Approximately half of the current SES numbers will be available on contract.

There is no obligation on any officer, be they SES or non SES, to sign a contract of employment. If a non SES officer was to sign a contract there are checks and balances in place to ensure that the provisions of the contract shall offer no less total remuneration than if the officer were employed on tenure.

The Act also prescribes that the officer always retains a right of reversion to their previous substantive level on the expiry of the contract or if it is terminated. Therefore tenure as such is not impacted by the signing of a contract of employment.

1352. Mr K. Williams; Port Hinchinbrook Development

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Environment (28/11/96)—

- (1) Has his department investigated allegations that Port Hinchinbrook developer Keith Williams has started dumping sand on the foreshore to create a beach; if so, where did the sand originate from?
- (2) What action is being taken against the development?

Mr Littleproud (18/12/96):

(1) The allegation that sand has been dumped on the foreshore to create a beach has been investigated. Contrary to the allegation, the works involved the temporary placement of sand along an embankment as an interim protection measure.

The sand, which originated from excavations elsewhere on the site, will not form part of a permanent beach and will in fact be buried following completion of the site filling works.

(2) Refer (1).

1353. Electricity Supply, Rural Queensland

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (28/11/96)—

With reference to the Capricornia Electricity Boards which are currently withdrawing the position of Linesman (Repairs and Maintenance) from rural communities like Duaranga and coal towns like Dysart and Middlemount—

- (1) Is he aware that this process is under way and of the impact it will have on small country towns and, in particular, in the delivery of service to rural Queensland?
- (2) What is he prepared to do to ensure that rural Queensland's level of service is equal to that enjoyed by the population of larger regional centres?

Mr Gilmore (23/12/96):

(1) I am aware that recent attempts to attract linespersons to Duaranga and Dysart have not been successful and that a local contractor has been engaged in Dysart to provide a first level response. However, in Middlemount recent recruitment efforts were successful and resourcing is being maintained. This, and other action being taken by Capelec, meets the Government's commitment to ensure that rural communities are properly serviced by the State's electricity corporations.

(2) Because recruitment to towns such as those mentioned is difficult, Capelec is providing resources on a larger area basis to ensure efficient and safe operation while still encouraging employees to live in local towns. In addition, Capelec is installing automated switching equipment and remote control facilities in the Duaranga and Dingo areas to reduce the number and length of outages and will continue to improve the services it offers to the rural community generally.

1354. Police Academy, Townsville; Police Resources, Mackay Region

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (28/11/96)—

With reference to the establishment of the North Queensland Police Academy at Townsville—

- (1) When will the people of the Mackay region receive the additional 70 police as promised by him in the lead up to the last State Election?
- (2) How many applicants from Mackay region have applied to the academy for a career in the Queensland Police Service?
- (3) How many applicants from Mackay region have been accepted to train at the Townsville Academy?
- (4) How many people are currently being trained at the academy?
- (5) What areas of Queensland do these trainees come from?
- (6) Why didn't the Mackay region get its share of the 117 additional police officers who will graduate later this month, considering his election promise of 70 additional police for Mackay region and his comments on crime and police numbers in the Mackay *Daily Mercury* on 16 November?

Mr Cooper (20/12/96):

(1) The Coalition Government has given an undertaking to increase the strength of the Queensland Police Service by 2780 police officers over the ten year period commencing from the 1995/96 financial year. This increase includes an additional 800 police officers in the three year period from 1996/97 through to 1998/99.

The successful recruits to graduate from these increased recruit intakes over the three year period from 1996/97 through to 1998/99 will be allocated throughout the State. At this stage it is not possible to estimate the actual number to be allocated to each Police District, including the Mackay Police District. Whatever the actual number will be, it will be substantially greater than any allocation under the previous Government.

For the 1996/97 financial year, the overall strength of the Service has been increased by 139 additional police positions. The Mackay District has been allocated an additional 14 police positions from the 1996/97 total allocation of 139.

(2) For the October 1996 intake, a total of 18 persons from the Mackay Region applied for entry to the Queensland Police Service.

(3) Two applicants from the Mackay Region were accepted to train at the Queensland Police Service Academy, North Queensland Campus. In addition, one applicant from the Mackay Region was accepted to train at the Queensland Police Service Academy, Brisbane.

(4) 40 police recruits are currently being trained at the Queensland Police Service Academy, North Queensland Campus.

(5) Police recruits currently being trained at the North Queensland Campus come from the following areas:

- Cairns—7
- Townsville—15
- Mackay—2
- Rockhampton—1
- Sunshine Coast—3
- Brisbane—10
- Interstate—2

(6) The Commissioner is responsible, on the advice of his senior officers, for allocation of police to various areas of the Service. All allocations are made on the basis of operational policing and direct service delivery needs to ensure an equitable distribution across all Police Districts. Mackay District was not allocated any officers from the successful recruits to graduate on 29 November 1996. However, further recruit intakes are planned to graduate in February, April and June 1997. Consideration by the Commissioner will be given to the equitable allocation of first year constables to all Police Districts throughout the State closer to the graduation dates.

Additional positions allocated to the Mackay District will be filled, however, through internal transfers of existing staff, as well as through any assignment of new constables during the balance of the 1996/97 financial year.

1355. Rail Station Upgrades, Sunnybank Electorate

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (28/11/96)—

With reference to the Safety Audit of Queensland Rail tabled in Parliament earlier in 1996 and noting that the report states:- "In December 1994 a sound security policy was developed and approved", and further:- "The initial policy had a \$22.1m budget spread over three years"—

- (1) Was funding maintained in the 1996-97 Budget to fulfil the initial financial commitment to upgrade passenger security of \$22.1m?
- (2) When will rail stations at Banoon, Sunnybank, Runcorn and Fruitgrove receive the benefits of this commitment and what will be the nature of the security upgrades at each of these stations?

Mr Johnson (2/1/97):

(1) Yes; the commitment to upgrading passenger security has provided the following to date:

- \$3.5 million onboard security and safety
- \$8.4 million station security including CCTV camera installations

A further commitment of \$17 million over a period of five years provides a total commitment of \$28.9 million thereby increasing the previous financial commitment by \$6.8 million.

(2) In general, stations are addressed on a priority basis to target higher needs areas first. The following time frames provide the current commitments to the rollout, however a review of priorities are necessary due to changing anti-social behaviour patterns. These reviews are planned on an annual basis. Accordingly there may be some minor changes to the current planned rollout program.

CCTV camera installations on trains will provide additional benefits for train patrons.

Banoon: 1997/98 financial year

- CCTV camera installations
- emergency telephones
- Improved station lighting
- Car park fencing with portion for controlled access
- Improved car park lighting

Sunnybank: 1997/98 financial year

- CCTV camera installations
- Emergency telephones
- Improved station lighting
- 1999/2000 financial year

Car Park fencing with portion for controlled access

Improved station lighting

Runcorn: 2000/2001 financial year

- CCTV camera installations
- Emergency telephones
- Improved station lighting
- Car Park fencing with portion for controlled access
- Improved car park lighting

Fruitgrove: 1997/1998 financial year

- CCTV camera installations
- Emergency telephones
- Improved station lighting
- 1999/2000 financial year
- Car Park fencing with portion for controlled access
- Improved car park lighting

1356. Redcliffe Hospital, Redevelopment

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Health (28/11/96)—

With reference to his recent announcement of \$1.7m for planning purposes for redevelopment of Redcliffe Hospital—

- (1) When will the planning process be completed?
- (2) What will be the total cost of the redevelopment?
- (3) How much of the total cost will be budgeted for in the May 1997 Budget?

Mr Horan (2/1/97):

(1) I am advised that Master Planning for Redcliffe Hospital was completed in November 1996, that this is currently being reviewed, and that consultants in a number of disciplines have been appointed to develop a Project Definition Plan (PDP) followed by detailed design and documentation. The PDP is expected to be completed by April 1997 and will involve extensive consultation with user groups, clinicians and the District Health Service.

(2) \$30 million.

(3) The content of the May 1997 Budget will be placed before the Legislative Assembly at the appropriate time by my colleague, the Honourable the Treasurer.

1357. Community Housing Grant Funds

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (28/11/96)—

(1) Did he take \$3m from a tied Federal grant arrangement for community housing to purchase 300 houses to be used for public housing on the Gold Coast and other areas in the south east corner of Queensland?

(2) Was the removal of these funds allowable under the terms of the tied grant agreement?

Mr Connor (2/1/97):

(1) and (2) No, however, the federal grant is not tied money and the state can allocate funds between housing assistance programs under the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement.

1358. Ipswich Police Citizens Youth Club

Mr HAMILL asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (28/11/96)—

With reference to the allocation of funds to the Ipswich Police Citizens Youth Club (Ipswich PCYC) for the purpose of establishing much needed additional facilities for Ipswich youth, and the confirmation from him that this commitment from the former Labor Government would be honoured—

(1) What funds have been provided to the Ipswich PCYC for this project?

(2) What further funding is to be provided and over what time frame?

(3) When will construction commence?

(4) When will the project be completed?

Mr Veivers (23/12/96): In response to the specific questions made by Mr Hamill, I can advise as follows:

While \$800,000 was recommended by the previous Government under the Community Recreation Centres Program, this Government honoured the commitment and sought Executive Council approval for the grant.

The Resource Agreement between the Queensland Police Citizens Youth Welfare Association and the Office of Sport and Recreation state that four

instalments of \$200,000 each will be paid at two monthly intervals. To date, two instalments totalling \$400,000 have been paid.

The third payment of \$200,000 is due shortly and the last instalment will be paid at the end of February 1997.

The Office of Sport and Recreation is waiting on the final design specifications, construction schedule and cashflow projections.

Work on the car park has commenced and according to Sergeant Gary Penny, Officer-in-Charge of the facility, building construction will begin in January 1997.

Sergeant Penny estimated that the project will be completed by June 1997 which is well within the Resource Agreement Guidelines which stipulate that construction is to be completed by March 1998.

1359. Flying Fox Lyssavirus; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders

Mr BEATTIE asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (28/11/96)—

With reference to the current concern with the possible spread of the Lyssavirus via flying fox populations—

(1) Is he aware that aboriginal and Torres Islander communities hunt and eat flying foxes in large numbers and in fact regard them as a delicacy; if so, when did he become aware of this practice?

(2) Has he alerted the Health Minister to this; if so, when and how did he do this?

(3) What steps has he taken to alert these communities to the risks they would be taking in pursuing these traditional practices and when did he take these steps?

(4) Does he believe the immunisation program the Health Department is currently undertaking with flying fox carers should be extended to residents of these communities; if so, has he made this recommendation to the Health Minister and when did he do it?

(5) Is he prepared to contribute financially to this immunisation program; if not, why not?

Mr Lingard (16/12/96):

(1) I have been advised that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities have traditionally hunted and eaten flying foxes and my Department is currently liaising with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to determine how widespread this practice is today. Our initial investigations indicate the practice is still common in some Cape York areas, where flying foxes are hunted for both food and medicinal purposes.

(2) The Health Minister has been alerted to this by his own Department which has been investigating this issue through the North Queensland Tropical Health Unit. My Department has contacted Queensland Health to discuss the possible risks involved to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

(3) The Health Department, through the Tropical Health Unit, has been liaising with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in North Queensland to provide information about the risks involved in hunting and eating flying foxes.

(4) The Tropical Health Unit is seeking the views of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people about the most appropriate strategies for dealing with this issue. The immunisation program for flying fox carers is one option that could be considered, but this option will need to be discussed further with the relevant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Appropriate strategies to address the risk to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities are currently being developed at the federal level, through the Lyssavirus Expert Group and my Department is being kept informed of its progress.

(5) Immunisation programs are the responsibility of Queensland Health which has responsibility for the coordination of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander programs across government.

1360. Heritage Buildings, Warwick; National Trust of Queensland

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Environment (28/11/96)—

With reference to the Annual Report of the National Trust of Queensland and, in particular, to the section headed President's Overview—

- (1) What were the heritage places in Warwick that suffered considerable destruction as part of an inner city development?
- (2) Was the cut up, relocated and rebuilt Wesley Church part of this destruction?
- (3) What stage is this relocation now at?
- (4) Which further heritage buildings at Warwick are still at threat as a result of re-development plans?
- (5) What future Government funding for cultural heritage, particularly the built environment, is the trust concerned about?
- (6) Is the Government intending to cut the level of heritage grant funding; if so, to which grant program and to what extent?
- (7) Does he share the trust's concern at the increased willingness by developers to challenge local and State Government regulations in the heritage area?
- (8) Does he accept any of the blame for this increased willingness on the part of developers; if not, what is he doing to address it?
- (9) Does he share the trust's concern at the increasing involvement of Local Government in heritage matters?

Mr Littleproud (2/1/97):

(1) Only one State registered heritage place in Warwick, the former Wesley Uniting Church, was affected by the inner city development.

(2) Refer Question one.

(3) I am advised that work on the relocation of the Church to Scots College, Warwick, is nearing completion.

(4) No other State registered heritage places in Warwick are known to be under threat as a result of redevelopment plans.

(5) This Question would be more appropriately asked of the National Trust.

(6) No. Overall heritage grant funding has been increased.

(7) Under the democratic process any person or organisation has the right to pursue legally any matter in which it has an interest. Furthermore, should any organisation or person have a concern touching this portfolio it is their right to express their concerns to me.

(8) No.

(9) I am advised that the National Trust welcomes the increasing involvement of Local Government in heritage matters. I also support this involvement.

1361. Natural Resources Department Land, Bulimba Electorate

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Natural Resources (28/11/96)—

How much land does his department hold in the Electorate of Bulimba, what size is the land and where is it located?

Mr Hobbs (23/12/96):

The Department of Natural Resources' database lists the following unallocated State land and reserves in the Electorate of Bulimba:

Seven lots of unallocated State land ranging in area from 700 square metres to 2 hectares.

Fifty-four lots reserved and set apart under the control of Brisbane City Council as trustee for various purposes. The reserves range in area from 86 square metre to 23.8 hectares.

One lot of 975 square metres reserved and set apart under the control of the RSL, Norman Park Sub-branch as the trustee.

Details of the individual lots, including location, are provided on the attached list.

1362. Elanora State School

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (28/11/96)—

With reference to \$65,000 damage caused to the Elanora State School by thieves and the fact it took police almost one hour to respond to the calls for assistance and the \$40,000 alarms fitted to the school to cover such an occurrence—

(1) Why did it take police so long to respond to this incident?

(2) Which station was first alerted to the alarms and at what time?

(3) What action was taken by police at that time?

- (4) What was the subsequent sequence of events culminating in police eventually arriving at the school?
- (5) Has anyone been charged as a result of police investigations into this incident?
- (6) Is he satisfied with the police response time to this incident?
- (7) What has he done to ensure there is no repeat of such a delay in police response time?
- (8) Is this standard of police response indicative of the sort of results we can expect from his supposed increased police numbers on the coast?

Mr Cooper (20/12/96):

(1) This matter is currently the subject of an internal police investigation and it would therefore be inappropriate to make any comment at this time.

(2-4) The Broadbeach Operations Centre received a call from State Government Security at 7:17pm on Thursday 7th November 1996, reporting a silent alarm at the Elanora Primary School Block F. The information was entered onto the Information Management System. At 9:16pm the Coolangatta patrol car containing two officers was activated and arrived at the school at 9:18pm. The police officers observed a male and female within the school grounds acting suspiciously and were subsequently questioned concerning damage and theft at the school.

(5) The male and female detained by the police were later charged with break and enter of the school and wilful damage to the school building. Extensive damage had been caused to nine classrooms by smashing equipment and throwing paint around.

(6) As previously mentioned, the delay in police response is now the subject of an internal police investigation. If breaches of procedure are identified then appropriate disciplinary action will be taken.

(7) Procedures concerning response and the prioritisation of calls for assistance are being reviewed to ensure the community is provided with an effective response.

(8) This is not a matter where police numbers were related to the cause. The delay of approximately two hours in responding is a management and response issue.

1363. Hospital Budgets

Mrs EDMOND asked the Minister for Health (28/11/96)—

- (1) Will he reconsider his decision to withhold details of individual hospital base budgets (estimates) for 1996-97 from the Parliament and the people of Queensland until the beginning of 1997-98 as indicated in answering a Question on Notice from a non-Government member?
- (2) Will he provide a list of the base budgets or budget estimates for each individual Queensland Hospital?
- (3) If he cannot, or will not provide this information to clarify the budget position of our public

hospitals, what is the status of the directive contained in a memorandum signed by the Chief Executive of his department to the attention of all District Health Service Managers as follows "I cannot accept any excuse that budgets weren't known as at 1 July as a reason for over-runs" as his clarification on this budgetary matter for districts could help to allay community fears about funding problems?

Mr Horan (2/1/97):

(1) In 1996-97 we have made a transition from a regionally based public health system to one based on districts for the first time in Queensland. This has led to components of some District/hospital budgets being transferred to other Districts/facilities in 1996-97. In addition, there are a significant number of variations to District and hospital budgets which will occur during the normal course of the budget process right through to 30 June 1997.

Consequently there are a considerable number of qualifications which need to be understood when comparing final 1995-96 hospital budgets and expenditure with the available 1996-97 hospital budget information.

However, no matter how many or how reasonable these qualifications may be, the Opposition would no doubt choose to disregard them and proceed to spread misinformation in the community about hospital budgets.

So it can be seen that it is not a matter of my withholding the requested details of hospital budgets, rather the issue is one of availability of comparable information to provide Parliament and the people of Queensland.

The Opposition are well aware of this, having never released information on hospital budgets in the six years they were in Government, the last five years of which Health operated on a regionally based structure.

(2) As I have advised in answers to previous Questions on Notice, meaningful comparable information on 1996-97 hospital budgets is not available until 1996-97 budget processes have been substantially completed.

As 1996-97 is the first year of managing under at a District level, there are components of some District/hospital budgets being transferred to other Districts/facilities as I referred to earlier. Examples of this are in Oral Health, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, Mental Health, and pathology all of which increase the complexity of variations at a facility level. These issues are of a one-off nature for this year only.

In addition, at the conclusion of 1995-96 this Government funded hospital overruns inherited from the Labor Government to the extent of a net total of \$52.5 million to allow a balanced budget to occur. This allocation was financed mostly from new funding, plus some from Corporate Office Health savings. This enabled the hospitals to begin 1996-97 without carrying forward a deficit from 1995-96 overruns, in other words all hospitals were able to start off the new year with a clean slate.

Effectively, the 1995-96 bail-outs have seen a budget increase in 1996-97, given the prior year deficits were not carried forward by the hospitals. The situation we faced coming in to Government during 1995-96 will not be repeated in this financial year. We are operating under a much improved structure in 1996-97, and I expect all Districts expenditure will not exceed budget.

Another consideration which has to be made in year to year budget comparisons are where one-off items were included in 1995-96 budgets, eg litigation, 27th pays, voluntary early retirement packages, rollover funding from 1994/95, and natural disaster relief.

Throughout the year, Districts (and hospitals/facilities via Districts) advise Corporate Office of claims on funds held by Corporate Office (eg health promotion, litigation, home support scheme, and elective surgery projects); or funds to be obtained from Queensland Treasury (eg receipt offsets), Commonwealth Programs or other sources. Monthly claims are also made by Districts on behalf of the hospitals (where appropriate) to access Hospital Access Bonus Pool (HABP) funds based on actual patient activity additional to base workloads.

Corporate Office is continually updating 1996-97 District budgets as a result of negotiations undertaken with various units of the Commonwealth Department of Health and Family Services to finalise Commonwealth Budget allocations (as at 30 November 1996, funding in the order of \$25 million was earmarked for transfer to Districts).

In addition, further distribution of unallocated/unfinalised State funded initiatives will be occurring as various programs become finalised (as at 30 November 1996, funding in the order of \$20 million was earmarked for transfer to Districts).

A number of budget adjustments occur by necessity at year end, eg high cost drugs for the fourth quarter, monthly HABP funding, superannuation (which is funded according to actual expenditure), and receipt offsets, ie where the budget is directly linked to a revenue item (eg prosthetic appliances for private patients, multi purpose service centres, and rural health training recoveries).

Corporate Office does not actually maintain budgets at levels any lower than Districts. It needs to be clearly understood in this context that Corporate Office allocates funds at a District level, rather than directly to hospitals and other facilities.

Under global budgeting principles (while maintaining the integrity of quarantined special allocations), Districts allocate funding distributed from Corporate Office to facilities. This allows Districts to have the capacity to allocate the discretionary component of the budget in accordance with existing and emerging priorities as identified at a local level. This level of autonomy carries with it the responsibility for the budget performance of all the health services within the district, not just the hospitals.

My department continually reviews the issue of hospital budgets in the context of normal departmental budget reporting processes. We are embarking on a policy of detailing District Health

Service budgets which will address the issue. It is anticipated that a breakdown of the estimated major components of 1996-97 District budgets will be available during the latter part of the financial year, when many of the issues referred to above will be substantially completed as part of the normal course of the budget process.

(3) The directive referred to relates to the need for strong fiscal discipline, particularly given Queensland Health has undergone a major restructure. It was considered especially important while the organisation and the budget were in transition, that the clear expectation of a balanced budget be communicated to all District Managers. This expectation remains current. It is important to note in this context that the directive related to the budgets for Districts, and not just hospitals.

There is no basis for the community to have any concern about funding problems given the increase in the 1996-97 health budget as evidenced in the published budget papers. Queensland's District Health Services will continue to provide the community with efficient, high quality services across the State.

1364. Sports Funding Grants, Bundaberg

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (28/11/96)—

What are the organisations and the amounts of all sport funding grants and subsidies to Bundaberg in 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996 and is a specific amount allocated for 1997; if so, how much?

Mr Veivers (23/12/96):

Part A

COMMUNITY PROGRAM	SPORTS	DEVELOPMENT
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1993 Organisations—Subsidy Provided

Eagles Soccer Club Inc—\$1,750

Bundaberg Swimming Club Inc—\$522

Bundaberg Basketball Inc—\$1,947

Bundaberg and District Junior Tennis Association—\$4,000

Bundaberg YMCA Gymnastic Academy Inc—\$4,000

1994 Organisations—Subsidy Provided

Rum City Junior Tennis Club Inc—\$2,500

Bundaberg Youth and Gymnastics Club Inc—\$4,000

Bundaberg and District Junior Tennis Association Inc—\$4,000

Brothers Cricket Club Bundaberg Inc—\$1,250

Bundaberg YMCA Gymnastic Academy—\$4,000

Bargara Golf Club Inc—\$1,080

1995 Organisations—Subsidy Provided

Bundaberg Youth and Gymnastic Club Inc—\$3,000

Rum City Junior Tennis Club Inc—\$3,000

Bundaberg YMCA Gymnastic Academy Inc—\$3,000

Bundaberg Hockey Association Inc—\$1,027

Bundaberg and District Junior Tennis Association—\$3,000

Across the Waves Junior Rugby League Football Club—\$1,900

YMCA of Bundaberg Inc—\$3,000

1996 Organisations—Subsidy Provided

Bundy Bats Mountain Bike Club Inc—\$609

Bundaberg YMCA Gymnastics Academy Inc—\$2,311

Bundaberg Youth and Gymnastics Club Inc—\$2,311

Bundaberg Girls Marching Association Inc—\$343

Rum City Aussi Masters Club Inc—\$1,194

Rum City Junior Tennis Club Inc—\$2,311

Bundaberg and District Tennis Association Inc—\$1,040

YMCA of Bundaberg Inc—\$1,875

Bundaberg and District Junior Tennis Association Inc—\$2,311

MINOR FACILITIES PROGRAM

1993 Organisations—Grant Amount

Bundaberg Pistol club Inc—\$1,488

Bundaberg Junior Soccer Association Inc—\$6,240

Bundaberg Basketball Inc—\$60,000

Bundaberg Junior Soccer Association Inc—\$13,000

Bundaberg Hockey Association Inc—\$12,106

1994 Organisations—Grant Amount

Bundaberg Rowing Club Inc—\$8,310

YMCA of Bundaberg Inc—\$5,000

YMCA of Bundaberg Inc—\$50,000

Burnett Bowls Club Inc—\$15,000

Bundaberg Junior Soccer Association Inc—\$39,500

1996 Organisations—Grant Amount

Bundaberg Recreation Arts Music and Sports Club—\$9,000

Answer: Part B

No predetermined notional allocation has been proposed for any region or locality throughout the State.

1365. Hughesville, Eight Mile Plains

Ms SPENCE asked the Minister for Environment (28/11/96)—

With reference to the heritage listed Hughesville property at Eight Mile Plains—

- (1) What plans do the present owners have for the restoration of this property?
- (2) What action is his department intending to take to prevent the destruction through neglect of this property?
- (3) Does he believe the current heritage laws are adequate to protect properties such as Hughesville?

Mr Littleproud (13/12/96):

- (1) I am advised by my officers that the present owner is currently exploring plans for the property.
- (2) Officers of my Department held meetings with a representative of the present owner in July and November of this year to encourage the erection of fencing to make the property secure while options for the future of the site are being pursued.
- (3) The Queensland Heritage Act 1992 does not contain any provisions to compel the owner of a registered heritage place to secure it, or undertake any works of repair and/or maintenance.

1366. SEQEB Depot, Geebung

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (28/11/96)—

With reference to the Geebung SEQEB Depot—

- (1) Are SEQEB planning to reduce customer service and public safety by discontinuing the after hours emergency shift crews at this depot; if so, is this decision related to a reported five redundancies at the depot over the last seven months and an expected four more redundancies in the near future?
- (2) Will the public be advised to expect a longer after hours response time to emergency situations due to the inevitable delays in contacting emergency crews at their homes?

Mr Gilmore (23/12/96):

(1) The Geebung Depot will continue to provide levels of customer service and public safety at least equal to that presently provided. However, modified shift arrangements will allow the morning shift to be cancelled for a trial period and its work undertaken by standby and field crews while data on the impact of the change is collected and assessed. This modification results from organisational and work practice changes which are designed to improve productivity. The reported voluntary redundancies are not related to the change.

(2) The structure of standby crews is designed to minimise response times in an emergency situation so a statement as suggested would be both unnecessary and incorrect.

1367. Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (28/11/96)—

With reference to reports of under staffing at Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre which is allegedly resulting in (a) early lock-downs and late unlocking of inmates, (b) serious tension between prisoners, (c) serious tension between prisoners and officers, (d) a significant number of prison officers being on stress leave and (e) an escalation in the number of assaults both on prison officers and prisoners, and a report of an incident on 12 October in which a prison officer was required to perform both kitchen duty and act as a senior officer, due to a staff shortage, which resulted in a single prison officer supervising 45 women prisoners with no back-up if a problem arose, and the fire and riot alarms not being monitored—

- (1) Has he investigated the circumstances of 12 October and what action has he taken to prevent a recurrence?
- (2) What has been the times for lock-downs and unlocks throughout October and November?
- (3) What steps have been taken to address the reportedly serious tensions in the women's prison?
- (4) How many prison officers are on stress leave and what percentage increase does this represent compared to 1995?
- (5) How many assaults have occurred on prison officers and prisoners in 1996, on what dates did they occur, and what percentage increase does this represent compared to 1995?

Mr Cooper (20/12/96):

(1) The circumstances of the situation referred to by the Member for Cleveland have not been investigated by me. The situation is an operational one which is the responsibility of the Director-General of Corrective Services and his senior officers.

However, I am advised that on the day in question there was one absentee from the morning roster and that was the Catering Officer. Attempts were made to replace this Officer without success. The Senior Custodial Correctional Officer on duty had previous experience in the position of caterer and undertook to oversight the functions of the kitchen workers. The centre has in place contingency plans to cater for such a situation and frozen rations, requiring minimal preparation, are used to prepare meals.

The role and responsibilities of the Senior Custodial Correctional Officer involve movement throughout the centre and general oversight of all centre functions.

The acceptance of the additional responsibility of Catering Officer for a short period did not adversely impact upon the overall security or operations of the centre.

There were a maximum of four prisoners undertaking the food preparation duties. The level of supervision of these prisoners was appropriate to their level of risk. All other custodial duties within the centre were being performed under normal arrangements and there was adequate staffing in the centre to respond to any incident.

The situation which occurred at the centre on the 12 October 1996 was a routine response to a routine situation. There was never any security concern and all action taken was done so in the knowledge that the staffing levels were appropriate and sufficient to respond to all eventualities.

Staffing levels at the Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre are deemed by the Queensland Corrective Service Commission to be appropriate.

(2) Monday to Friday cells are unlocked at 7.00 am and locked down at 9.30 pm. Saturday and Sunday unlock and lock down times are 8.00 am and 9.30 pm respectively. There were no variations to the unlock time during October and November. The variations to lock down times were as follows:

02.10.96 B and D Blocks locked down at 7.00 pm due to staff absenteeism.

14.10.96 C Block lower landing locked down at 7.00 pm due to staff absenteeism.

30.10.96 C Block locked down at 7.00 pm due to staff being required to carry out a medical escort.

06.11.96 All blocks locked down at 7.00 pm due to staff being required to carry out a medical emergency.

22.11.96 C Block locked down at 7.00 pm due to staff absenteeism.

(3) The recent increase in female prisoner numbers has had an impact on inmates and on the tone of the centre. However, the situation is well managed. All staff are trained to recognise potential problem situations. Custodial, medical, program staff and management work as a team and respond to individual needs and situations as circumstances dictate. This team approach has been most effective in managing difficult situations.

Short term action to reduce the number of prisoners placed in the Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre was taken by the Queensland Corrective Services Commission in the commissioning of the former Dutton Park Community Corrections facility, adjacent to the Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre, as part of that centre. This annex provides an additional 25 beds and placements from the Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre commenced on 4 November 1996.

A women's annex for a further 25 inmates will be constructed at Numinbah Correctional Centre this financial year.

In the longer term, action has commenced to construct a new women's correctional centre. The project development stage commenced on 5 December 1996. It is expected that construction will commence by the end of March 1997 with the centre being completed in August 1998. This facility will be constructed on the prison reserve at Wacol.

(4) To 2 December 1996 three officers appointed to the Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre had taken periods of leave attributed to stress. There were no officers absent on extended periods of leave attributed to stress during 1995.

(5) During 1996 to 6 December 1996 there were 12 reported assaults—two assault on an officer by a prisoner, nine reported assaults upon prisoners by other prisoners and one assault on a prisoner by an unidentified assailant. During 1995 there were two assaults on officers by prisoners and eight reported assaults by prisoners upon prisoners. Dates of the 1996 assaults are:

05.03.96, 15.03.96, 21.03.96, 04.07.96, 18.07.96 (two reported assaults), 05.08.96, 10.08.96, 26.08.96, 14.10.96, 17.10.96, 24.10.96.

Based on a daily average prisoner population of 85, the reported assault rate for 1995 was 11.76. The 1996 reported assault rate based on a daily average prisoner population of 112 is 10.71. The reported assault rate for 1996 is therefore lower than the 1995 rate, dispelling any suggestion there has been an escalation in the rate of assaults on both officers and prisoners.

1368. Police Liaison Officer, Townsville

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (28/11/96)—

With reference to an incident in Townsville in which a police liaison officer is reported to have given a high five to one of the attackers of two Japanese students—

- (1) Is the police investigation of this incident complete?
- (2) When will its findings be made public?
- (3) What action, if any, has been taken against the police liaison officer if he was found to have participated in the reported overtly racist action which condoned the assault on the Japanese students?

Mr Cooper (20/12/96):

(1) The police investigation into the actual assault has been completed and referred to the Townsville Prosecution Section for a legal opinion as to what charges, if any, could be preferred, especially as the complaints of assault were withdrawn by both students on two separate occasions. The first withdrawal occurred on 3 November 1996 and the second on 14 November 1996.

The investigation into the actions of the Police Liaison Officer has not been finalised to date.

- (2) The date of the completion of the investigation into the actions of the Police Liaison Officer is not known at this stage.
- (3) Any disciplinary action considered against the Police Liaison Officer in this case will be in accordance with the Public Sector Management Standard for Discipline and will depend on the outcome of the investigation.

1369. Anti-Discrimination Act

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (28/11/96)—

Beyond changes to the Anti-Discrimination Commission as a consequence of the non-renewal of the Commonwealth/State agreement, does he anticipate any amendment to the Queensland Anti-Discrimination Act?

Mr Beanland (23/12/96): No amendments are anticipated in the immediate future.

1370. Capital Works Projects

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Natural Resources (28/11/96)—

With reference to the Premier's instruction to his Director-General, some two weeks ago, to supply details of job creating, capital works projects that his department can undertake in 1996-97—

- (1) Which projects in what parts of the State and at what cost were submitted and what are their projected start up and completion dates?
- (2) Which of these projects were not originally funded in the 1996-97 Budget and will therefore require reallocated funding from Treasury?
- (3) What projects were programmed to start in 1996-97 but now won't?
- (4) Where are these projects, what is their projected cost and what are their new start up dates?

Mr Hobbs (17/12/96): My Department, together with all other Departments, has been asked by the Premier to provide monthly updates on progress with its capital expenditure program.

The major capital works projects being undertaken by my Department were outlined in my Ministerial Portfolio Statement (MPS) which accompanied the State Budget.

Each of the projects identified in my MPS will proceed this financial year subject to final approvals where needed.

The MPS indicated an allocation of \$14.35 million to new projects subject to approval. As I announced recently, Cabinet has approved a process to accelerate the development of water infrastructure projects in existing regulated systems.

The projects to be advanced under this initiative are to be announced in the near future. In each case, the proposals will be submitted to Cabinet for final approval before construction proceeds.

No reallocations from Treasury are necessary to advance these proposals.

1371. Wynnum North Shopping Centre

Mr LUCAS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (28/11/96)—

With reference to the suburban shopping centre bounded by Selina Street, Wynnum North Road and Wynnum North Train Station—

- (1) What is the number and type of criminal incidence reported against property and/or persons within the Wynnum North Shopping

Centre for 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97?

- (2) How many persons (including juveniles) have been charged with offences as arising out of criminal incidents referred to in 1 above for each of the years referred to?
- (3) How many charges in relation to the Wynnum North shops has each person charged faced, and what was the Court result?
- (4) What plans does he have to implement additional policing patrols to help reduce the alarming crime problem experienced by the proprietors of Wynnum North shops?
- (5) Will he direct the Police Service to conduct under cover operations with covert surveillance in an attempt to identify those individuals responsible for the recent spate of criminal activity at the Wynnum North shops which have included the proprietor of the Fish 'n' Chip Shop's plate glass window being broken six times in approximately eight weeks, with the result that his insurance company is now refusing to pay?

Mr Cooper (20/12/96):

(1) The number of offences of breaking and entering, malicious damage, shop stealing, indecent assault on child, stealing motor vehicle and armed robbery in the Wynnum North Shopping Centre were:

1993/1994—8 offences

1994/1995—29 offences

1995/1996—11 offences

1996/1997—9 offences (1 July to 4 December 1996)

(2) Persons arrested to date:

1993/1994—4 offenders

1994/1995—10 offenders

1995/1996—2 offenders

1996/1997—Nil

(3) Persons arrested and number of charges:

1993/1994—4 offenders—4 charges

1994/1995—10 offenders—10 charges

1995/1996—2 offenders—2 charges

1996/1997—Nil arrested—Nil charges

The exercise to extract all offenders and sentences imposed would be exhaustive and necessitates the use of more operational police. The prosecution index is active for a period of six months and the file is then archived.

(4) Constant patrols are made of the Wynnum North shops in view of an alleged vendetta against the proprietors of the fish and chip shop at that location. The shops are situated next to the Wynnum North Railway Station and large numbers of people use this service.

Detectives from the Wynnum District Juvenile Aid Bureau believe that a number of juvenile offenders are responsible for these particular offences. The Bureau has conducted both static and stationary surveillance on a number of occasions.

Unfortunately, no offenders have been detected thus far.

(5) The member for Lytton should be aware of the doctrine of "separation of powers" which means that the conduct of undercover operations with covert surveillance is an operational policing matter and, as such, is best decided upon by the Commissioner of Police or his delegates.

1372. Southedge; Brooklyn Station

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Natural Resources (28/11/96)—

With reference to the infamous Southedge development proposed by Mr George Quaid—

- (1) Does Mr Quaid wish to construct a second dam on this property; if so, for what reason and what size is this second dam?
- (2) Has he, his department or his personal staff had any discussions with Mr Quaid regarding the construction of this second dam?
- (3) Has Mr Quaid made formal application to the Department of Natural Resources to build this dam?
- (4) Is water being extracted from the Tinaroo Dam and diverted to the present Southedge dam; if so, why and in what quantities and for how long has this been occurring?
- (5) Has Mr Quaid or any other part owner of Brooklyn Station made a tree clearing application for any part of the property at the headwaters of the Mitchell River?
- (6) Has he or his staff or his department held any discussions with Mr Quaid or any other part owner of Brooklyn Station over tree clearing and development of Brooklyn Station?
- (7) To what purpose does Mr Quaid or any other part owner of Brooklyn Station intend to turn Brooklyn Station?
- (8) If it is sugar cane production, is it intended to crush this sugar at the new Tableland Mill or the existing Mossman Mill?

Mr Hobbs (23/12/96): Two dams for water conservation purposes have been proposed by Mr Quaid to be located upstream of the existing Southedge Dam (Lake Mitchell). The storage capacity of the two proposed earth dams is 6576 megalitres and 700 megalitres; a total of 7276 megalitres.

A further large dam, for water conservation purposes, has also been proposed by Mr Quaid, downstream of the existing Southedge dam, with a storage capacity of some 275,000 megalitres. This dam has been described as the 'Northedge' dam proposal.

Mr Quaid has discussed his proposals with Departmental staff, both in Mareeba and Brisbane. In these discussions, Mr Quaid has been advised of the formal applications and assessments necessary under the Water Resources Act 1989.

Mr Quaid has made formal applications for these dams as follows:

Two waterworks licence applications were lodged on 31 July 1996 at the Department's Mareeba office, for the two dams upstream of the existing Southedge dam. The applications were advertised in the normal manner on 3 August 1996 and are currently being investigated by my Department.

One waterworks licence was lodged on 17 May 1994 at the Department's Mareeba office for the Northedge dam proposal. The application was advertised 17 December 1994 in the normal manner. The applicant was requested to carry out an impact assessment study of this proposal, however this has not yet been done. Accordingly, the application is in abeyance. The applicant has been further advised that should he wish to proceed with consideration of this application, it will require assessment through a water management planning process and then an impact assessment study of the site impacts of the Northedge proposal. The Department would undertake the water management plan in accordance with the process detailed in the Natural Resources Amendment Bill 1996, recently passed by Parliament.

'Southedge' Dam is downstream of the Mareeba Dimbulah Irrigation Area. Tail water from the scheme finds its way through a natural watercourse, to Lake Mitchell. The system is controlled to the maximum extent possible, but operational losses cannot be stopped completely. There is no diversion of water from Lake Tinaroo specifically for Lake Mitchell.

No. Only the lessee of a pastoral holding can apply for a Tree Clearing permit. An application has not been lodged by Mr Quaid or any other part owner of Brooklyn Station, to clear trees on Brooklyn Pastoral Holding.

The (former) Lands Department staff in Cairns had discussions with Mr Quaid 22 January 1996. Mr Quaid was advised that any Application for Tree Clearing would be dealt with under the existing Legislation and the Tree Clearing Guidelines that were in the process of being formulated for the region. No indication was given regarding the outcome of any application, as each application had to be investigated and a decision made on its merits in line with legislation, policy and the Tree Clearing Guidelines.

The Mossman Central Mill had intended to purchase 'Brooklyn' Station for the development of parts of the Holding for Sugar Cane production. They withdrew from the contract due to uncertainties with the development, a projected period of low sugar prices, and time constraints with the proposed vendor.

No other development proposals have been put forward by the current lessees.

It was intended to crush the sugar at the existing Mossman Mill. In the event that an area was to be developed for sugar cane purposes, the producer would determine which Mill they intended to supply cane to.

1373. Freeholding of Leases, Mount Isa Region

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Natural Resources (28/11/96)—

With reference to his decision to extend the period of time for people to apply to freehold their leases in the Mount Isa area—

- (1) When will the legislation come before the Parliament?
- (2) Will holders of PTLs be allowed to freehold on the same conditions as holders of MHPLs?

Mr Hobbs (10/1/97): I anticipate I will be able to take legislation to Parliament during the first half of this year.

This legislation will allow a final option for lessees of former miners' homestead leases (now perpetual town leases under the Land Act 1994) to convert their leases to freehold tenure on the same terms and conditions as the lessees who converted prior to 31 December 1994.

The legislative amendment will apply only to those holders of perpetual town leases that were formerly miners' homestead leases.

1374. Surrogacy Laws

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (28/11/96)—

With reference to media reports that he is reviewing the surrogacy laws—

- (1) Is such a review under way; if so, does the review include consideration of the option of legalising "altruistic" (that is non-commercial) surrogacy while keeping the legal prohibition on commercial surrogacy?
- (2) Who is conducting the review?
- (3) Will he take the opportunity to attempt to achieve national uniformity on this issue?

Mr Lingard (19/12/96):

(1) to (3) As stated I have raised the need to review Queensland's laws in regard to surrogacy.

Surrogacy is a complex area with major medical, legal, social and ethical considerations. At this stage I have requested that my Director-General seek the views of a range of people who have an interest in this area.

I am currently awaiting this information before determining the most appropriate course of action.

I would hope to be in a position to inform Parliament further on these matters, including the specific points raised in the question relating to different forms of surrogacy and national uniformity, next year.

1375. School Crossing Supervisors, Rockhampton

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (28/11/96)—

With reference to his statement in response to a Question on Notice from myself concerning the proposed cut-backs of \$100,000 to the school crossing supervisors in Central Queensland—

Will he give an assurance that no school in Rockhampton will have its allocation of time for crossing supervision cut; if not, what are the

details of each school in the City of Rockhampton which is to have cuts?

Mr Johnson (2/1/97): As a responsible government, we ensure that taxpayers' funds spent on road safety are delivering the highest possible benefits in reducing the road toll.

The School Crossing Supervisor Scheme which was introduced in 1984 has a commendable record for providing young children with a safe means of crossing roads on their way to and from school. A major share of the \$8 million committed to Safe School Travel by this Government is allocated to wages for school crossing supervisors.

The cut-backs in funding to which the honourable member referred have not been applied to the School Crossing Supervisor Scheme either in his Electorate or in any other Electorate in this State.

To ensure that the funds allocated to the Scheme are being spent where they will have the highest road safety impact, Queensland Transport undertakes regular reviews of supervised crossings throughout the State. Where the number of children using the crossing or the number of vehicles on the roadway constitute a high level of risk then supervision of the crossing is always supported.

All supervised crossings within the city of Rockhampton have recently been reviewed and as a result no reductions in the allocated times for supervision are proposed.

1376. Queensland Transport, Regional Customer Service Centres

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (28/11/96)—

With reference to the \$3.60 additional charge on registrations and its specific purposes—

- (1) What timeframe is anticipated for residents in Gladstone (and other centres) to see a physical reduction in queuing and waiting times?
- (2) Will an equitable allocation of additional staff be made to regional Customer Service Centres and not predominantly in the south east corner?
- (3) How long will it take for casual staff in regional service centres to be moved to permanent positions and what percentage of transfers are proposed?

Mr Johnson (2/1/97): The \$3.60 additional charge on registrations was approved by Cabinet to address not only the issues in Queensland Transport's Customer Service Centres, but also to fulfil Queensland's commitment to the National Exchange of Vehicle and Driver Information System (NEVDIS).

(1) A reduction in queues in the Gladstone office, and other centres throughout the state, is already evident through the provision of additional temporary staffing positions which will remain in place until the new staffing arrangements are finalised. Extra permanent staffing resources are incorporated in new ORGANISATIONAL structures for Customer Service Centres which are scheduled to be in operation by early April 1997.

Other segments of the CSC Solutions package will soon be delivering additional benefits with a statewide telephone information and business system due for phased implementation in February 1997. This system will allow customers to access information and conduct certain business transactions 24 hours a day over the telephone using credit card payments, thereby reducing the need to visit a Customer Service Centre.

Other components of the package will require a longer timeframe to realise their benefits, e.g. the further training of staff serving in the centres, but remain important in contributing to an improved service in the centres.

(2) The distribution of additional staffing positions has been determined and incorporated into new staffing structures for each centre. Positions were allocated to those centres with the greatest need according to the disparity between workload demands and current staffing. While the majority of positions will go to the South East Region, many country regional centres identified as requiring staff will be receiving a fair and equitable share of these staffing positions.

(3) The appointment of casual staff to permanent positions is incorporated within the new staffing structures for each centre. As mentioned above, this is scheduled to be in place by early April 1997. Approximately 80% of casual hours will be translated to permanent full and part time positions.

1377. Public Housing Waiting Lists

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (28/11/96)—

If and when will his commitment to a priorities system for applicants of Department of Housing rental accommodation waiting lists be introduced?

Mr Connor (2/1/97): The Priority Housing Policy Committee had its first meeting on 10 December 1996. The committee will commence a priority system in the new year.

1378. Human Rights Administration; Anti-Discrimination Commission

Mr FOLEY asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (28/11/96)—

With reference to the breakdown of co-operation between Commonwealth and Queensland Governments over the future of human rights administration in Queensland and to the ending on 9 December of the Commonwealth/State agreement achieved by Labor Governments—

- (1) Has he met personally with Commonwealth Attorney-General Darryl Williams on only one occasion to discuss this matter; if not, will he specify the dates and places of his meetings with Commonwealth Attorney-General Darryl Williams on this matter?
- (2) Does he not accept that his inactivity on this matter has resulted in serious damage to the future of human rights administration in Queensland?

- (3) Will not the appointment of a public servant to the position of interim Anti-Discrimination Commissioner compromise the independence of the Commission, however learned, honest and dutiful such a person may be?
- (4) Will not the transfer of the Anti-Discrimination Commission to the State Law Building further compromise the independence of the Commission, particularly for persons with a complaint of discrimination against the State Government?

Mr Beanland (23/12/96):

(1) I have discussed this matter with the Commonwealth Attorney-General on a number of occasions.

(2) No. The Queensland Government, on the contrary, has demonstrated its real and firm commitment to human rights by providing an additional 2 million dollars in this financial year to ensure the continued existence of an independent Anti-Discrimination Commission and Tribunal. The Commonwealth has seen fit to withdraw completely from any human rights protection regime in this jurisdiction. This means that, for those matters which can only be brought under the federal jurisdiction, the untenable situation has arisen where Queensland federal matters will be managed through head office of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission in Sydney. While this unacceptable arrangement has been created by the Commonwealth, every effort has been made by the Queensland Government to ensure that a fully operational and independent Commission was in existence from 10 December, International Human Rights Day. Contrary to all speculation and rumour, that goal was achieved and, in many respects, for example in the Information Technology area, the new Commission is a marked improvement on the systems operating at the former Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission premises.

(3) As has now been announced, the Acting Commissioner is Ms Karen Walters, who is professionally respected as a firm human rights advocate and who has served impartially as a senior official under both administrations in Canberra and in Queensland. I have every confidence in Ms Walters' ability to discharge her statutory functions in a completely impartial and professional manner. Her unequivocal outline of the Commission's position in relation to the foster parenting issue at the launch of the new Commission should leave no doubt of her tenacity to defend, first and foremost, her paramount statutory functions. That Ms Walters has come from the public service is an irrelevant consideration. As she outlined in her speech at the launch, many of the federal Commissioners have in fact been former public servants. Further, within this State, there are statutory office holders whose sole business concentrates upon adjudicating disputes where one party is always government—for example, the Information Commissioner. I have every confidence in Ms Walters and believe her appointment to be a fine choice.

(4) When it became obvious that there would be no cooperative agreement with the Commonwealth, there was insufficient time to completely outfit a new building in the Central Business District. It was important for the new Commission to be in a position where client service was not compromised because of the break down in negotiations. The Anti-Discrimination Commission required separate conciliation rooms, waiting rooms, office space and security systems for staff. These special requirements could all be met at Level 2 of the State Law Building. In this way, the interests of clients have been paramount. The Commission is currently occupying an area formerly occupied by the Litigation Reform Commission, an independent body, which was placed in that space by the Labor Government. This situation is no different to what applied under Labor in the past.

1379. Land-clearing

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (28/11/96)—

With reference to the environmental impacts of land clearing—

- (1) Is land clearing occurring in Queensland at the rate of 70 football fields an hour?
- (2) Has the average monthly area approved for clearing increased from 46,000ha in 1995 to 48,600ha in 1996 with the impact on intact nature vegetation increasing from 13,000ha to 17,550ha?
- (3) What communities and species of vegetation are affected by these approvals and in what proportions?
- (4) What percentage of each of these remain in each biographical region?
- (5) What are the environment effects of broadscale vegetation clearance in Australia, especially with respect to land resources?
- (6) Do the effects justify the encouragement of higher levels of land clearing?
- (7) Does he support an increase from 50 percent to 80 percent in each community allowed to be cleared?

Mr Littleproud (23/12/96): This issue is the responsibility of the Minister for Natural Resources, to whom the Question should be directed.

1380. Cape Moreton Lighthouse Reserve

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Environment (29/11/96)—

With reference to the Cape Moreton Lighthouse Reserve situated on Moreton Island and as this site was to be handed over to the State Government in 1996 and its intended use was for an Environmental Studies Centre—

- (1) When will the State Government effect transfer of this site from the Federal Government?
- (2) What is the intended use of this site?
- (3) Will he be leasing this site to private enterprise?

Mr Littleproud (24/12/96):

(1) Negotiations are continuing with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) concerning the proposed transfer to the State of Queensland of several lightstations along the Queensland coast. One of these properties is the Cape Moreton Lightstation. Until negotiations are successfully completed, I am unable to nominate a transfer date.

(2) It is a requirement of the transfer arrangements that heritage listed lightstations such as Cape Moreton be maintained by the State of Queensland with one or more persons on site. Final arrangements can only be confirmed once the transfers have occurred.

(3) See answer to question 2.

1381. Dugongs

Mr BEATTIE asked the Minister for Environment (29/11/96)—

With reference to calls by the Federal Environment Minister for joint action between the State and Federal Governments to limit mortality levels amongst dugongs caused by commercial netting—

- (1) Has he responded to this call; if so, in which way; if not, why not?
- (2) Does he regard the dugong as an endangered species over its entire range or only part of it?
- (3) What protective measures has he put in place from a Queensland perspective for this species?
- (4) What discussions has he had with his cabinet colleague, the Minister for Primary Industries, over this issue; if none, why not?
- (5) What priority is he giving to getting the fishing industry to use exclusion devices on their nets to allow dugongs to escape safely if netted?
- (6) What are the dugong mortality levels attributable to commercial fishing nets in Queensland waters over the last year?
- (7) Have a number of Aboriginal communities that have traditionally hunted and eaten dugongs voluntarily stopped doing so when presented with data showing dramatically reduced numbers of the animals in their traditional hunting areas?

Mr Littleproud (24/12/96): The Queensland and Commonwealth Governments have agreed to a package of emergency measures to better protect dugong. The measures include addressing the incidental catch of dugong by amending Queensland Fisheries legislation, enhanced surveillance and enforcement activities, and the recognition of nine Interim Dugong Protection Areas along Queensland's east coast.

It would be inappropriate to pre-empt the deliberations of the Scientific Advisory Committee advising the Commonwealth Minister for Environment on the conservation status of the dugong nationally.

In addition to the emergency measure mentioned above, under the 1996-97 State budget, water

supply and sewerage subsidies have been increased to 40% in a \$600 million "package" to improve infrastructure throughout the State. This will lead to enhanced water quality and protection for the seagrass on which dugong depend. The Department of Environment has also initiated the preparation of a draft conservation plan for the dugong. The conservation plan will be subordinate legislation under the Nature Conservation Act and will address the processes threatening dugong in Queensland.

I have had discussions with my Cabinet colleagues on this issue. The matter was also extensively discussed by State and Commonwealth Ministers at the recent Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Ministerial Council meeting.

There is no evidence to show that dugong respond to exclusion devices on fishing nets. The Queensland and Commonwealth Governments are jointly pursuing the implementation of improved net attendance rules, and are encouraging fishers to use lighter mesh fishing nets from which dugong can escape.

The Department of Environment has 17 records of dugong mortality in 1996. Ten died from undetermined causes; two died in shark nets; three died in commercial fishing nets; one died from boat strike and one from disease. A further 24 dugong carcasses were reported to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority between January and September 1996. Thirteen of these were considered likely to have been caused by mesh nets. The Department of Environment has established a "strandings database" to coordinate information for management purposes.

Yes, some have stopped hunting.

1382. Bundaberg Base Hospital

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Health (29/11/96)—

With reference to the proposed redevelopment of the Bundaberg Base Hospital—

- (1) Will he advise the state of planning for the proposed development?
- (2) When will tenders be let for the construction?
- (3) When is construction expected to start?
- (4) What is the expected allocation of funds for this project in 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99?
- (5) What is the expected completion date for the redevelopment project?

Mr Horan (2/1/97):

(1) Broad Master Planning related to the ongoing development of Bundaberg Hospital has been completed. The District Health Service is currently reviewing the overall proposal in keeping with the established budget as announced in the 1996/97 State Budget in September 1996. A Project Director has recently been appointed to coordinate and manage this redevelopment in conjunction with the District Health Service. Discussions have commenced with consultants engaged for this

project in conjunction with executive management of the hospital and the District Health Service to determine the extent of redevelopment work.

Stage 2 of the redevelopment was completed earlier this year. This Stage involved the construction of a new Red Cross facility, electrical upgrading, carpark and civil works in addition to the establishment of a four chair renal unit.

The service profile and bed configuration for the Bundaberg Hospital is being developed with a view to early ongoing modernisation / improvement to the current facility.

(2, 3 & 5) Until resolution of the full extent of redevelopment and outcomes of discussions / review by the Project Director, District Health Service and executive management of the Bundaberg Hospital, the date for commencement of construction cannot be set.

(4)

1996/97	\$2.327 million
1997/98	\$10.573 million
1998/99	\$9.835 million

1383. Pacific Highway

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (29/11/96)—

With reference to the expansion of the Pacific Highway, north of the Logan River to the Brisbane Central Business District—

- (1) Does the widening plan include any removal of overpasses or tunnelling; if so, what overpasses are under threat and where are tunnels being considered?
- (2) When will final plans be available for this section, remembering they were promised by mid-1996?

Mr Johnson (2/1/97):

(1) Preliminary concept planning for upgrading Pacific Highway/South East Freeway between Logan River and Brisbane Central Business District indicates that the following overbridges may require structural modification or removal and replacement to accommodate the project:

Logan Motorway; Grandes Street; Mandew Street; Loganlea Road; Watland Street; Underwood Road; Miles Platting Road; Macgregor Street; Tora Street.

In the event of removing existing bridges, structural elements such as girders and deck units will be recycled wherever possible. Any overpass which requires demolition will be replaced as part of the project.

The exact nature of the tunnelling works required at each location is yet to be determined but "cut and cover" options are expected to be the predominate technique to be employed. Some form of tunnelling may be required at the following locations on the busway section:

South East Freeway (duplication of existing bus tunnel between Vulture and Stanley Streets);

Leopard Street; Stanley Street (including on ramp to freeway); Tora Street; Kessels Road; Garden City/Macgregor Street.

(2) Planning layouts for the project will be available by early July 1997. Detailed design of the project will commence in July 1997, and will be finalised for the total project by the end of 1998.

1384. Mines and Energy Department, Contracting of Consultants; Ernst and Young

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (29/11/96)—

With reference to the consultants employed within his portfolio including the electricity industry—

- (1) Will he inform the Parliament of the contracts entered into with consultants since the change of Government?
- (2) What is the value of each contract?
- (3) What is the method used for the selection of the consultant, e.g. calling tenders etc?
- (4) How many contracts were entered into without the work being advertised?
- (5) What is the total value of work awarded to Ernst and Young?

Mr Gilmore (23/12/96):

(1) and (2) Contracts entered into by the Department of Mines and Energy, the Queensland Transmission and Supply Corporation, its subsidiaries and AUSTA Electric are:

CONSULTANT	\$
DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND ENERGY	
Mr Bruce Wyatt,	
Wyatt & Associates Pty Ltd	\$47 577
S & D Consultants Pty Ltd	90 784
Tower Technology	30 000
Mr Chris Pyra, PACTRADE Pty Ltd	44 892
Regolith Mapping	6 000
Sinclair Knights & Partners	20 000
Australian Coal Industries	9 100
Rust PPK Pty Ltd	15 500
Coopers and Lybrand	40 000
Gutteridge Hoskins & Davey P/L	41 990
SRC International	81 518
Turnbull Fox Phillips	59 782
Sunstruck Pty Ltd	100 421
The Consultancy Bureau	19 875
Price Waterhouse	5 000
Coopers and Lybrand	22 000
Central Queensland University	27 773
DJ Douglas & Partners	8 500
London Economics	
and McLennan Magasanik	50 801
London Economics	99 500
Morgan and Banks Limited	10 000
Victorian Power Exchange	347 633
Andersen Consulting	16 900
Beilby Management Services	16 000
Traxcove Pty Ltd	5 610
Ernst & Young	48 000
Ernst & Young	275 000

CONSULTANT	\$	Andersen Consulting	59,000
QTSC		Callscan	30,000
Praxa Limited	181,524	Opticon Australia	18,000
Chris Moody Graphics	33,056	Darryl Burton	14,000
Coopers and Lybrand	68,000	Central Treasury and Finance	9,500
Legal panel—		Deakin University	3,500
McCullough Robertson		WBEB	
Clayton Utz	Defined hourly	No additional consultants have been retained since 1	
Corrs Chambers Westgarth	rates	February 1996.	
Predictive Research Group	23,550	SEQEB	
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu	614,313	Ernst and Young	4,125
Hay Group Consulting	19,335	Ernst and Young	2,870
McCullough Robertson	314,204	Transport Technology Traffic	
Harte, Shepherd and Long	22,612	Business Centre	100,000
Donaldson's	3,400	Transport Technology Traffic	
Ray Andrews	187,047	Business Centre	23,000
Andersen Consulting	80,000	L. Palmieri	2,880
POWERLINK		Sinclair Knight Merz	5,000
Bassett Consulting Engineers	116,000	Palmieri Consulting	5,470
BCA Consultants/Cushway Blackford	18,500	Coopers and Lybrand	6,000
BCA Consultants/Cushway Blackford	65,000	Timber Research and Development	
Bonacci Winward (Qld)	50,000	Advisory Corporation	10,000
Connell Wagner	6,000	Paradigm Management	39,700
Donaldson Consulting Group	27,000	Fact Team	30,907
John Mitchell and Associates	155,000	Advance Value Management	6,400
Oliver and Langford	80,000	Versuin Pty Ltd	44,569
Rodski and Falls Behavioural Research	7,500	Versuin Pty Ltd	45,000
Sinclair Knight Merz Pty Ltd	250,000	Andersen Consulting	43,375
Wilson Architects	11,010	Anthony Langford and Associates	16,500
FNQEB		Greening Australia	360
PA Consulting Group	110,000	Coopers and Lybrand	20,000
National Safety Council of Australia	5,000	Maxx Implementation	25,500
Cocam	55,700	Utility Management Services	150,000
United Energy	195,000	Duke Engineering and Services	246,000
NORQEB		SOUTH WEST POWER	
Tarp Australia	5,649	KPMG Management Consultants	41,932
Unisearch Limited	10,000	Interlock	8,768
Robert McIntyre & Associates	4,677	Gutteridge, Haskins and Davey Pty Ltd	14,200
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu	2,499	National Safety Council of Australia	26,320
McIntyre & Associates	2,700	Qualtec Quality services	11,000
S. McKenzie	4,200	Baker Rossow and Partners	1,835
N. Galwey	6,720	G.J. Brandon and Associates	10,972
J. McIsaac	130,875	Creedon and Reid and Associates	2,120
Hay Group	250	Geoff Hanson, Consulting Surveyor	3,650
TARP Consultation	500	Rodski and Falls	10,180
Sinclair Knight Merz Pty Ltd	24,626	Hewlett Packard	4,200
Consulting Australia	3,100	Gas Technology Australia Pty Ltd	23 177
MEB		Marketshare Pty Ltd	89 450
Boston Consulting Group	650,000	Gutteridge Haskins & Davey Pty Ltd	19 200
Hay Consultants	9,799	HRL Morrison & Co Ltd	295 000
AGB Research Australia	7,576	(3) The method used is in conformity with the	
KPMG Chartered Accountants	15,056	requirements of the State Purchasing Policy and	
KPMG Chartered Accountants	20,000	varies according to the value, nature and complexity	
Russell Walker and Associates	90,000	of the work to be performed. Accordingly, contracts	
DMR Group Australia	45,000	may be decided by public tender or by oral or	
Peter Quinn Management Consulting	14,480	written quotations from up to three competitors,	
SEQEB	6,000	depending on the situation. It is not mandatory for	
CAPELEC		contracts valued at less than \$100,000 to be let	
Ernst & Young Consulting	670,000	through a public tender process.	
Digital Equipment Corporation	404,000	(5) \$674,125.	
PA Consulting Group	55,000	(4) (a) Department of Mines and Energy: One	
Sinclair Knight Merz Pty Ltd	92,000	contract has been entered into without work	
		being advertised. This process was in accordance	

with Part A, Section 1, Paragraph 2.5(e) of the State Purchasing Policy.

(b) Queensland Transmission and Supply Corporation & its subsidiaries: 71

(c) AUSTA Electric: See response to Question 3.

(5) (a) Department of Mines and Energy: The total value of work awarded to Ernst and Young is \$323,000.

(b) Queensland Transmission and Supply Corporation and its subsidiaries: \$674,125.

(c) AUSTA Electric: Ernst & Young were paid \$161,750 for purchased specialist computer software services (labour only)

1385. School Crossing Supervisors, Sunnybank Electorate

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (29/11/96)—

With reference to concerns expressed by parents and teachers in the Sunnybank Electorate about possible cutbacks to funding for school crossing supervisors—

- (1) What was the total funding allocated to schools in the Sunnybank Electorate for school crossing supervisors in 1995-96?
- (2) What will be the estimated funding for school crossing supervisors in the Sunnybank Electorate in 1996-97?
- (3) How many school crossing supervisors are employed at each of the schools in the Sunnybank Electorate at the present time?
- (4) How many school crossing supervisors will be employed at each of the schools in the Sunnybank Electorate in 1997?

Mr Johnson (2/1/97): On the 10 October I launched the Safe School Travel (SafeST) Package aimed at improving the safety of travel to and from school for primary and high school students throughout Queensland. This approach has been endorsed by key parent groups. To support the SafeST package the State Government has committed \$8 million, a significant increase on previous allocations, to safe school travel programs. The major share of these funds is allocated to wages for crossing supervisors.

The taxpayers of this State expect us, as a responsible Government, to ensure that these funds are spent in a way that will deliver the highest possible road safety benefit. Queensland Transport undertakes regular reviews of all supervised school crossings throughout the state in order to ensure that the level of risk at each crossing still warrants supervision.

At the present time there are nine supervised school crossings in the Sunnybank Electorate. There are no plans to reduce the number of supervised crossings in 1997. These nine crossings are supervised by eighteen crossing supervisors who are rostered to ensure the safety of primary school children using these crossings every morning and afternoon on their way to and from school.

The total expenditure on the School Crossing Supervisor Scheme in the Sunnybank Electorate in 1995-96 was \$34 605. In 1996-97 the allocation has been increased to \$35 719.

The following schools in the Sunnybank Electorate have supervised crossings:

- Kuraby State School—one crossing
- Runcorn State School—two crossings
- Runcorn Heights State School—one crossing
- Sunnybank State School—one crossing
- Sunnybank Hills State School—two crossings
- Warrigal Road State School—two crossings

1386. Bundamba State School

Mr HAMILL asked the Minister for Education (29/11/96)—

With reference to the proposed stand alone Special Education facility at Bundamba State School—

- (1) Was the construction of this facility approved in January?
- (2) When did construction commence?
- (3) What is the cost of this facility?
- (4) When was the facility occupied by the staff and students of the Special Education Unit at the school?

Mr Quinn (24/12/96):

(1) The construction of this facility was not approved in January 1996. Advice given to you as Education Minister on 1 February 1996 indicated that whilst you had approved the relocation of the Riverview Special Education Unit to Bundamba State School, funding from the region's Capital Works Program was fully committed and this project was unlikely to secure funding for several years unless an alternative source of funds could be identified.

Subsequently the facility has been included in the 1996-97 draft Capital Works Program. Contract documentation has been approved and financial approval granted on 9 October 1996.

- (2) Construction is expected to commence in January 1997.
- (3) A budget of \$361,353 has been provided this project.
- (4) It is expected that this building will be ready for completion in early June 1997.

1387. Deaths in Custody

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (29/11/96)—

With reference to the rise in deaths in custody, with seven inmates committing suicide in Queensland jails since July—

- (1) Does he agree that fundamental failures in Queensland's prison system are largely to blame for the rise?

- (2) Are systems controlling the transfer of prisoners records from jail to jail inadequate to the point of authorities remaining unaware of the prisoner's suicidal tendencies for some considerable time?
- (3) Could soundproofing in the new suicide management cells at Woodford Prison be counter productive in leading more prisoners to suicide by isolating them from other human contact which may alleviate their pent-up feelings?
- (4) Does he believe that psychiatric aspects of prisoner care should become a responsibility of the Health Department?

Mr Cooper (20/12/96):

(1) All deaths in custody are subject to investigation by a Coroner and, if any failures or defects in the system are identified, the Queensland Corrective Services Commission will act to correct the deficiencies.

In addition, at the time of any major incident, including a death by any cause, the Queensland Corrective Services Commission appoints Inspectors under the Corrective Services Act 1988 to investigate and report on operational aspects of the circumstances of the incident. This investigation is in addition to any investigation which may be undertaken by members of the Queensland Police Service. Findings of Inspectors are considered by an internal Investigations Review Committee to ascertain if practices or policies contributed to the incident and to develop strategies to correct any identified shortcomings.

The overall rate of deaths in custody in Queensland has declined each year for the past three years. There is no evidence to suggest that there are fundamental failures in the Queensland Prison system.

(2) The standard practice is that prisoner files including the medical file accompany the prisoner during transfers. When the file records do not accompany the prisoner, as for example in an unexpected emergency transfer, procedures are in place for the interim provision of adequate information while the various files are transported to the receiving centre as a matter of urgency.

There should be no instances where authorities remain unaware of identified suicidal tendencies.

(3) The Crisis Support Unit at Woodford Correctional Centre consists of two single person High Observation cells and five two person Observation cells.

The wards have not been designed to be soundproof.

All wards and attached toilet/shower cubicles are monitored by a closed circuit television system from the correctional officer's station.

The whole of the interior of the High Observation wards can be directly observed

from the nurse's station, and other Wards are designed to facilitate clear observation.

As the fittings in the cubicles result in this being a higher risk area for suicide or self harm, access is controlled from the officer's station.

A day area and exercise yard are provided in the Unit so that prisoners can be maintained under close observation yet experience as normal a routine as possible, including social interaction.

Prisoners in the Crisis Support Unit will be managed in accordance with a comprehensive management plan. As part of this plan, medical staff, psychologists and counsellors will conduct regular assessments of the health and psychological well being of prisoners in the Unit. Prisoners will receive counselling and support from these specialists, and in appropriate circumstances may receive additional support from selected peers. Peer support is a regularly used strategy in the management of at risk indigenous prisoners.

(4) The organisational model for the provisions of health and medical services, including psychiatric services to prisoners, varies from State to State. For example, in Queensland these services are provided by the QCSC whereas in New South Wales they are provided by the Health Department. Outsourcing of health and medical services to the private sector has been undertaken in Victoria and is currently being considered in South Australia.

I am aware that earlier in 1996, Queensland Health commenced a review of State forensic mental health services. Consideration of the recommendations of that review will be available in due course, and I will be happy to work with the Honourable the Minister for Health on any of those recommendations which relate to the provision of psychiatric services to prisoners and other offenders managed under the provisions of the Corrective Services Act 1988.

1388. Public Housing, Caboolture

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (29/11/96)—

What is the wait time for public rental housing in Caboolture and what are the number of 3 bedroom houses in Morayfield that are available for public rental?

Mr Connor (2/1/97): The minimum waiting times for public housing in Caboolture are as follows:

seniors' units—10 months;

1 bedroom dwellings (other than seniors' units)—23 months;

2 bedroom dwellings—3 months;

3 bedroom dwellings—6 months;

dwellings with 4 or more bedrooms—18 months.

There are 104 x 3 bedroom dwellings available for public rental in Morayfield. This total includes 100 detached houses and 4 duplex units.

1389. Employment Training Programs for Disabled Citizens

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (29/11/96)—

With reference to organisations that provide employment training programs for people with a disability—

- (1) How much money has been allocated by his department to provide training assistance grants to these organisations?
- (2) What funding programs are these organisations eligible to make application to, to assist with the delivery of such programs?

Mr Santoro (23/12/96):

(1) 32,000 Student Contact Hours, which equates to approximately \$230,000 have been allocated to the Competitive Funding Program for the delivery of training programs to people with a disability in the 1997 calendar year. These Student Contact Hours have been specifically quarantined to help address the training needs of people with disabilities. However, people with disabilities may also apply for direct entry into other training programs.

(2) Advertisements inviting expressions of interest from training providers registered with the Queensland Vocational Education, Training and Employment Commission (VETEC) for the delivery of these Student Contact Hours will be placed shortly.

In addition to the strategies outlined above, VETEC is in the process of finalising a disability strategy for the vocational education and training sector to help address the training needs of people with disabilities. This strategy will include a range of proposals to increase the participation of people with disabilities in recognised vocational education and training and thereby promote the vocational outcomes for people with disabilities.

1390. Natural Resources Department, Sale of Surplus Property

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Natural Resources (29/11/96)—

With reference to his announced plans to accelerate the \$4,750m sell-off of its surplus property over the next five years—

- (1) Which properties are earmarked for sale in 1996-97 and what is the expected revenue from these sales?
- (2) Are any of the properties acquired by the previous Labor Government for the Cape York Wilderness Zone included in these plans; if so, which?
- (3) Are any State forest areas included on these plans; if so, which, and have the environmental values of these areas been assessed by the Department of Environment for possible addition to the National Park Estate?

- (4) What vacant Crown land is earmarked for sale in 1996-97 and where, and are any of these areas under claim by traditional owners or available for claim?

Mr Hobbs (23/12/96): The introductory part of the question needs to be corrected as it is proposed to dispose of surplus land parcels of an estimated value of \$750 million and not \$4 750 million as indicated in the question.

(1) The 1996-97 disposal program does not relate to the \$750 million disposal program which will commence on 1 July 1997.

(2) None of the properties included in the Cape York Wilderness Zone are included in the disposal program.

(3) State forests are permanently set apart and reserved under the provision of the Forestry Act 1959 and managed for the sustainable use of their natural resources, watershed protection, conservation of the soil and of the environment and other compatible uses such as recreation and grazing. I would not support the revocation of any land from the forest estate and its subsequent disposal for alternative purposes unless the proposed use would be in the broader public interest and there is no alternative freehold or leasehold land available for the purpose.

There are however, proposals such as the revocation of 127.8 hectares from State Forest 137 for a cobalt nickel refinery which would fall into this category. The proceeds from this land disposal will be applied to the purchase of alternative land for reservation as State Forest.

The environment and conservation values of such areas are considered as part of the allocation and planning process and in the wider context of the National Forest Policy Statement, my Department is working with the Department of Environment to identify native forest areas that should be permanently preserved in a secure system of comprehensive, adequate and representative nature conservation reserves.

(4) Unallocated State land is not sold where Native Title has not already been extinguished.

1391. National Park Fees

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Environment (29/11/96)—

With reference to his plans to enforce his new Parkpass entry fees for parks such as Noosa and Burleigh Heads—

- (1) Will surfboard riders using the parks' walking tracks to only access favourite surfing spots be required to have a current "Parkpass"?
- (2) Will joggers using the parks' walking tracks for exercise purposes be required to have a current "Parkpass"?
- (3) Will people using the Noosa Heads car park to view the ocean be required to have a current "Parkpass"?

- (4) Will people visiting Burleigh Heads Information Centre be required to have a current "Parkpass"?
- (5) How will spectators and competitors to surfing competitions at both venues be charged?
- (6) How will spectators and competitors at the mountain bike race held in the park as a lead up to the Noosa Heads Triathlon be charged "Parkpass"?
- (7) Is he considering excluding these two parks also from the "Parkpass" charge as he has done for Fraser and Moreton Islands and all island national parks in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park; if not, does he appreciate the level of discontent the imposition of this charge at these two venues is going to cause with the general public?

Mr Littleproud (23/12/96): (1) to (7) After careful consideration the Government has decided not to implement the ParkPass system. The need to consider such a scheme, of course, arose out of the legacy of neglect with regard to National Parks inherited from Labor by the Coalition Government.

1392. Women in the Public Sector

Ms BLIGH asked the Premier (29/11/96)—

With reference to the Coalition 1995 Election Policy on the Public Service which commits the Government to a special program to improve the recruitment, retention and promotion of women in the Queensland Public Sector—

- (1) What, if any, planning and development work has been undertaken by the Office of the Public Service for such a program?
- (2) What, if any, resources have been allocated to the development and implementation of such a program?
- (3) How many women hold SES positions (as at 29 November 1996) and in which SES levels are these women employed?

Mr Borbidge (2/1/97):

(1) The Office of the Public Service is undertaking several projects relating to the recruitment, retention and promotion of women in the Queensland Public Sector. Work has commenced, on the following projects: a proposed directive which will allow translation from temporary to permanent which will benefit women in that the majority of temporary employees are women; examining options for career development strategies for women; researching, evaluating, mentoring and workshadowing programs for women; increasing the representation of women on agency decision-making bodies; investigating further policy and industrial relations initiatives consistent with the Work and Family Policy; and establishing interchange arrangements with other levels of government and with the private sector.

In the "1996 Guide for Planning, Evaluating and Achieving EEO Outcomes", issued in May 1996, the

criteria were published for 1996/7 Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Management Plans. Included in the criteria was a requirement that agencies establish quantitative performance indicators, or performance targets, for women as part of their EEO program. A substantial majority of agencies have included these in their 1996/7 EEO Management Plans.

The Leadership and Development Unit of the Office of the Public Service has within its operational plan the development of a program for the enhancement of management and leadership skills of women.

(2) The internal staffing resources of the Leadership and Development Unit and the Equity and Resolution Unit, of the Office of the Public Service, are being applied to research and develop these initiatives. Agencies will have primary carriage for their implementation.

(3) At the end of November, 1996, 71 female officers held positions in the Senior Executive Service. There were 34 at the SES1 level; 29 at the SES2 level; 7 at the SES3 level and 1 at the SES4 level.

1393. Gold Coast Hospital, After-hours Registrars

Mrs EDMOND asked the Minister for Health (29/11/96)—

With reference to the Gold Coast Hospital investigation into patient care and the budget crisis at that hospital—

What measures will be taken, or what extra funds will be made available to the Gold Coast Hospital to reduce the unacceptable work loads of after hours registrars which the report concluded "affect the quality of outcomes"?

Mr Horan (2/1/97): The Report of the Review Team which investigated various matters at the Gold Coast Hospital actually stated that the premise can be challenged that medical registrar availability is the main determinant of the quality of after-hours care generally and post-operative care particularly.

The Report also stated that the general perception of staff interviewed was that standards of care at the Gold Coast Hospital were comparable to other Queensland and interstate hospitals.

District Management has developed an Action Plan to implement the recommendations of the Report and considers the Report has provided a good opportunity to refine and enhance the Hospital's quality improvement program.

The Report documented observations about current work practices in the Division of Medicine which may impede efficiency or divert resources from more important service delivery activities. The Medical Superintendent will undertake a review of current rostering arrangements, level of medical overtime and other work practices to ensure that the level of staffing is optimally matched with service demands. This process will be undertaken before any consideration is given to increasing staff numbers.

1394. Gaming Machines, Hotels and Clubs

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Premier (29/11/96)—

With reference to the Government's White Paper on Gaming Machines which has been released and meetings held with stakeholders and as hotel owners remain gravely concerned that measures proposed will not place them on a competitive basis with clubs—

What additional measures are available to give a "level playing field" to these industries?

Mr Borbidge (2/1/97): The Review of Queensland Gaming Machine Regulatory Arrangements was released on 14 November 1996. At that time, the Treasurer made it clear that while the Review's recommendations indicated the overall policy direction endorsed by the Government, comment on specific proposals of the Review was welcome. The 15th December 1996 was set as a deadline for comments.

Since 14 November 1996, Dr Watson and the Executive Director of QOGR have visited Rockhampton, Townsville and Cairns, conducted three public meetings in Brisbane and used CITEC Corporate Television to broadcast a presentation to centres throughout Queensland. In addition, Dr Watson has held further meetings with industry representatives.

Both clubs and hotels have raised concerns about various aspects of the recommendations. These concerns include the absence of any recommendation for absolute equality in either the number of gaming machines or the tax rates applicable to hotel and clubs. The QHA's comments have been noted, and will be taken into account in developing the Review's recommendation into legislative change.

In order to place the QHA's proposal into context several points must be borne in mind. The provision of any gambling product is a privilege conveyed by the community, through government, where the social benefits are seen to exceed the undoubted social costs of gambling. The "sale" of gambling products are therefore not the same as the selling of milk, bread or biscuits where a "level playing field" concept may be relevant. Before the Government could accede to the QHA's requests it would have to be demonstrated that the changes proposed produced a positive net social gain, taking into account the impacts on the community and the existing gaming venues, including clubs and casinos.

The Government does not accept the proposition that because an industry group is facing difficult times, the Government should simply open the doors to further gaming opportunities, irrespective of the social consequences.

Queensland is not unique in "tilting" the playing field in favour of community owned clubs. Every Australian jurisdiction, less South Australia, has a taxation structure which benefits clubs rather than hotels on the basis that clubs are community owned, and that the profits will be returned directly to the local community. However, the "playing field" is presently not tilted in just one direction. Hotels still

have significant advantages under the Liquor Act, including for example greater entitlements with regard to the sales of take-away liquor and off site bottle shops.

Whilst the Review does not propose a level playing field, it provides for significant tax reductions of around \$9 million per annum or 14.5% of the taxes and levies payed by hotels. In contrast the new taxation structure applicable to clubs would be revenue neutral. This will mean tax cuts for every hotel with gaming machines in Queensland. The Review further recommends a doubling of the maximum number of game machines permitted in hotels from 20 to 40 follows an increase from 10 to 20 machines only 12 months ago. Provided the machines meet QOGR's technical standards a hotel will also be free to select whatever machines it chooses. Therefore the machine mix at any site can be tailored to maximise site revenues in a way which is not presently possible.

While a fully "level playing field" for clubs and hotels with respect to gaming machines is no more on the Government's agenda than is a fully "level playing field" on liquor sales, the Review recommends significant improvements in the position for hotels.

1395. Ambulance Stations, Central Queensland

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (29/11/96)—

- (1) What are the staffing levels at each of the ambulance stations in Central Queensland?
- (2) How many of these stations do not currently have their full complement of staffing and where are these stations located?
- (3) Which ambulance stations have trainees and are they included in the permanent staffing allocation?
- (4) Which stations qualify for the recently announced rural staffing incentive scheme?
- (5) How many ambulance officers are currently in acting positions throughout Central Queensland?

Mr Veivers (23/12/96):

- (1) There is currently a staff establishment of 257 officers in the Central Region plus one officer who is located at the Bectel site, Gladstone and paid for by Bectel Australia and one ATSIC student in training at Woorabinda.

I have included for tabling a list of the staff establishment and vacancies in the Central Region (Table A).

- (2) Currently six stations have vacancies

Miriam Vale—1 vacancy
 Baralaba—1 vacancy
 Biloela—1 vacancy
 Daringa—1 vacancy
 Blackwater— 2 vacancies
 Middlemount—1 vacancy

Baralaba, Biloela, Daringa and Middlemount are long term vacancies and I have been advised the Central

Region deploys a number of strategies to ensure patient care delivery is not compromised. These strategies include the utilisation of temporary officers or deploying officers from neighbouring stations to provide coverage while appointed officers are on recreational leave or days off.

(3) Students are located at the following stations and are included as part of station permanent staff

Mackay—3
 Biloela—2
 Gladstone—3
 Rockhampton—4
 Blackall—2
 Blackwater—3
 Moura—1
 Emerald—3
 Woerabinda—1
 Longreach—2

(4) I have included for tabling (Table B) a list of the stations which qualify for Isolated Remote and Rural Incentives in Central Region. There are currently 10 stations which qualify.

(5) Staff are currently acting in the following positions in Central Region:

Sector Co-ordinator, Station Officer Grade One
 Rockhampton
 Emerald

Officer in Charge (OIC) positions

Emerald Station —(Long service leave)
 Blackall Station—(Acting up as Station Officer Grade One at Emerald)
 Longreach Station—(OIC transferred—position has been filled and Officer will take up duty on 23 December 1996)
 Moranbah Station—(Long term illness)
 North Mackay Station.

1396. Public Works and Housing Department, Apprentices; Q-Build, Employees

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (29/11/96)—

- (1) How many apprentices will his department be employing in 1997?
- (2) How many employees are engaged in Q Build?
- (3) Will he give a break down of what these employees do, by trade and classification?

Mr Connor (2/1/97):

(1) It is anticipated that my department will be inducting a total of ninety-seven (97) apprentices in 1997 consisting of:

Q-Build	90
ATSI Housing	5
GOPRINT	2
	97

(2) Q-Build, as at 31 October 1996 employed a total of 2,137 staff.

(3) There are 298 apprentices and 1099 field staff employed across the trades of carpentry, carpentry/joiner, fitter and turners, electricals, glazing, painting, plastering, plumbing, signwriting, upholstery and wood machining. In addition there are 740 administrative, professional, operational and technical staff.

1397. Emergency Services Department, Helicopters

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (29/11/96)—

With reference to Department of Emergency Services helicopters—

- (1) How many helicopters are currently either owned or in the service of his department?
- (2) What is the type, model and value of each aircraft?
- (3) What was the purchase date and price of each aircraft?
- (4) Where are these located?
- (5) What is the actual annual maintenance cost of each of these aircraft?
- (6) What are the dates on which each of these aircraft were painted during the last 10 years and what were the total costs of painting each of these aircraft?
- (7) What is the hourly cost of running each of these aircraft?

Mr Veivers (23/12/96):

- (1) The Department of Emergency Services currently operates four helicopters which are owned by the Queensland Government.
- (2) Three of the helicopters are multi-role twin engine Bell 412 helicopters and the fourth is a single engine Aerospatiale Squirrel 350BA helicopter. The Bell 412 helicopters based in Brisbane, Townsville and Cairns are currently valued at approximately \$6.4M, \$1.8M and \$5.9M respectively. The Squirrel helicopter is currently valued at approximately \$500,000.
- (3) The Townsville based Bell 412 helicopter was purchased on 7 June 1989 at a cost of \$3.02M. The contract for the supply of the Brisbane and Cairns based Bell 412 helicopters was executed on 9 May 1995. The cost of these helicopters was \$7.64M and \$7.21M respectively. The Squirrel helicopter was purchased on 8 December 1981 at an approximate cost of \$1.1M.
- (4) The Bell 412 helicopters are based in Brisbane, Townsville and Cairns and the Squirrel helicopter is based in Brisbane.
- (5) The actual annual maintenance cost of the Bell 412 helicopters in Brisbane, Townsville and Cairns for 1995/96 was \$53,884, \$764,593 and \$152,798 respectively. As the Bell 412 helicopters in Brisbane and Cairns are covered by a 2 year/2,000 hour warranty, the actual annual maintenance cost for these helicopters was low in 1995/96. The actual annual maintenance cost of the Squirrel helicopter for 1995/96 was \$143,778.

(6) The Bell 412 helicopter in Townsville was painted in October 1993 at a total cost of \$6,700. This helicopter was further painted in November 1995 in its present QES livery at a total cost of \$23,900. The Bell 412 helicopters based in Brisbane and Cairns were painted in July 1995 at a total cost of \$18,400 each. The Squirrel helicopter was painted in April 1987 at an approximate cost of \$7,500. This helicopter was further painted in December 1993 at an approximate cost of \$12,500.

(7) The direct operating costs of the Bell 412 helicopters are about \$1,180 per hour. The direct operating costs of the Squirrel helicopter are about \$525 per hour. Direct operating costs comprise fuel and lubricants, maintenance and navigation charges.

1398. Tora Street Bridge, Macgregor

Ms SPENCE asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (29/11/96)—

With reference to an article in the *Southern Star* on 27 November where his departmental officer revealed that freeway motorists can expect disruptions until the year 2001 after major road widening begins late in 1997 and overpass bridges at Macgregor and Eight Mile Plains will be demolished—

- (1) Will he guarantee that the Tora Street bridge at Macgregor will be replaced?
- (2) What are departmental estimates regarding the length of time the residents of Macgregor will not have access to this bridge?
- (3) What measures will his department take to provide vehicles and pedestrians alternative access while the Tora Street bridge is inoperative?

Mr Johnson (2/1/97):

(1) Tora Street bridge at Macgregor will be replaced in the construction phase of the South East Transit Project.

(2) The Impact Management Planning phase of the project is about to commence in earnest. The means of managing and minimising the impacts of the works will be determined in this phase in consultation with the community, and in this case with the local residents of Macgregor. It is not clear at this stage whether local residents will lose access during construction, but if they do, every effort will be made to minimise that period.

(3) Traffic management and provision for pedestrian and vehicular traffic will be addressed in detail in the planning and design phases of the project. There may be periods during which local residents will have to use alternative means of access to travel to their destinations, but this will be avoided if it can reasonably be achieved.

1399. Law Reform

Mr FOLEY asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (29/11/96)—

With reference to the discussion paper on proposed reforms to law and judicial administration outlined in

the annual report of the president of the court of appeal—

- (1) What action has he taken in relation to the proposed reforms outlined in the discussion paper?
- (2) Does he propose to allow these proposed reforms to flounder because of lack of interest in law reform on the part of the Government?
- (3) Since he announced the shutting down of the Litigation Reform Commission, what specific action has he taken to progress work on each of the reform projects which that commission was undertaking?

Mr Beanland (11/12/96):

(1) The fifth annual report of the court of appeal was accompanied by a working paper on appellate practice and procedure prepared following submissions received as a result of a discussion paper attached to the fourth annual report. The working paper has been referred to the Council of Chief Justices who are considering issues arising therefrom. As a result, an initiative to consider issues concerning electronic appeals is currently seeking funding support across Australia. The report is also under active consideration by my Policy and Legislation Division. Elements of the report will be introduced in proposed variations to the jurisdiction of Queensland Courts to be introduced to Parliament early in 1997.

(2) This Government, unlike its predecessor, is committed to sensible law reform prepared in conjunction with the judiciary and the legal profession. Considerable effort has already been expended in overcoming the failure of the previous government to tackle fundamental areas of law reform.

(3) Of the approximately 33 projects under way by the Litigation Reform Commission at the time of its abolition, the majority related to proposals for a uniform set of rules for all courts. Action is under way through my Policy and Legislation Division, and the use of an external consultant, to bring to fruition early in 1997, the benefits of that work and the work which had previously been done in relation to the issue of uniform rules of court.

Other projects of the Litigation Reform Commission will be referred to the Law Reform Commission for its consideration and incorporation in their program.

1400. Court House, Cleveland

Mr BRISKEY asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (29/11/96)—

With reference to the proposed new Court House for Cleveland—

When will this project commence and what has been the outcome of negotiations with the Redland Shire Council over the siting of the new court house?

Mr Beanland (23/12/96):

There have been ongoing negotiations with the Redland Shire Council for some time with regard to the site for a new courthouse at Cleveland.

Agreement in principle has now been reached on the acquisition of land. The Department of Natural Resources has finalised the valuations of the three properties involved in the acquisition of land for the construction of a new courthouse.

Negotiations with the Redland Shire Council on the purchase price of these properties will proceed this week. Previous written advice (dated 1/11/96) from the Redland Shire Council was again verbally confirmed (2/12/96) in respect of the Council's commitment to the site being used for the courthouse and the meeting of the previously agreed conditions i.e. contamination clearance of site, removal of stormwater drainage, relocation of SEQEB and underground Telstra services and basic earthworks.

Before finalisation of the contracts a site contamination clearance is required from the Department of Environment and Heritage. The Redland Shire Council has been advised of further requirements by Department of Environment before a clearance can be given. The Redland Shire Council are presently discussing this matter with the Department of Environment.

Planning of the courthouse has commenced in anticipation of a satisfactory resolution of these

outstanding matters which are expected to be resolved by the end of January 1997.

1401. Schools, Lytton Electorate

Mr LUCAS asked the Minister for Education (29/11/96)—

With reference to primary and secondary schools in the Lytton Electorate—

- (1) What are the enrolments and predicted enrolments for each school within the Lytton Electorate for the years 1990 through to 2006?
- (2) Excluding the monitoring of enrolments and demographic trends, what proactive action has the department taken, or intends to take, to maintain viability of schools within the electorate?

Mr Quinn (24/12/96):

(1)

Year	Darling Pt Special Schl	Lindum SS	Lota SS	Manly SS
1990	52	103	163	349
1991	33	88	174	324
1992	38	106	181	343
1993	31	114	185	353
1994	43	117	187	375
1995	51	115	199	387
1996	59	108	184	366
1997	-	104	189	366
1998	-	99	191	376
1999	-	94	201	369
2000	-	99	195	365
2001	-	105	202	357
2002	-	115	200	353
2003	-	127	202	354
2004	-	139	204	359
2005	-	147	205	368
2006	-	152	206	378

Year	Manly West SS	Wondall Hts SS	Wynnum Central SS	Wynnum North SHS
1990	436	479	187	698
1991	450	474	181	690
1992	446	507	187	708
1993	454	498	164	670
1994	408	491	151	639
1995	428	549	142	676
1996	432	584	128	750
1997	453	635	127	803
1998	454	698	125	845
1999	471	736	126	887
2000	479	763	121	909
2001	506	809	117	899
2002	502	844	118	-
2003	511	883	126	-
2004	520	930	131	-
2005	531	973	140	-
2006	542	1010	143	-

Year	Wynnum North SS	Wynnum SHS	Wynnum West SS
1990	469	1308	395
1991	448	1239	355
1992	430	1133	358
1993	429	1090	334
1994	446	1040	351
1995	443	953	345
1996	447	930	337
1997	451	885	334
1998	458	835	338
1999	465	820	345
2000	471	812	362
2001	473	802	383
2002	413	-	-
2003	480	-	435
2004	483	-	467
2005	485	-	503
2006	489	-	539

NB Forecast enrolments have not been compiled for State High Schools, or Special Schools, at this point in time.

(2) The Government has published recently comprehensive guidelines for Strategic Asset Management. The Department of Education is applying best practice processes for facilities management, as recommended in these guidelines.

1402. Northside Railway Stations, First Aid Kits

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (29/11/96)—

Will he confirm reports that due to staff shortages of Brisbane northside railway staff, first aid kits on some stations are not being sufficiently often replenished, and that some have a shortage of burn cream and other essentials?

Mr Johnson (2/1/97): All Citytrain stations are adequately staffed. In the case of sickness and annual leave, positions are replaced to meet business and safety needs at all times.

Staff relief is provided on a priority basis with safety and customer needs being a primary consideration.

In regard to the matter of first aid boxes, Citytrain has a very stringent audit process on these items, as they directly relate to staff and customer safety.

The first aid boxes located at each station are checked on a monthly basis by the station supervisor.

Additionally, every month, the Group Station Master conducts a full station audit, including the first aid boxes to ensure compliance with requirements and regulations. If replenishments are required, the Group Station Master will organise these immediately.

A stocktake of first aid boxes on the northside of Brisbane on Tuesday, 3 December 1996 revealed that all boxes had been checked within the last month. Of the 41 boxes checked, there were six requiring items and all of these items had then been ordered.

A review of the type of first aid boxes on stations in line with Occupational Health & Safety requirements revealed that some stations required an upgrade of their boxes. These stations will progressively have their first aid boxes upgraded to a larger type.

1403. Nundah Bottleneck

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (29/11/96)—

With reference to page 63 of his recently released Roads Implementation Program which shows (a) that a total of only \$300,000 has been approved for work on the Nundah bottleneck, (b) that, in the period 1988-89 to 2000-01, \$26,107,000 might be spent depending on an annual re-evaluation and (c) that the project might be finished after the year 2001 if funding of \$7,613,000 is approved—

- (1) Did the Member for Clayfield make representations to the Minister on behalf of his constituents and the Nundah business community?
- (2) If he did, what was the substance of Mr Santoro's submission, and why did the Minister reject his request (particularly since there was so much evidence supporting the urgent need for a solution to this forty year old problem); and why should residents of Brisbane's inner northern suburbs continue to suffer when the Minister has found more than a billion dollars for roadworks in so many other parts of Queensland?

Mr Johnson (2/1/97):

- (1) The Member for Clayfield has been very active and made numerous representations to Departmental officers and myself on behalf of his constituents and the Nundah business community in relation to resolving traffic congestion problems in the Nundah area.
- (2) The Member's approaches have been successful as evidenced by the provision of \$34.02M over a six (6) year period for traffic improvements at Nundah included in the recently released Roads Implementation Program (RIP).

This program provides for an allocation of \$300,000 in 1996/97 for a comprehensive study, which I might add is already under way, that will investigate all options and recommend a cost effective, practical solution that is supported by the wider community.

The remaining funds are included as indicative forward allocations. A decision on final allocations will be made following consideration of the outcomes of the current study which is due to be completed in May 1997. Provision of necessary funds will be made in the 1997/98-2001/2002 Roads Implementation Program.

1404. Bifenthrin in Waterways

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (29/11/96)—

With reference to the severe die off of aquatic organisms in Kedron Brook, Shultz Canal, Breakfast Creek and Norman Creek—

- (1) What were the biological impacts of the presence of contaminants?
- (2) In which of these waterways and others, has the presence of the chemical bifenthrin been detected?
- (3) What concentrations of bifenthrin were detected in each case?
- (4) What is the toxicity of bifenthrin to aquatic organisms?
- (5) Has the United States Environmental Protection Authority classified bifenthrin as a Class C carcinogen?
- (6) How freely available is this chemical in Queensland and what are its costs and uses?
- (7) Will he apply the precautionary principle and ensure bifenthrin is withdrawn from sale in Queensland?
- (8) What reports on these issues have been proposed by his department and will he release them publicly?

Mr Littleproud (23/12/96):

- (1) The possible loss of aquatic organisms in Shultz Canal is still being investigated. A fish-kill in Upper Kedron Brook at Grange on 8 October 1996 was caused by the pesticide chlorpyrifos. I am not aware of any recent reports of deaths of aquatic organisms in Norman or Breakfast Creeks.
- (2) Bifenthrin has been detected in sediments from one section of Breakfast Creek and one section of Norman Creek. It has not been detected elsewhere.
- (3) The concentrations of bifenthrin in sediments from Breakfast Creek and Norman Creek were 9 and 7 micrograms per kilogram respectively.
- (4) The label approved by the National Registration Authority for Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals states that bifenthrin is "Dangerous to fish and aquatic organisms."
- (5) Bifenthrin is classified by the United States Environment Protection Agency as a Group C carcinogen. This classification is given when there is

an absence of human data, but limited evidence of carcinogenicity in animals.

(6) A broad-spectrum garden pesticide containing bifenthrin is available for purchase in Queensland supermarkets at a cost comparable to other similar products. Bifenthrin is available through registered commercial pesticide outlets for a range of agricultural uses, for under-slab treatment of buildings to protect them against termites, for post-construction barrier treatments for existing buildings, for protection of service poles and fence posts, and for termite nest eradication.

(7) Bifenthrin is registered in Australia for each of the uses indicated in my response to part 6 of the question. Both the Queensland Government and the National Registration Authority are evaluating the risk the continued use of bifenthrin poses to the environment.

(8) I have made several Media Statements concerning the detection of bifenthrin and chlorpyrifos in Brisbane waterways. Further information will be released as it comes to hand.

1405. Home Care, Maryborough

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Health (29/11/96)—

With reference to the fact that Home Care support services to the elderly and infirm in Maryborough are being cut and as I am being reliably informed by many people that their home care assistance is being cut or reduced—

- (1) What is the cut to Home Care in Maryborough?
- (2) Are Home Care hours being cut by 160 hours per week?
- (3) Why has the criteria for getting home care assistance now gone from being moderately disabled to being extremely disabled?
- (4) Does this mean that only those people eligible to enter a nursing home are now eligible for Home Care?
- (5) Will this slashing of Home Care further crowd the already overcrowded nursing home system?
- (6) Will he give clear, open and honest answers to these questions?

Mr Horan (2/1/97): I am disappointed that you have asked a question with so many parts, which breaches the spirit of the Standing Orders and which creates an unnecessary burden on the staff of Queensland Health. However, for the benefit of the people of Maryborough, I provide the following answer:

- (1) The overall hours provided for Home Care services this financial year will not alter from those provided in 1995/96. Allocation of hours is in accordance with funds provided.
- (2) No.
- (3) The criteria have not changed under this Government, although such a change was (poorly)

effected under the Beattie and Elder administrations. It is service policy to routinely review all clients to determine continued eligibility for Home Care services to ensure the provision of services to those people most in need.(4)No. However, people assessed as eligible for nursing home care by Aged Care Assessment Teams are not excluded from receiving home care if they wish to stay in their own home.

(5) No. As stated the overall hours for Home Care services in Maryborough have not reduced. People requiring nursing home care are assessed independently by the Aged Care Assessment Team.

(6) I have done so.

1406. Ron Camm Bridge; Thompson River Bridge; Oakey Bypass Road

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (3/12/96)—

With reference to the National Highway Program for 1997-98 and 1998-99—

- (1) Has approval been given for construction work to commence on the Ron Camm Bridge duplication at Mackay in 1997-98 or 1998-99?
- (2) What is the benefit/cost ratio of this project?
- (3) What is the total cost of this project?
- (4) What is the daily traffic count on this bridge?
- (5) What percentage of this traffic count is commercial traffic?
- (6) What priority ranking has this project been given by the State or Commonwealth in the National Highway Program?
- (7) Has approval been given for construction work to commence on the new Thompson River Bridge at Longreach in 1997/98 or 1998/99?
- (8) What is the benefit/cost ratio of this project?
- (9) What is the total cost of this project?
- (10) What is the daily traffic count on this bridge?
- (11) What percentage of this traffic count is commercial traffic?
- (12) What priority ranking has this project been given by the State or Commonwealth in the National Highway Program?
- (13) Has approval been given for construction work to commence on the Oakey bypass road in 1997-98 or 1998-99?
- (14) What is the benefit/cost ratio of this project?
- (15) What is the total cost of this project?
- (16) What is the daily traffic count at Oakey?
- (17) What percentage of this traffic count is commercial traffic?
- (18) What priority ranking has this project been given by the State or Commonwealth in the National Highway Program?

Mr Johnson (2/1/97): The table below is a concise response to the questions raised.

Project	Federal Approval for Construction	BCR \$M Traffic	Cost per day	Vehicles Commercial	%	Priority
Ron Camm Bridge	Not at this point	11.5 ¹	26.4	25,000	7%	Very high
Thomson River Bridge	Yes	3.9	24.8	512	30%	Very high
Oakey Bypass	Yes	2.1	12.0	7,500 ² 4,620 ³	11% ² 18% ³	Very high

Note 1: When travel time savings for private vehicles are taken out of the benefit/cost calculation, the BCR on the Ron Camm Bridge project reduces to 2.4.

Note 2: Toowoomba side of Oakey.

Note 3: Dalby side of Oakey.

As indicated above, all projects are ranked as "very high" priority. However, if the intent of this question is to demonstrate that Federal funding has been approved for projects with lower BCRs than the Ron Camm Bridge, this matter needs to be considered in the following context.

The goal of the Road Network Strategy which is the strategic framework which underpins the selection of road projects, is to improve economic, trade and regional development, consistent with Government policy objectives for safety, social justice and environmental sustainability.

Consistent with the program parameters outlined in Appendix 4 of the Roads Implementation Program, all candidate road projects are prioritised using a two-stage evaluation process. The first stage ranks candidate projects by BCR, and the second stage moderates this ranking and allows qualitative factors to be taken into account. The factors considered in Stage 2 are:

general conditions (policy/strategy match, risk and feasibility, network effects);

development outcomes (level of support for economic, trade and regional development; sensitivity tests for travel-time savings);

social justice outcomes (equitable access, community viability in rural areas and local employment effects);

safety outcomes; and

environmental sustainability outcomes.

The following comments put these policy guidelines into perspective:

Thomson River Bridge

Completion of the Thomson River Bridge will eliminate flooding on the last major trouble-spot on the Landsborough Highway, which forms part of the major freight route between Brisbane and Darwin. (Due to flooding, the Thomson River crossing has been closed for a total of 79 days over the past six years.)

Consequently, as well as providing major benefits to the transport and grazing industries, the tourism industry in rural Queensland will benefit, a significant number of extra jobs will be sustained or created during the 27 month construction phase, with added

benefits to also flow into the local economy from the construction project itself.

Oakey Bypass

This section of the National Highway System is a major transport link from the central west, west and south west Queensland through Toowoomba to the Port of Brisbane.

The construction of the Oakey Bypass will result in a dramatic improvement in road safety due to the removal of 720 trucks per day and some 50% of all traffic from the main street of Oakey. It will also provide significant benefits to the transport industry in travel time savings as the new bypass will be 1 kilometre shorter than the current route.

Ron Camm Bridge

There is no doubt that duplication of the Ron Camm Bridge is a very high priority on the National Highway System (NHS) in Queensland. However, it should be noted that, although these duplication works will significantly improve travel times in peak periods on this urban link of the NHS, all weather access is currently provided at this location ie. trips may be impeded under heavy traffic at certain times of the day, but access is not cut off.

Therefore, when travel-time savings for private vehicles are taken out of the benefit/cost calculation, the BCR on the Ron Camm Bridge reduces from 11.5 to 2.4, and achieves a similar priority ranking as Thomson River Bridge and Oakey Bypass projects.

It needs to be recognised that if roads projects were prioritised strictly on BCRs, the bulk of road funding would be diverted towards a network of urban roads in the South East corner, or urban links in NSW and Victoria; rather than a national road system which services the economic and regional development needs of this nation.

In the NHS program submission to the Federal Government, Queensland submits a multi-year program of priority projects, not a list of projects, which are prioritised 1, 2, 3, 4, etc. All of the above projects were submitted as "very high priority", in accordance with cash flow projections which could be achieved (ie. best case scenario), subject to Federal funding approval.

Although Federal funding for duplication of the Ron Camm Bridge project had not been secured at the

time of publication of the current Roads Implementation Program, I am confident that the Federal Minister for Transport and Regional Development fully appreciates the merits of this important NHS project and, with the continued strong support of Federal and State local members, funding approval will be obtained to enable these duplication works to proceed within the next few years.

1407. Mount Isa and District Home Assistance/Security Scheme

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (3/12/96)—

With reference to the Mt Isa and District Home Assistance/Security Scheme and, in particular, the question mark which hangs over the funding of this body and as the local board has been working on a month to month basis, trying to ascertain what the future funding for this organisation could be and I understand that he requested the Community Housing Grants Board to make recommendations to him regarding the future funding for this body and that this body recommended that the organisation be funded until the end of 1996-97, however, he has now decreed that funding will only apply until February 1997—

- (1) Does he understand the frustration of the members of this committee, and why should they continue to provide a public service when they appear to be getting no support from him?
- (2) Why did he request the Community Housing Grants Board to make recommendations to him if, on receipt of these recommendations, he has totally ignored them?
- (3) What is the status of funding for the Mt Isa and District Home Assistance/Security Scheme?

Mr Connor (2/1/97): I am pleased to inform the Honourable Member that I have agreed to fund the Mt Isa and District Home Assist/Secure Scheme for the remainder of the 1996/97 financial year.

1408. Ministerial Staff

Mr BEATTIE asked the Premier (3/12/96)—

What is the staff complement of each Ministerial Office, including the designations and salary range for each position listed?

Mr Borbidge (2/1/97): The staff complements are as follows: Premier 20 (including three attached to Parliamentary Secretary in Townsville Office); Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts 15 (including two attached to Parliamentary Secretary); Minister for Economic Development and Trade and Minister Assisting the Premier 9; Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry 11; Minister for Education 11; Minister for Local Government and Planning 9; Minister for Training and Industrial Relations 8; Minister for Environment 9; Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care 11 (including

two attached to Parliamentary Secretary); Minister for Health 10; Attorney-General and Minister for Justice 9; Minister for Natural Resources 10; Minister for Mines and Energy 9; Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing 14; Minister for Transport and Main Roads 9; Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry 12; Minister for Public Works and Housing 9; and Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport 10. Total establishment is 195.

The above total includes officers seconded from Departmental staff.

In respect to the designations and salary range of positions, I reiterate that in this regard, the range of positions and their respective salary bands are similar to those offered by the former Labor Government.

1409. Southern Ipswich Bypass

Mr HAMILL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (3/12/96)—

With reference to proposed works on the Southern Ipswich Bypass between Ripley and Yamanto—

- (1) What is the extent of the proposed works?
- (2) When will the work commence?
- (3) When will the work be completed?
- (4) What is the estimated cost of these works?

Mr Johnson (2/1/97):

(1) This is a Federally funded project included on the current Road Implementation Program. The works provide for pavement rehabilitation from Chum Street to Purga Creek on the Southern Ipswich Bypass under job number 85/17B/804.

(2 & 3) The scheme has been divided, by necessity, into sections as a result of the AUSTROADS National PMB (Polymodified Bitumen Binder) trials which are contained within this scheme. The Department of Main Roads has an agreement with AUSTROADS for those trials to be monitored over a twenty-four month period from mid 1995 to mid 1997.

The scheme is being delivered in three parts:

Part 1 Shoulder sealing from Chum Street to Purga Creek.

This has been constructed already at a cost of \$216,000.

Part 2 Pavement rehabilitation by asphalt overlay on sections which are unaffected by the AUSTROADS National PMB trials.

Work on the section from Swanbank Road to Purga Creek has commenced and will be completed in January 1997, at an estimated cost of \$800,000.

Part 3 Pavement rehabilitation of the remaining section from Chum Street to Purga Creek.

This work is programmed to commence and be completed in the 1997/98 financial year, at a forecast cost of \$1,680,000.

(4) The estimated total cost of these works is \$2.69 million.

1410. Hughesville, Eight Mile Plains

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Environment (3/12/96)—

With reference to the heritage listed home at the corner of Logan Road and Padstow Road, Eight Mile Plains, commonly known as 'Hughesville' and to concerns that have been expressed that this valuable home is being extensively damaged by vandals—

What discussions have officers from his department had with the owners of this property and what action will he take to ensure that this home is protected from further damage?

Mr Littleproud (13/12/96): Officers of my Department held meetings with a representative of the present owner of Hughesville in July and November of this year.

I am advised that the present owner is currently exploring plans for the property.

Officers at the meetings in July and November discussed and actively encouraged the erection of fencing to make the property secure from vandalism while alternative options for the future of the site are being pursued.

The Queensland Heritage Act 1992 does not contain any provisions to compel the owner of a registered heritage place to secure a place, or undertake any works of repair and/or maintenance.

1411. Rail Services, North Queensland

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (3/12/96)—

- (1) What is the projected date for recommencement of rail services on the rail line from Mareeba to Alma Den and Mt Surprise?
- (2) Will he give consideration to extending passenger services from Kuranda to Atherton to provide for tourists from Cairns to visit the tourist attractions of the Atherton Tableland?

Mr Johnson (2/1/97):

(1) Before any service can recommence on the Mareeba to Mt Surprise section of line, repair work must be carried out. This work includes bridges, signalling and signage. The date for opening of the line was originally set for mid 1997, however, a bush fire in September 1996 which destroyed a timber bridge in the Dimbulah / Petford area may delay the opening by two to three months depending on the weather.

(2) There are no plans to extend the service beyond Kuranda to Atherton. The former rail service from Cairns to Atherton is now serviced by a road coach which is subsidised by Queensland Rail. However, the new weekly rail motor service between Cairns and Forsyth will offer passengers an additional service between Cairns and Mareeba.

1412. Protocol Regarding Police Pursuits

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (3/12/96)—

With reference to recent correspondence from him, where he stated, "police pursuits are regarded in a serious light by the Queensland Police Service and a protocol is in place which regulates the conduct of such pursuits"—

- (1) Are all police officers in possession of written protocols regarding "police pursuits"?
- (2) Will he provide me with a copy of these protocols?

Mr Cooper (20/12/96):

(1) All police officers throughout the State can access current Police Service policy, orders and procedures relating to "police pursuits" from the Operational Procedures Manual on the Queensland Police Service computer system Bulletin Board.

Hard copy of the Operational Procedures Manual is also available at all police stations and establishments.

(2) A copy of section 1.7 (Safe driving policy — urgent duty driving) of the Operational Procedures Manual has been supplied to Mr HOLLIS for his information.

1413. Woodwark Bay

Mr MILLINER asked the Minister for Environment (3/12/96)—

With reference to the Premier's extension of the Woodwark Bay, November 21st Sunset Clause—

- (1) Was he consulted on this decision; if so, did he oppose it; if not, why not?
- (2) What advice did he receive from his department regarding this extension?
- (3) Does he agree that this extension is for nine months and not six months as announced?

Mr Littleproud (2/1/97):

(1), (2) and (3) This issue was addressed after consultation between the Director-General, Department of Environment, and the Director-General, Department of the Premier and Cabinet (in his capacity as Co-ordinator General). Subsequently, the proponent was advised by the Honourable the Premier that he was prepared to extend the Stage 1 works commencement date to 23 May 1997; if work was not commenced on or before this date, a notice would be issued by him pursuant to the Land Tenure Deed, requiring commencement within three months; if this was not complied with, the Land Tenure Deed would be terminated.

The Honourable the Premier also advised the proponent's obligations under the Management Agreement prior to any start on construction, including establishment of an Environmental Management Program (EMP) to the satisfaction of the Director-General, Department of Environment; completion of baseline studies in the Environmental Review Report; and implementation of any part of the EMP required before commencement of any "relevant activity".

The proponents are also required to inform the Co-ordinator General quarterly of progress regarding endeavours to introduce substantial further equity into the project.

1414. Back-burning, Crows Nest Region

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Environment (3/12/96)—

With reference to reports that officers of the Department of Environment twice refused permission to firefighters in the Crows Nest area to back-burn in National Park areas in that locality—

- (1) Is this true, if so, why were the applications refused?
- (2) Did Fire Services proceed with the back-burn regardless?
- (3) What are the results of the investigation he instigated into this matter?
- (4) What action does he intend to take to resolve such conflicts in future?

Mr Littleproud (23/12/96): During the actual fire emergency in the Crows Nest area, the bushfires started and generally burnt on land outside of the National Park. The fire was burning in country to the north east of the park with prevailing winds blowing in a northerly and north westerly direction.

I am advised that officers of my Department at Crows Nest did not refuse permission to firefighters in the Crows Nest area to back-burn in National Park areas in that locality.

During the afternoon of Sunday 1 December 1996, after consultation with the First Officer of the Crows Nest Rural Fire Brigade, Departmental officers physically assisted with the construction of a firebreak that traversed both the north eastern sector of Crows Nest National Park and, adjacent private land to the north of the park.

Again, in consultation with the First Officer of the Crows Nest Rural Fire Brigade, it was agreed that this firebreak would be the first line of defence in the event of any wind shifts. It was also agreed that back-burning operations would be carried out from this fire control line at nightfall.

The results of my inquiries have revealed that there is no evidence to support the assertion that the Department of Environment refused permission for firefighters to back-burn on the Sunday night. In fact, Departmental officers were engaged in carrying out the back-burn in conjunction with Rural Fire Brigade (RFB) volunteers. Two of my Department's officers maintained a patrol of this fire line until 2.30 am on the morning of Monday 2 December 1996 to allow RFB volunteers the opportunity to rest.

My Department's Acting Regional Director (Southwestern) will be initiating a full debriefing between himself, the Department's District Manager (Toowoomba), the Acting Regional Coordinator (Emergency Services), and the District Inspector (Emergency Services—Rural Fires). The objectives of this debriefing will be to:

fully explore the recent fire response at Crows Nest and to institute, if deemed appropriate, any improvements to procedures and guidelines; and

examine and advise the respective Departments on recommended operational procedures for the on-ground application of a "dispute referral mechanism". This should ensure that the chain of command process during emergency fire responses remain clear and unambiguous.

On a Statewide basis action is being taken to approve the Fire Management Policy for protected areas and other lands held by the Department of Environment. This will be followed by discussions with the Queensland Fire Services, Rural Division and the drawing up of a Memorandum of Understanding between the two agencies.

1415. Power Supply, Daintree Region

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (3/12/96)—

With reference to the meeting he held with residents north of the Daintree on 5 October when he displayed options for extending the power grid further north of the Daintree River and to his advice that a submission would go to Cabinet within weeks—

- (1) Will he provide details of progress on route selection for the grid extension?
- (2) Has his department commissioned an Impact Assessment Statement especially on environmental issues including those identified by the Department of Environment; if so, will he release the terms of reference; if not, why not?
- (3) What public consultation is planned as part of the Impact Assessment Statement?
- (4) When will a decision on this matter be made?

Mr Gilmore (23/12/96): The Far North Queensland Electricity Board (FNQEB) has developed a proposal for a combination of overhead and underground 22 kV powerline to freehold land north of the Daintree River to Coopers Creek, but excluding Cape Tribulation. However, finalisation of the proposed route of the powerline scheme is subject to the satisfactory completion of a full Environmental Impact Study (EIS).

FNQEB will undertake a full EIS on its proposal to extend mains power north of the Daintree River. In developing the Terms of Reference for the EIS, FNQEB will seek the views of the Wet Tropics Management Authority, the Departments of Environment, Local Government and Planning and Mines and Energy, Douglas Shire Council and the Queensland Conservation Council. It is intended that the Terms of Reference will be made public when they have been finalised.

The preparation of the EIS will involve extensive consultation with State, Federal and Local Government agencies, environment and community groups and affected property owners.

On 2 December, the Government gave in principle approval to the extension of mains power to freehold properties north of the Daintree River. Moreover, the Government agreed that a full EIS would be prepared and that subject to a satisfactory outcome, FNQEB would proceed with the installation of mains power to the region. It is anticipated that construction of the proposed scheme could commence in mid 1998.

1416. Families, Youth and Community Care Department, Bundaberg

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (3/12/96)—

- (1) What was (a) the staffing levels of his department in Bundaberg for 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996 and what is proposed for 1997 and (b) the number of clients and children who came into his department's care or required support from his department (including the number of foster children in care)?
- (2) Has the number of child abuse cases increased in the Bundaberg area?
- (3) How does the case level per staff member compare to other areas in Queensland?

Mr Lingard (17/12/96):

- (1) (a) The current staffing level for Bundaberg Area Office is 14 staff—1 Manager, 1 Team Leader, 7 Family Services Officers (1 of which is temporary), 2 Administrative staff, .5 Resource Officer, .5 Family Resource Worker, .5 Family and Community Worker (which is temporary). Additions to staffing levels since 1993 have been a .5 Resource Officer and .5 Family Services Officer (established in 1993 in relation to implementation of the Juvenile Justice Act), 1.5 Family Services Officers (1994), the Family Resource Worker position was made permanent in 1995, and 1 Family Services Officer (1996). The supernumerary Family Services Officer position has currently been extended to 28 March 1997, and the Family and Community Worker position funding ceases on 20 December 1996. It is intended that staffing levels will reflect program responsibilities throughout 1997.
- (b) There are currently 94 children/young people under guardianship orders in the Bundaberg area. Of these, 68 are placed with foster parents/careproviders. The number of children on protective orders has remained consistent from 1993 to 1996 (approximately 100 on orders and 24 admitted to orders). These children represent approximately 3.5% of children under orders in the State. Over the past 12 months Bundaberg Area Office received 1206 Intakes. There has been an increase from 6.4% to 9.8% in the Area Office's proportion of non-statutory casework across the state.

(2) Statistics of child protection notifications in the Bundaberg Area Office since 1993 show an increase with 240 in 1993-94; 256 in 1994-95 and 276 in 1995-96. There has been an increase in the proportion of notifications assessed as substantiated or outcomes from 23.9% to 30%.

(3) While Bundaberg Area Office consistently has a high child protection caseload in Central Queensland Region, staff carry similar caseloads per staff member to other offices in the region.

1417. Trading Hours

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (3/12/96)—

- (1) Now that he has done a massive back-flip concerning the winding back of retail trading hours, will he now admit that he falsely raised the hopes of small business people by promising something which he knew he could never deliver?
- (2) Will he apologise to the business people of Brisbane's inner northern suburbs for breaking yet another election promise?

Mr Santoro (23/12/96):

(1) I totally reject the validity of the assertions by the honourable member that a promise was made by the Government to revert trading hours back to those in existence prior to the 1994 legislative changes which the Labor Government was responsible for.

At no time was there a commitment given by the Coalition to reduce the present core trading hours. Indeed, the Coalition's policy on trading hours included a commitment to institute a properly constituted and independent inquiry to determine the effects of the 1994 legislative changes to trading hours. The Government has delivered on its election promise.

It is true that the Coalition, when in opposition, opposed the way in which trading hours were legislatively extended in 1994 by the former Labour Government. These changes were made without any public consultation, which is in direct contrast to the process adopted by the Coalition Government.

However, I reiterate that no commitment was given to wind back trading hours and I take this opportunity to remind the honourable member of the former Labor Government's 1994 "deal" with the union movement to extend trading hours, which was made without any public consultation whatsoever.

The process undertaken by the Coalition Government in reaching a decision on this most complex and sensitive issue is in stark contrast to the former Labor Government's conscious and political decision in 1994 to extend trading hours.

(2) No election promise was broken. In contrast to the Labor Government who extended trading hours in 1994 without any public consultation, this Government, through its inquiry, has consulted widely. I believe the best result has been delivered in the interests of all Queenslanders.

1418. Q-Build

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (3/12/96)—

With reference to his answers to a previous Question on Notice regarding the future of Q Build and other business units—

- (1) Will any public sector agencies currently tied to Q Build be untied at 1 July 1997; if so, which agencies?
- (2) Which, if any, other business units will be untied at 1 July 1997?
- (3) What effect will the untying of Q Build, and any other business units, have on employment levels in these business units?

Mr Connor (2/1/97):

(1) From 1 July 1997, the maintenance budgets will be administered by client departments which will have the choice of continuing to use Q-Build to provide their services or of using alternate service providers.

Q-Build has not had tied clients for construction work since 1 July 1996.

(2) Apart from Q-Fleet, all other business units currently operate in a predominantly untied environment.

(3) The decision to untie clients from the business units was taken by the previous Labor Government after a review and recommendation by the Public Sector Management Commission. To date, there has been little impact on the employment levels in business units, but this is obviously dependent upon their ability to retain and/or expand the client base.

1419. Community Recreation Facilities, Nudgee Electorate

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (3/12/96)—

With reference to the need for multi-purpose community hall facilities in both the Zillmere and Banyo/Nudgee districts—

- (1) Will he authorise officers of the Office of Sport and Recreation to negotiate with other relevant departments and authorities to enable the funding and construction of these facilities?
- (2) When will he act upon his welcome acknowledgment that the Zillmere community is in need of a community recreation facility?

Mr Veivers (23/12/96):

(1) I will not authorise officers of the Office of Sport to enter into negotiations for the development of facilities on behalf of community groups.

(2) The Community Recreation Centres Program was an initiative of the previous government and has been discontinued. Currently there is no funding program within the Office of Sport and Recreation which caters for the development of community recreation facilities.

While I have acknowledged the need of the Zillmere community I am unable to take any action at the present time.

It may be of interest to Mr Roberts that the House of Representatives is at present conducting an Inquiry into the Funding of Community Sport and Recreation Facilities.

1420. Police Station, Palm Beach

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (3/12/96)—

With reference to the proposed Palm Beach Police Station—

- (1) Will the station be staffed on a 24 hour rotational basis?
- (2) What will the staffing levels be for each shift, including the night shifts on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights?
- (3) What hours will the station be open to the public?

Mr Cooper (12/12/96): The Queensland Police Service is still negotiating the acquisition of a site for the proposed Palm Beach Police Station. The Station is not expected to be operational until the 1998/99 financial year.

At this stage, no final decision has been made regarding the staffing and operation of the proposed Palm Beach Police Station.

1421. Bribie Island/Pumicestone Passage

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Environment (3/12/96)—

With reference to concerns in the Sunshine Coast and Bribie Island communities, fuelled by comments alleged to have been made by Treasurer Sheldon—

- (1) Will he guarantee that there will be no sell-off of land purchased on Bribie Island and the western shore of Pumicestone Passage as part of the \$10m Pumicestone package announced by the Labor Government in early 1995?
- (2) Will he guarantee that there will be no sell-off of other land held in various tenures by the Department of Environment in the Sunshine Coast region, except for urban properties?
- (3) Will he outline plans for expansion of the National Park Estate in the Bribie Island/Glasshouse Mountains/Sunshine Coast Region?

Mr Littleproud (23/12/96):

(1) No. The majority of the five lots purchased in the Pumicestone Passage area have or until very recently had pine plantations situated upon them. Given the cost of rehabilitating such extensively disturbed areas, retention of all of this land may not be the most effective way of achieving the required conservation outcomes. Retention of areas containing vegetation in a largely original condition for conservation purposes and sale of other areas may be a useful means of funding the purchase of

other environmentally significant land in the Pumicestone Passage area.

The land on Bribie Island is in a strategically important location and opportunities and methods of rehabilitating the area once the pine plantations have been harvested will be investigated.

(2) The Department holds many areas of land with significant conservation values which are gazetted as National Parks and Conservation Parks in the Sunshine Coast region. There is no proposal to revoke any of these areas for sale or disposal.

Two proposals are being considered at the moment involving land exchanges whereby small areas of two Parks which have been utilised as road corridors will be revoked on the basis that these areas have limited conservation value. In return, two larger areas of land containing significant conservation values will be added to the Parks to offset the loss of area.

(3) The Department of Environment has a number of proposals for expanding the protected area estate in the Sunshine Coast area which are kept under review having regard to State-wide priorities for extension of the estate. As a matter of policy the Government does not publicly discuss specific acquisition proposals in detail in advance of negotiations with landholders.

(1)

Preschool	Half/Full Day	Enrol capacity for 1997	No. Enrolled for 1997	No. on waiting list
Lindum	Full day but 2.5 days/week	50	25	13
Lota	Full day	50	44	0
Manly West	Full day	100	100	3
Wynnum North	Half day	50	50	10
Wynnum West	Full day	100	50	22

Reports from the teachers in charge of these preschools indicate that some parents may be listed on more than one waiting list.

(2) Yes

(3) Yes

(4) The Metropolitan East Region has, through local principals, estimated the demand for placement in 1997 and provided services to meet that expected demand. Should actual enrolment and numbers on waiting lists at the commencement of the 1997 school year prove different from predictions, service levels can be increased to ensure all students are provided with a program.

1423. Environment Department, Development Projects

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Environment (3/12/96)—

With reference to an article in the *Courier-Mail* of 3 December which states, "State Cabinet accusations that Environment Department staff are holding up more than 100 development projects across Queensland"—

1422. Preschools, Lytton Electorate

Mr LUCAS asked the Minister for Education (3/12/96)—

With reference to State Government pre-schools in the Electorate of Lytton—

- (1) For each school (a) does the school operate on a half day or full day basis, (b) what is the enrolment capacity for 1997 and (c) what are the actual number of students enrolled for 1997 and the waiting list?
- (2) Has the Wynnum West State Pre-school capacity for two units (each providing classes for two sets of children per week) but only one unit is proposed to be opened for 1997?
- (3) Has the Lindum State Pre-school only one full-time session per week proposed for 1997 therefore leaving a vacant full time session for the other half of each week?
- (4) Bearing in mind the high demand from parents for placements for full day pre-school, will he give a commitment to opening up the remaining unit at Wynnum West Pre-school for 1997 and/or extending current opening of the Lindum State Pre-school from one full time session per week to its physical capacity of two full-time pre-school sessions per week?

Mr Quinn (3/1/97):

- (1) Is this true; if not, what is the true position?
- (2) How many development projects are being considered by his department?
- (3) Where are the projects located and how are they classified?

Mr Littleproud (24/12/96):

(1) No. An internal review within the Department of Environment indicated that there are no major problems associated with the Departmental approach to processing and monitoring of development applications.

The Government is investigating impediments to infrastructure delivery and the Department of Environment is participating in this process.

(2) At any one time, the Department is likely to have before it some hundreds of projects at various stages of assessment. This does not mean that the Department has responsibility for the approval of all such projects.

(3) Projects under consideration by the Department are scattered widely across the State and include private as well as public sector developments. They are generally classified on the basis of the project's

location within a Departmental Region, and the Local Government area.

1424. Morayfield West State School

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (3/12/96)—

With reference to the new primary school at Morayfield West—

Will he give an undertaking that a crossing supervisor will be appointed to take up duties at the commencement of the 1997 school year at the chosen site on Walkers Road, Morayfield?

Mr Johnson (2/1/97): Morayfield West State School is a new school opening in 1997. The school's main access will be via Turner's Road and it is on this road that the school's Steering Committee is seeking to have a crossing supervisor appointed. Queensland Transport staff have been talking with the school's Steering Committee and the school Principal about this application.

There are other schools in the area with applications previously submitted for crossing supervision. Schools which meet the criteria for a supervised crossings will have supervisors appointed as funds become available.

To provide a supervisor at Morayfield West State School prior to establishing their actual need would be unfair to those schools already on the waiting list for funding. As an alternative, Queensland Transport staff have offered to train, equip and authorise an adult volunteer from the school community to supervise the crossing. Once the school is open Queensland Transport will be able to undertake reviews of the site and establish the priority of this application.

The use of a school community volunteer to supervise a school crossing has been successfully trialled at another site in the Region. This arrangement allows schools which do not meet the criteria for funding, or where the criteria cannot be established, to have their crossings supervised while Government funds are directed to higher risk sites. In this way we can ensure that taxpayers' funds spent on road safety are delivering the highest possible benefits in reducing the road toll.

1425. Police Powers

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (3/12/96)—

With reference to the release by the Criminal Justice Commission on 21 November of its research report titled "Defendants Perceptions of the Investigations and Arrest Process" which demonstrates that reform of the arrest process and questioning of suspected offenders requires urgent attention, with most citizens being unaware of their rights and many police still relying on bluff or deception in order to

be able to question suspects about offences and also to his media statements of the same date in which he advised that police powers proposals will be finalised by him by September of October 1997, and the fact that the Criminal Justice Commission produced five extensive volumes on police powers recommendations between May 1993 and October 1994, which were the subject of reports and recommendations to the Parliament, by the second Parliamentary Criminal Justice Committee following public hearings and extensive consultation with all major interest groups, and studies of the interstate and international experience and, as he has had the Bingham Report for many months—

Why will he not use the extensive material currently available to him from the Criminal Justice Commission, the second Parliamentary Criminal Justice Committee and the Bingham Inquiry to urgently reform police powers and why will it take until September/October 1997 before he finalises proposals?

Mr Cooper (20/12/96): The process of reforming police powers is currently under way. It is recognised that many benefits lie in the provision of an Act which not only consolidates but also, as far as is possible, rationalises police powers. The most obvious benefits are identified by Mr Barton namely, knowledge by a citizen of his or her rights and obligations and provision to police of adequate investigatory powers.

In the course of developing this legislation, consideration has been and will continue to be given to the contents of the Reports prepared by the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC), the Parliamentary Criminal Justice Committee (PCJC), and the Bingham Inquiry.

These three Bodies recognised that the conferring of police powers must be accompanied by adequate safeguards. It is important that the rights of the individual be balanced against society's right to have offenders brought to justice. To determine a workable approach takes time. This is particularly so in the case of the legislation relating to police powers.

The concerns identified by the CJC and raised by Mr Barton relating to questioning of suspects may undoubtedly be dealt with by legislation providing for, and regulating, the questioning of suspects arrested for serious offences. However, as the CJC and the PCJC could not agree on the form that such a scheme should take, it may be appropriate for the public to be given the opportunity to respond to this and other specific issues to enable the Government to determine the best approach to take.

This legislation when enacted will fundamentally impact upon police procedures. Not only will operational procedures need to be revised in some instances, but adequate training of all police officers will have to be undertaken prior to the commencement of the Act. This was recognised most recently in the Bingham Committee Report. While the significance and desirability of this legislation cannot be understated, it must, for the benefit of the community as a whole, undergo the normal processes of consultation.

1426. Pollution of Waterways

Mr FOLEY asked the Minister for Environment (3/12/96)—

- (1) Is he aware of pollution problems identified in the past in the Brisbane River and in creeks flowing into it?
- (2) Will he give an assurance that unacceptable pollution levels are not present in (a) Ekibin Creek, (b) Stable Swamp Creek, (c) Oxley Creek and (d) the Brisbane River near Yeronga?
- (3) What action is he taking to monitor and improve water quality in (a) Ekibin Creek, (b) Stable Swamp Creek, (c) Oxley Creek and (d) the Brisbane River near Yeronga?

Mr Littleproud (23/12/96):

(1) Yes. I am also aware that the previous Labor Government did nothing to address the issue.

(2) No. The creeks named and the Brisbane River at Yeronga all lie within the Brisbane urban area and some are within industrial areas. These waters are all subject to contamination and to urban run-off. The legacy of past poor environmental practices can be detected in the sediments of parts of some creeks.

(3) The Brisbane River Management Group based in the Department of Environment is currently working on a Management Plan for the River which is anticipated to be released for public comment during 1997. This Plan will include measures aimed at improving water quality in areas where this is seen as desirable and practical.

In relation to improving the condition of Oxley Creek, the Brisbane River Management Group has sponsored the establishment of a Catchment Coordinating Committee. This Committee has overseen a number of activities including reports on the state of the Oxley Creek catchment and a program to involve the community and industry in improving the quality of the creek. Development of a Management Plan for the creek and its catchment will commence in 1997.

The Committee is helping to set up a community water monitoring program (Waterwatch) for the creek. The Department of Environment, in partnership with the Brisbane City Council, undertakes routine monitoring of Oxley Creek.

The Department routinely monitors water quality in the Brisbane River.

1427. Depreciation Liability

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (3/12/96)—

With reference to page 20 of the 1995-96 Annual Economic Report which restates the Commission of Audit Projections 2006-07—

- (1) What was the method used by Dr Fitzgerald to calculate depreciation liability?
- (2) Which method is the Treasury intending to use to calculate depreciation and are there any

discretions proposed for funding depreciation under full accrual accounting?

Mrs Sheldon (2/1/97):

(1) Depreciation of non-current assets was calculated using information from departmental calculations, from asset registers and from estimates of asset values and useful lives used in the whole-of-Government Consolidated Statement of Assets and Liabilities prepared by Arthur Anderson.

As indicated in the notes to the financial statements prepared by the Commission of Audit, assets were depreciated over their estimated useful lives in a manner which reflects the consumption of their service potential. Details of the approach adopted by the Commission for each category of assets is as follows:

Buildings

Depreciation for most Government buildings was based on an estimated useful life of 40 years—giving an annual expense of 2.5% of the building's current value. Education buildings have an estimated useful life of 75 years based on age profile and nature of the buildings. Residential properties held by the Department of Administrative Services (as it was at 30 June 1995) were estimated to have a useful life of 66 years.

Plant integral to buildings

Such plant was depreciated on the basis of an estimated useful life of 15 years, except for the plant controlled by the Department of Transport and the Corrective Services Commission—for which depreciation figures were provided by those agencies.

Plant and equipment

Approximately 66% of plant and equipment depreciation was derived from details calculations from departmental asset registers. Depreciation rates ranging from 8% to 14% were estimated by Arthur Andersen for a number of departments based on the best information available at the time.

Infrastructure

The useful lives used to depreciate infrastructure assets were derived from estimates supplied by departments, including a detailed asset listing of maritime assets, and from the rates in the Australian Master Tax Guide. Road Pavement was estimated to have an average useful life of 25 years. Details of the sensitivity of this calculation to changes in estimated useful lives appears on page 97 of the Commission of Audit Report.

Other assets

Depreciation of museum and library collections was based on an average estimated useful life of 100 years. Capitalised software development costs associated with the implementation of major health systems have been estimated to have a useful life of 5 years. The Department of Lands estimated that water facilities on stock routes, cold storage depots and miscellaneous assets have a useful life of 20 years.

(2) The calculation of depreciation expense is the responsibility of individual departments and

agencies, having regard for Australian Accounting Standards (as adopted and applied by the Public Finance Standards), Treasury Department's Accounting Policy Guidelines and the need to satisfy the Auditor-General about the reliability of accounting estimates.

As a general rule depreciation will be based on the useful life of an asset estimated on either a time or output basis after considering such factors as wear and tear and commercial and technical obsolescence.

The issue of funding depreciation and other non-cash costs under output-based budgeting is yet to be considered.

1428. Conservation Park, Albany Creek

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (3/12/96)—

With reference to the Coalition's promise to declare approximately 60 hectares of bushland at Keong Road, Albany Creek as conservation park—

- (1) Is part of the land currently being sold off for property development?
- (2) How much of the land will be sold off?
- (3) Has he yet declared the remaining land as conservation park; if not, why is the Government refusing to fulfil its election promises to Albany Creek residents?
- (4) When will the conservation park be declared/gazetted?
- (5) Has the Government developed a management plan for the area; if not, why not?
- (6) What environmental values does the land have?
- (7) When will these values receive legal protection?

Mr Littleproud (2/1/97):

(1) to (7) As I am presently advised, there has been no Coalition promise to declare land at Keong Road, Albany Creek as conservation park.

1429. Roads Implementation Program

Mr ELDER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (3/12/96)—

What adjustments has he made to his Roads Implementation Program tabled in this House on 26 November, as a result of the Premier's announcement on 25 November that the Premier would be scrapping developers infrastructure contributions?

Mr Johnson (2/1/97): The Premier's announcement on 25 November 1996 regarding developers' infrastructure contributions advised that the State Government would be scrapping the transport infrastructure levy; ie. this decision related to the catchment levy scheme (or headworks changing arrangement) which had been implemented in Cairns and the Gold Coast areas.

In that statement (attached), the Premier indicated that "developers would still have to support the provision of infrastructure, through the individual impact assessment process under the Transport Infrastructure Act, but said the charges would be much less onerous".

An extract of an advice provided to regional and district managers should clarify the situation for you:

headworks charging, as a means of applying development contributions to developments referred by local government for roads, would not be approved after 5pm 22 November 1996. Main Roads is happy to review any conditions approved prior to 22 November 1996, under the appeal provisions of the Transport Infrastructure Act.

development contributions will continue to be applied to developments on the basis of before and after traffic studies, indicating the impact of the proposed development. Contribution "in kind" or dollars will be expected to cover those items relevant only to the impact of development;

for works required, this should be limited to a ten-year planning horizon. Future State-controlled roads should be protected in this process, and Main Roads will pay market price for any land dedicated by the developer for approved road planning needs.

The guidelines for the development of the 1996-97 to 2000-01 Roads Implementation Program (RIP) specified that:

Where projects are dependent upon development/Council contributions:

the estimated total cost of the works which are covered by the contract, is to be shown in the RIP;

a credit amount is to be reflected in the district/regional allocation which reflects known and/or estimated development contributions to effect a balanced allocation;

the development contribution, as well as any offsetting credit, are to be included where negotiations have concluded; otherwise, the amount should be left blank.

Consequently, development contributions identified in the RIP tabled in Parliament on 26 November 1996 reflect development contributions where negotiations have been concluded and the contributions agreed; otherwise approved projects have been funded within the regional allocation.

As you are aware, projects are published in the RIP on the basis that funding for years one and two is firm, with years three to five indicative only.

It is not expected that the development contributions decision will have any impact on projects outlined in 1996-97 and 1997-98 for which development contributions were agreed and identified. To the extent, that circumstances arise which alter this situation, program variation details will be reported in the next RIP in accordance with program approval procedures established during your term of Administration.

1430. Brisbane Rape Incest Crisis Centre

Ms SPENCE asked the Minister for Health (3/12/96)—

- (1) Will he guarantee that funding for the Brisbane Rape Incest Crisis Centre will not be cut in 1997?
- (2) Will he continue to support the 24 hour Statewide counselling line provided by this service with appropriate funding?

Mr Horan (2/1/97):

(1) Funding in 1996/97 for the Brisbane Rape and Incest Crisis Service has been renegotiated between the organisation and departmental officers. Agreement has been reached that the service can accommodate a reduction in funding for 1996/97 of \$14,070 without key service provision being affected.

The Prevention of Violence Against Women Program was reviewed this year by an independent body and the Review made recommendations to improve both the management and strategic direction of the Program.

A structured process for allocation of funds in 1997/98 will commence early in 1997 to ensure that future funding for rape and sexual assault services is based on need, service quality and equity.

Rape and sexual assault service provision in the Brisbane and surrounding regions is extensively funded. Nine rape and sexual assault services, including the Brisbane Rape and Incest Crisis Centre, will be funded at a total cost in 1996/97 of \$1.6M.

(2) The level of funding agreed between the Brisbane Rape and Incest Crisis Centre and the Prevention of Violence Against Women Program will enable continuation of the 24 hour service to the end of this financial year.

24 hour crisis counselling is currently provided by a number of regional rape and sexual assault services funded by the Prevention of Violence Against Women Program.

In addition the Coalition Government has funded the positions of additional Government Medical Officers and assistant support and training for Townsville and the Logan/Ipswich area. This new initiative to specifically provides support for victims of sexual assault by developing a roster system for female GP's so they can provide appropriate and timely attention and support. This initiatives has been widely supported by women in both these areas.

1431. Rockhampton Base Hospital

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Health (3/12/96)—

With reference to the 1996-97 Budget for the Rockhampton Base Hospital—

- (1) What is the indicative or precise budget for the Rockhampton Base Hospital for 1996-97?
- (2) When was this finalised?
- (3) If it has not been finalised; then when will it be?

- (4) By how many patients will the category 3 waiting lists at the base hospital be reduced by the implementation of the 1996-97 budget?

Mr Horan (2/1/97):

(1) As I have advised in answers to previous Questions on Notice, meaningful comparable information on 1996-97 hospital budgets is not available until 1996-97 budget processes have been substantially completed.

Due to the fact that we are in the first year of managing under a District structure, some reallocation of responsibility of certain services (and therefore components of some District/hospital budgets) is occurring between Districts/facilities. Examples of this are in Oral Health, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, Mental Health, and pathology all of which increase the complexity of variations at a facility level. It is envisaged these issues should be largely resolved during 1996-97.

There are a significant number of variations to District Health Service budgets (and therefore hospital budgets) which will occur during the normal course of the budget process right through to 30 June 1997. Throughout the year, Districts (and hospitals/facilities via Districts) submit claims on funds temporarily held by Corporate Office (eg Commonwealth Programs, Hospital Access Bonus Pool, health promotion, litigation, home support scheme, and the like); or funds to be obtained from Queensland Treasury (eg receipt offsets).

It should be remembered that budgets are determined and allocated at a District level, rather than directly to hospitals and other facilities. My department continually reviews the issue of hospital budgets in the context of normal departmental budget reporting processes.

We are embarking on a policy of detailing District Health Service budgets which will address the issue. It is anticipated that a breakdown of the estimated major components of 1996-97 District budgets will be available during the latter part of the financial year, when many of the issues referred to above will be substantially completed as part of the normal course of the budget process.

(2&3) District Health Service budgets (and therefore hospital budgets) are continuously updated through to the end of financial year for a considerable number of adjustments as various programs and topics become finalised. The budget for the Rockhampton Base Hospital can not be regarded as finalised until the end of financial year as is the case for all District Health Services and therefore all hospitals across the State. A number of budget adjustments occur by necessity at year end, eg high cost drugs for the fourth quarter, monthly HABP funding, superannuation (which is funded according to actual expenditure), and receipt offsets, ie where the budget is directly linked to a revenue item (eg prosthetic appliances for private patients, multi purpose service centres, and rural health training recoveries). These late adjustments can materially affect final District budgets.

(4) As at 1 July 1996, the Rockhampton Base Hospital had 1,546 Category 3 patients waiting for

elective surgery of which 604 had waited longer than 12 months. As at 1 December 1996, the number of Category 3 patients had reduced to 1,289 of which 426 had waited longer than 12 months.

The Surgery on Time initiative for the management of elective surgery in Queensland public hospitals focuses on the reduction of waiting times for elective surgery, rather than the number of people on the waiting list. As a result there has been a considerable reduction in the proportion of long wait elective surgery patients in all categories at the Rockhampton Base Hospital since June 1996.

The proportion of Category 1 patients who have waited longer than the recommended 30 days has been reduced from 50% in June 1996 to 14% in November 1996; Category 2 patients who have waited longer than the recommended 90 days have been reduced from 51.9% in June 1996 to 19.1% in November 1996; and Category 3 patients who have waited longer than 12 months has been reduced from 39% in June 1996 to 33% in November 1996.

It is anticipated that Rockhampton Base Hospital will be in a good position to achieve the December 1996 targets. The targets for 31 December 1996 incorporate a reduction to less than 5% Category 1 long wait patients, a reduction of the percentage in Category 2 long wait patients and maintenance of the percentage of Category 3 long wait patients.

1432. Caboolture Court House

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (4/12/96)—

Are there any plans to expand Court services at the Caboolture Court House?

Mr Beanland (23/12/96): There are no plans to expand court services at the Caboolture Court House. Caboolture Court House is relatively new, construction being completed in October, 1995. In planning this building regard was had to the reopening of the gaol at Woodford. It is expected that the gaol will reopen in approximately mid-year, 1997. This will have a longer term impact on court workloads. The courthouse contains two magistrates courtrooms and is designed for two further courtrooms to be incorporated when the workload requires.

The top floor is substantially empty. It has been placed in the hands of agents for leasing until required for court purposes.

1433. Mines and Energy Department, Contract with Ernst Young

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (4/12/96)—

With reference to my previous Question on Notice No. 1114 and to his answer to part 1 with regard to the reason why Ernst and Young were chosen for this particular commission—

- (1) Who is their regional coordinating partner?
- (2) What special expertise do they have in the mining industry?

Mr Gilmore (23/12/96):

(1) Mr Don Blair. Apart from being the Regional Co-ordinating Partner of Ernst & Young Consulting, Queensland, he is also National Co-ordinator of Energy, Utilities and Transport Consulting in Australia and in that role is the consulting representative on the Ernst & Young's National Mining & Energy Focus Group. Mr Blair has been extensively involved in a number of mining and energy projects, in addition to other equally important projects outside of the industry. He was the leader of Ernst & Young's consulting practice in Western Australia for 10 years where a lot of his mining consulting work was undertaken. He also led the major landmark consulting project to corporatise SGIO in Western Australia.

(2) Ernst & Young have had relevant experience in the mining industry, involving gold, petroleum and other metalliferous mining ventures. It was also important that the Company chosen also have relevant experience within the energy sector. Ernst & Young have made important contributions in the field of Electricity Generation, Transmission and Distribution, particularly with respect to the corporatisation of the industry.

1434. Capital Works Projects, Bundaberg Electorate

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (4/12/96)—

With reference to State Government capital works projects in the electorate of Bundaberg—

- (1) What projects are currently under construction?
- (2) What is the progress to date on each of those projects?
- (3) What is the value of those projects which are currently under construction?

Mr Connor (3/1/97):

Project Services acts for other departments in a commercial in confidence environment. Questions regarding Schools, TAFE's, Ambulance Stations, Courts, Police Stations, etc should be directed to responsible Minister.

Housing is as follows:-

There are currently 8 duplex units proposed for Bundaberg. A contract to commence 4 units began on 15 November 1996. This project is expected to be completed in April 1997. Two units are planned to commence in February 1997 and are expected to be completed this financial year. Construction of 2 units is planned to commence in March 1997. The construction cost estimate for the 8 duplex units is approximately \$893,675.

1435. Leases on Hammond Island

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Natural Resources (4/12/96)—

With reference to the issuing of three leases on Hammond Island and community concerns which have been referred to me—

- (1) What measures were taken to ensure (a) that the interests of all people born on Hammond Island, and who fit the criteria of a qualified person, have been properly accommodated in the process of determining the leases, (b) that these leases have respected the traditional rights of access of other community residents to usual thoroughfares, etc. and (c) access to traditional community areas were maintained?
- (2) What assurances can be given that leases over the Deed of Grant in Trust Areas will not ultimately be held by non-Islander residents?
- (3) What steps is his department taking in an effort to resolve the current concerns and conflict over these leases on Hammond Island?

Mr Hobbs (23/12/96): These questions would be better addressed to my colleague, the Honourable Kev Lingard MLA, the Honourable Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care as the Minister responsible for the Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders (Land Holding) Act 1985 under which the three leases on Hammond Island were approved. However, generally, the Act requires the local community council to make the decision on an application and notify the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care who in turn instructs my Department to issue a lease.

My Departmental officers have issued two of the three leases in question as instructed. The third is temporarily held in abeyance while the Visiting Justice investigates an application by the Hammond Island Community Council for the three leases to be forfeited. The Visiting Justice will report to my colleague and myself in due course.

1436. Sentences in Rockhampton Courts

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (4/12/96)—

With reference to sentences handed down in all courts (Children's, Magistrates, District and Supreme) in Rockhampton in the past 12 months—

- (1) How many people were convicted in each of the above courts?
- (2) How many of those convicted were given the maximum sentence applicable to the particular offence?

Mr Beanland (23/12/96):

- (1) During the financial year 1995/96 the following numbers of persons were convicted in the courts in Rockhampton:

Children's Court—471

Magistrates Court—5552

District Court—175

Supreme Court—90

- (2) One person, convicted of murder in the Supreme Court was given the mandatory maximum sentence.

Courts have always taken the approach that the maximum penalty is reserved for the worst type of

offence. In determining whether conduct falls within the "worst" category courts take into account both the facts of the offence and the antecedents of the offender.

1437. Adoption Legislation

Ms SPENCE asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (4/12/96)—

- (1) Are there any changes planned to the adoption legislation in the term of this Government; if so, what process of community consultation is he putting in place?
- (2) What restructuring is taking place in the adoptions section of the department?

Mr Lingard (16/12/96):

- (1) The Government has made no decisions at this point in time concerning changes to the adoption legislation. Should there be any legislative reform, the Government would ensure wide ranging consultations.

- (2) The Department of Families, Youth and Community Care is undergoing organisational change both centrally and in its regions.

1438. Workers' Compensation; Election Promise

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (4/12/96)—

- (1) Now that he has done a massive backflip on workers' compensation, particularly with respect to access by injured workers to common law claims, will he now admit that he falsely raised the hopes of employers by promising something which he knew he could never deliver?
- (2) Recognising that his WorkCover Queensland Bill 1996 encapsulates almost all the plan proposed by the Goss Labor Government in 1995, will he apologise to employers of Brisbane's inner northern suburbs for breaking yet another election promise?

Mr Santoro (23/12/96):

- (1) The WorkCover Queensland Act 1996 delivers on 73 of the 79 Kennedy Report recommendations. When I tabled the Report on 10 July 1996 I told the House —

"The Government of Queensland places this report in the Parliament with a view to asking the Parliament as soon as possible to support the recommendations of Mr Kennedy, including the recommendations relating to common law access. Legislation will be urgently prepared for an early introduction into the Parliament when all honourable members will be able to have their say and make their decision in relation to this very important issue. That this Parliament needs to make the decision that it now must make, is the responsibility — and this side of the House claims, the total responsibility — of

honourable members opposite, the members of the Labor Party, the members of the now disgraced Goss Labor Government." (Hansard pp.1445-1446)

I also said in the House at the time that "those opposite may play politics about this issue, as they indeed did for the six years they were in Government, but it is time for that politicking to stop and for the responsibility for the woeful condition of the fund to be accepted by those opposite." The honourable member obviously has not learned from his mistakes and those of his disgraced Party.

(2) The plan proposed by the Goss Labor Government in 1995 came into effect on 1 January 1996 as part of the amended Workers' Compensation Act 1990. This Act will be repealed on 1 February 1997 and replaced by the WorkCover Queensland Act 1996.

The new Act retains Labor's restrictions on access to common law and does not break an election promise. It does however address some of the fundamental issues plaguing workers' compensation in this State. Issues addressed include definition of injury, definition of worker, flexible insurance arrangements, compulsory workplace rehabilitation, introduction of gratuitous care lump sums under the "fault free" statutory scheme, strengthened fraud provisions and penalties, recognition of contributory negligence and mitigation of loss and an extended review and appeal processes for all stakeholders.

What the new Act also does is create a statutory body to administer workers' compensation removed from political interference. Future Ministerial directions must be gazetted and tabled in the House. The backroom deals and the disgraceful political compromises of Labor's days are gone.

1439. Peel Island

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Environment (4/12/96)—

- (1) What is the current status of Peel Island?
- (2) What is the role and duty of the ranger on the island?
- (3) What is the status of public access to the island?
- (4) Why were the environmental toilets on the island removed and at what cost?
- (5) What was the cost of establishing the environmental toilets?
- (6) What action is being taken about the unsafe western jetty?
- (7) What action is the department taking to replace a jetty access?
- (8) What action is being taken to remove groundsel and other noxious weeds from the island?
- (9) What is the department doing to protect the historical relics and sites on the island?
- (10) Are there any commercial ventures under consideration for the island?

- (11) Does a lease exist for the summer beach stall on Horseshoe Bay Beach; if not, why has the stall not been removed?
- (12) Has a bushfire check been conducted on the island?
- (13) Will he list the machinery supplied to the ranger on the island?
- (14) What is the cost of maintaining the island on an annual basis, including salaries?

Mr Littleproud (23/12/96):

- (1) Peel Island is currently Unallocated State Land (USL).

The gazettal as national park has been a proposal since 1964. A proposal to proceed with a gazettal action in 1995 was deferred until the Quandamooka Land Council Native Title Determination Application had been resolved by the Native Title Tribunal. The claim area included Peel Island. The Native Title Determination Application was accepted by the Native Title Tribunal on 29 September 1995.

Peel Island is a Registered Property under the Queensland Heritage Act 1992. Before any development on the Island can proceed it must be approved by the Queensland Heritage Council. Peel Island is also listed on the Commonwealth Register of the National Estate.

- (2) Two Rangers have been employed to undertake day-to-day management of the Island. Their duties include:

estate maintenance duties including maintaining historic buildings and grounds, camping areas, roads, firebreaks, plant and equipment;

general public contact duties and island patrols;

liaise with local authorities, emergency services groups and community groups;

estate protection duties including fire management and weed control programs; and

implement, when necessary, emergency response procedures.

Staff commute to the Island on a daily basis and work a ten day on, four day off roster. The Island is staffed over night, six days of each fortnight including weekends.

- (3) Public use of the Island is encouraged. Peel Island is one of the most popular destinations in Moreton Bay. Horseshoe Bay is a popular anchorage and camping ground. Because the Island is currently USL, camping permits are not required and there are no fees. If people wish to camp on the Island they are advised to contact the Peel Island Ranger-in-charge for details.

Visitor access to the Lazaret (historic leper hospital) is currently restricted. The site has been closed to the public for safety reasons and to protect historic buildings and artefacts from unsupervised visitors.

- (4) The composting toilet in Horseshoe Bay was burnt down on the 28 September 1996. The cause of the fire is unknown. The Department of Environment (DoE) will seek funding to replace the composting toilet next financial year.

(5) The composting toilet in Horseshoe Bay was installed in 1989 by the Redland Shire Council. The cost of the facility at the time was approximately \$24,000. To replace the facility with one that will meet Departmental standards and be able to better withstand vandalism will cost the Department approximately \$70,000.

(6) The jetty on the western side of Peel Island was in a dilapidated state when DoE accepted management of the Island in mid 1993. At the time, the jetty was public but its use by Departmental staff continued whilst options for repair were investigated. Expert advice/investigations in 1994/95 revealed that the structure was beyond repair. In October 1995, as a result of workplace health and safety concerns, the Department closed the jetty to all access. The Department of Transport (DOT) has allocated funds for the demolition of the jetty. DoE has advised DOT of our legislative requirements regarding the demolition of the jetty.

(7) To replace the Western Jetty with a like structure will cost approximately \$1,000,000. The Department is currently considering alternative options for replacement of the jetty. Total cost of providing an alternative access is yet to be determined.

(8) Since the Department accepted management of Peel Island in 1993, it has implemented weed management programs as a matter of routine. The programs have focused on lantana, groundsel and sisal hemp. Weed management is also required to help protect historic buildings.

(9) The Department has undertaken significant works to protect the historic values of the Island. They include:

Peel Island has been declared a Registered Property under the Queensland Heritage Act 1992. Before any development on the Island can proceed, it must be approved by the Queensland Heritage Council. Peel Island is also listed on the Commonwealth Register of the National Estate;

The preparation of a conservation plan for the Peel Island Lazaret was commissioned by the Department with Commonwealth funding under the One Nation Program. The plan was completed in July 1993;

Major conservation works to historic buildings in the Lazaret were completed with Commonwealth funding under the One Nation Program. The total grant for these works and the development of the Conservation Plan was \$220,000; and

The presence of Rangers on the Island has significantly contributed to minimising damage, theft and vandalism. The Rangers' primary role is to undertake conservation and maintenance works to the historic buildings and surrounding grounds as per the recommendations stipulated in the Conservation Plan for the Lazaret.

(10) There have been a number of inquiries from the community regarding the establishment of commercial operations on Peel Island. If gazetted National Park the Department would encourage the establishment of commercial tour operations similar to those currently occurring on St Helena Island National Park in Moreton Bay.

(11) It is the Department's understanding that there has been no lease issued for the 'summer beach stall' at Horseshoe Bay. The stall has been closed for a number of years. An on-site inspection with officers from DoE and the Department of Natural Resources was held on the 29 November 1996. Procedures are now in place to have the facility removed.

(12) The threat of wildfire to public safety and the historic buildings on Peel Island is of major concern to the Department. To this end roads and fire breaks are regularly maintained. Water tanks have been installed and fire fighting equipment has been purchased. A significant area has been cleared around the Lazaret to reduce fuel loads and an interim wildfire response plan has been developed.

(13) The attached Asset Register lists the plant and equipment that has been purchased for the Island since the Department took over management in 1993. Some of the equipment is stored on the mainland for security reasons.

(14) In 1996/97 funding totalling \$84,000 was allocated for Peel Island. This comprises \$52,000 labour and \$32,000 non labour.

1440. Freshwater Fish Restocking Programs

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (4/12/96)—

With reference to freshwater fish restocking programs under way in Queensland to restore fish populations in dams and weired rivers—

(1) How can he be sure that (a) these captive bred fish are not also being introduced into natural watercourses, thereby interfering with local gene pools and (b) in flood situations, these fish are not entering natural waterways, again interfering with local gene pools?

(2) Do Government departments purchase these captive bred fish for release; if so, which departments and where have they been released in Queensland in 1996?

Mr Perrett (2/1/97): Freshwater fish stocking activities with our native fish commenced in Queensland many years ago. Some of the first attempts to stock fish were made in the late 1800's and early 1900's and involved Murray cod and lungfish.

During the last ten years, hatchery methods have been developed for the mass production of our native fish, such as barramundi, sooty grunter, yellow belly (golden perch), silver perch, bass, freshwater cod and a range of other species. Some fifteen commercial hatcheries are now established throughout Queensland and they are the main sources of small fish for stocking. My Department has a supporting role in developing new technologies and in initial stocking trials. My Department also works closely with the network of fish stocking groups which are now established throughout the state.

Those associated with fish stocking in Queensland, including fish hatcheries, fish stocking groups, fishing associations, the Fisheries Group of my Department and the Queensland Fisheries

Management Authority are aware of the need for a careful approach to translocating fish with fish stocking activities. However, I would like to say that freshwater fish stocking has been a highly successful activity in this state. Besides creating more fishing in our dams, which were generally devoid of angling species, fish stocking has resulted in new business opportunities for private hatcheries and other economic activities in the inland areas as a result of tourism and fishing tackle sales.

Now to answer your specific questions:

Fish stocked in impoundments may enter watercourses during both flood and normal conditions. However, hatchery-bred fish are sourced where possible from local native fish populations. I am well aware of the potential problems of hatchery-bred fish breeding with wild fish and changing the genetic nature of our native fish populations

To counter potential problems, my Department has developed a Translocation Policy, the principles of which are incorporated in the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority Freshwater Fisheries Discussion Paper and currently open for public comment. This policy will result in a clear framework as to what types of fish may be stocked in various river catchments

My Department is also developing a Fish Stocking Policy that incorporates the best practices for the release of fish, taking into account any detrimental effects, such as those on local gene pools.

The release of fish for the stocking of dams or rivers requires a permit from the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority. Each application is considered with regard to the Translocation Policy principles and the Stocking Policy principles, as well as Ecologically Sustainable Development. The Queensland Fisheries Management Authority has set up a subcommittee of the Freshwater Management Advisory Committee specifically to consider translocation proposals and stocking proposals.

These established mechanisms are expected to ensure minimum if any impacts on native populations from fish stocking.

My Department does purchase captive bred fingerlings to the approximate value of \$82,000 per year. Fingerlings are also purchased by some water boards and local authorities. Fingerlings are also purchased by local fish stocking groups, of which there are about 68 in Queensland. The numbers of fingerlings purchased by fish stocking groups exceeds Department of Primary Industries purchases.

During the past twelve months, my Department released fingerlings into the following impoundments. It should be noted that most of those fish were obtained direct from hatcheries, some were bred by my Department.

Baroon Pocket, Bjelke Petersen, Boondooma, Bundaberg Barrage, Burdekin Falls, Cecil Plains, Coolmunda, Cressbrook, Dalby Weir, Dyer, Eungella, Fitzroy Barrage, Gill Weir,

Goondiwindi, Inglewood, Jericho, Julius, Kinchant, Koombaloo, Lemon Tree, Leslie, Maroon, McKenzie River, Moogerah, Moondarra, Mount Morgan, Proserpine, Ross River Weirs, Samsonvale, Texas, Tinaroo, Wivenhoe

Fish have also been stocked in some rivers including:

Annan River, Barron River, Daintree River, Endeavour River, Herbert River, Johnstone River, Maroochy River, Mossman River, Russell Mulgrave River, Trinity Inlet

The types of fish stocked in the past twelve months by my Department include:

barramundi, sooty grunter, sleepy cod, yellowbelly (golden perch), silver perch, Australian bass, Mary River cod, gar, flathead, whiting

1441. Police Service, Rostering Arrangements and Operational Shift Allowance

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (4/12/96)—

With reference to the considerable concern being expressed by serving police officers and their union about the removal of a significant number of police officers from the operational shift allowance and new shift working arrangements under the current enterprise bargaining agreement, a scheme which improved the availability of police to the community at the busiest times, particularly on weekends, which was applauded in his 1996 Budget Program Statement and which, as he advised in his answer to Question on Notice No. 1084, resulted in an increased shift availability of 6.1 per cent, and to the implementation of significant cost saving initiatives at police regional level, including reduction of police overtime by millions of dollars—

- (1) Why are a significant number of police officers being removed from the operational shift allowance and new shift working arrangements?
- (2) How will the Police Service address the public's needs in those busiest of times when less police will now be available, and police will be restricted in their capacity to work overtime?

Mr Cooper (20/12/96):

- (1) The number of police to be removed from the rosters attracting the 19% loading is yet to be determined. It cannot therefore be claimed that the number involved will be "significant".

The officers concerned will be those who, by comparison with their peers, are working insufficient night and weekend rosters to warrant the 19% loading.

- (2) The public's needs for police coverage will be met just as effectively under the revised arrangements. There will be no reduction in the number of police available for shift-work, in fact there will be an increase in availability. This stems from a continual increase in the number of police on the streets—a direct result of this Government's intention

to nearly double the Goss Government's proposed increases—and the fact that the officers taken off the 19% allowance will, whenever necessary, be paid penalty rates for night and weekend work.

The change in rostering arrangements will have little or no impact on overtime payments.

1442. Mount Morgan Hospital

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Health (4/12/96)—

With reference to an article in the *Rockhampton Morning Bulletin* of 2 April, in which he stated that \$500,000 funding for Mount Morgan Hospital was secure—

- (1) Has this money been provided in the Budget; if so, what will the money be spent on?
- (2) When will the work be completed?

Mr Horan (2/1/97):

(1) Capital funds of \$552,866 were approved in the 1995/96 financial year to undertake remedial work at the Mount Morgan Hospital to address safety issues and meet Building Code of Australia compliance. The funding allocated was provided following his representations for the following:-

- Replacement of hot water system
- Access ramps / stairs / landings
- Fire proofing diesel room
- Upgrade floor in laundry
- Replace roof, doors and windows of Boiler room
- Repair concrete columns and floor joists to address spalling and structural damage to the facility
- Minor repairs to floor coverings
- Provision of new chemical store
- Rectification of roofing work to overcome water leaks.

The article in the *Morning Bulletin* was confirmation of the outlined activity at Mount Morgan Hospital, and of this Government's commitment to Mount Morgan.

- (2) Minor rectification work was completed prior to 30 June 1996.

1443. Firefighters

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (4/12/96)—

With reference to the 1996-97 Budget for the Queensland Fire Service—

- (1) How many extra firefighters will be trained between September 1996 and September 1997?
- (2) Where will these firefighters be placed?

- (3) As a result of the intake of these recruits, how many extra fire stations will have the preferred 1 and 3 crewing levels as promised by the Coalition?
- (4) At which stations will these crewing levels be increased to 1 and 3?
- (5) How many firefighters are expected to leave the fire service in 1996-97?

Mr Veivers (23/12/96):

- (1) Increase in approved establishment is 38—effective 1/1/97. The numbers of extra firefighters that will be trained—subject to attrition rates being at the expected level—is approximately 119.
- (2) The additional staff in the 1996/97 financial year is to cater for the post-review structure which is set out in the Staib Review Report but does not cater for the staffing of the new Robina and Helensvale Fire Stations.
- (3) Discussions are currently ongoing between the Queensland Fire Service and United Firefighters Union to determine staffing strategies at all permanently staffed stations. Until there is agreement between the parties, newly recruited replacement and additional staff will be managed regionally. This agreement provided for a three year strategy towards implementation.
- (4) Greater Brisbane Region and South East Region are currently staffed for 1 & 3 subject to sick leave remaining at a responsible level. Crewing levels at other stations are yet to be determined as in Answer 3.
- (5) It is difficult to determine the exact numbers but it is expected that the attrition rate will be approximately 65 operational staff.

1444. Q-Build Program; Rework and Repair Work

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (4/12/96)—

With reference to the Q Build program—

- (1) What proportion of work done by Q Build employees in 1995-96 was rework and repair work done on work of private contractors, contracted to undertake work for Government agencies?
- (2) In what trade areas were the rework and repairs carried out?
- (3) What was the total cost of any rework or repairs?

Mr Connor (3/1/97):

- (1) .01%.
- (2) Carpentry and asbestos removal.
- (3) \$14,783.00

1445. National Parks and Wildlife Service

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (4/12/96)—

With reference to the cuts in operational funding for the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service in 1996-97—

- (1) As a result of these cuts, will regional staff no longer be able to undertake tree clearing inspections, nature refuge assessments, all community contact activities including landcare and catchment management, community nature conservation as well as education extension and interpretation activities; if not, could he outline what operational funding only has been supplied to each region for these specific activities for 1995-96?
- (2) Did central region expend their entire fire fighting budget for 1996-97 (some \$20,000) fighting a single fire recently on Mount Archer; if not, how much was spent on this fire and how much remains in the central region's operational budget for fire fighting for the remainder of 1996-97?

Mr Littleproud (24/12/96):

- (1) Where these activities are currently being undertaken they will continue. Line item budgeting is no longer undertaken, therefore the figures requested cannot be provided.
- (2) No, the Mount Archer National Park fire cost less than \$10 000 which included normal day to day wages as well as some overtime. Sufficient funds are available to meet contingencies.

1446. Police Resources during Christmas/New Year Period, Gold Coast Region

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (4/12/96)—

With reference to policing on the Gold Coast over the Christmas/New Year period—

- (1) Will additional police and resources be deployed to the region to cope with the increase in crime levels which hit the coast at this time of the year?
- (2) Will additional policing be provided on New Year's Eve?
- (3) If so, please provide full details to parts (1) and (2).

Mr Cooper (20/12/96):

(1) Policing levels are being increased through the minimisation of approved leave for officers over the Christmas/New Year period.

A contingent from Brisbane Police Mounted Unit will be supporting policing activities at Surfers Paradise during the New Year's Eve festivities.

Police Officers from the Public Safety Response Team are being deployed to the Gold Coast area over the Christmas/New Year period.

The Gold Coast has priority use of a booze bus for the Christmas/New Year period.

Additional prison vans and hand-held radios are being provided for this period.

An additional 15 uniform officers and 5 Traffic Branch officers from Logan Police District will be deployed to the Gold Coast District during New Year's Eve.

(2) Policing plans have been developed in conjunction with planned public events for New Year's Eve.

As in previous years, a dedicated police presence will be placed at South Stradbroke Island, Sanctuary Cove, Surfers Paradise CBD, Broadbeach CBD and Coolangatta CBD.

A Special Task Force will be present at the Hoodoo-Gurus Concert planned for the Southport Broadwater Park area.

Gold Coast Traffic Branch will be operating a booze bus, in addition to normal traffic patrols on New Year's Eve.

Every available officer will be rostered on duty over the New Year's Eve period.

Overall policing strategies for New Year's Eve mirror that of 1995/96.

1447. Mr P. Connolly, QC, Payment of Legal Fees

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (4/12/96)—

With reference to his answer to Question on Notice No. 1138—

On what date did he pay Mr Connolly's legal fees?

Mr Cooper (20/12/96): Payment was effected by my Solicitors.

I have made inquiries of my Solicitors and they advise that the fees were paid on 10 October 1996.

1448. Supreme and District Courts, Fees Paid to Persons on Jury Panels

Mr FOLEY asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (4/12/96)—

What action does he propose to take in relation to the current level of fees paid to persons on jury panels in the Supreme and District Courts?

Mr Beanland (23/12/96): Firstly, it should be noted that the level of fees payable to jurors has not increased since April 1991.

The Jury Amendment Act, which was assented to on 12 December 1996, will allow for a change to the jury fees. It is proposed that jury fees will be increased by \$8.00 for each sitting day except if jurors are not allowed to separate during a lunch or dinner adjournment to obtain meals.

The new fee schedules are planned for implementation in February 1997.

The jurors will now have a better choice on the type and quantity of lunch or dinner compared to the past.

1449. Mr B. Wilson

Mr ELDER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (4/12/96)—

Does the Director-General of the Department of Transport, Mr Bruce Wilson, enjoy the Minister's full confidence?

Mr Johnson (2/1/97): When I became the Minister for Transport and Main Roads in late February 1996, Mr Bruce Wilson was the Director-General of Queensland Transport.

One policy initiative of the Coalition was the establishment of Main Roads as a separate entity from Queensland Transport. This was designed to provide both organisations with a clear focus on their respective responsibilities, something which in my view appeared to be lacking under the previous Labor administration.

As the 1996 year comes to a close, it is clear that this initiative has been successful with both Departments having achieved a great deal throughout the year. Much of the credit for this impressive performance must go to the Departmental heads, Mr Bruce Wilson and Mr Dick Wharton.

As I have already advised the House in Question Time, Mr Wilson is a man of the highest integrity and he has my confidence in being able to assist the Coalition Government deliver on its policies.

1450. Princess Alexandra Hospital

Mrs EDMOND asked the Minister for Health (4/12/96)—

With reference to the Princess Alexandra Hospital redevelopment—

- (1) What external noise level measurements have been made at the development?
- (2) What are the results of these measurements?
- (3) What are the main sources of noise measured?
- (4) Are these noise levels likely to aid patient recovery at the hospital?
- (5) What steps are being taken to eliminate the noise nuisance likely to be suffered by patients?
- (6) How many coal train movements pass the hospital each day, month and year?
- (7) What measurements of air quality have been made adjacent to the hospital?
- (8) What are the results of these measurements, including levels of coal dust particles?
- (9) Is he aware of recent research showing the major health risks of ultrafine particles in the air?
- (10) What illnesses and diseases are most likely to be caused or exacerbate by these forms of air pollution?
- (11) What are the levels of diesel and motor vehicle emissions impacting on the hospital from nearby major roads and rail corridors?
- (12) What steps is he taking to eliminate the health risks from the dispersal of coal dust and ultrafine particles from train and motor vehicle engines affecting the hospital?

Mr Horan (2/1/97): I am disappointed that you have asked a question with so many parts, which breaches the spirit of the Standing Orders and which

creates an unnecessary burden on the staff of Queensland Health. What is more, parts (6) to (12) of the question stand in direct breach of Standing Order 68 (a). However, for the benefit of the patients and staff of the Princess Alexandra Hospital, I provide the following information on noise abatement.

No external noise level measurements have been made at Princess Alexandra Hospital as far as I am aware. The redevelopment is currently at the detailed planning stage and related issues such as determination of existing noise levels, will be undertaken in a timely manner as planning proceeds. Planning for the redevelopment includes strategies for noise abatement during construction, including temporary airconditioning of some areas of the current hospital building and Diamantina House. For the new hospital building, design features such as double glazing of windows and airconditioning will be used to optimise external noise abatement.

1451. Flying Fox Lyssavirus

Mr HAMILL asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (4/12/96)—

With reference to claims by a noted University of Queensland bat authority that a flying fox may not have been the culprit in the lyssavirus related death of a Rockhampton woman in November—

- (1) Was the flying fox believed to have scratched this woman found to be clear of lyssavirus; if so, why has this not been revealed?
- (2) Was the woman bitten on the hand by a yellow-bellied bat days earlier and did she suffer an adverse reaction to this bite?
- (3) Who released this yellow-bellied bat into the wild and was it tested for lyssavirus beforehand; if so, what were the results?
- (4) As the lyssavirus has now been found in a yellow-bellied sheath tailed bat at the foot of the Toowoomba Range, is it not feasible that the woman may have contracted the virus from the bite inflicted by the yellow-bellied sheath tail bat and not from a flying fox at all?
- (5) If this is the case, doesn't this represent yet another monumental blunder on the part of his department and he, as the Minister responsible, must accept responsibility for this second error?

Mr Perrett (2/1/97): The particular flying fox referred to was negative for Lyssavirus and this information was released by my Department to bat carers and to the media. However the woman had closely handled several other flying foxes. One of these had died with reported signs of paralysis before the woman became ill. It was unavailable for testing.

Yes, but an adverse reaction to the bite was not reported to officers of my Department.

The yellow-bellied bat had been released to the wild several weeks prior to the woman's illness and could not be recaptured for testing.

It is possible but there is no way of proving it.

By his assertion, the Honourable Member has demonstrated his shallow understanding of issues here. Nine out of 10 positive confirmations of Lyssavirus have been in flying foxes. There is clearly a potential risk to people who handle them. The Lyssavirus status of yellow-bellied bats is unclear at this stage. The National Task Force, on which my Department is represented along with medical and veterinary experts from elsewhere, has warned that the bite or scratch of any bat including flying foxes is a potential Lyssavirus risk.

1452. World Environment Expo 2005

Mr BEATTIE asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry (4/12/96)—

With reference to Cabinet's decision to launch a bid for the World Environment Exposition for Queensland in 2005—

- (1) What form of displays can we expect to see in such an Expo?
- (2) How many and which countries would be expected to participate or, if industry based, which international corporations would be expected to partake?
- (3) How broadly is the term environment defined for the purpose of this Expo?
- (4) Where have the last three World Environment Expos been held and at what cost for each?
- (5) What long term use have these sites been put to since?
- (6) What long term use can we expect the East Coomera site to be turned to following the completion of the Expo?
- (7) Is the Queensland Events Corporation responsible for the Expo?
- (8) Which other cities, States or countries are bidding for the 2005 Exposition?
- (9) If successful with the bid, what is the anticipated total cost of this Expo?
- (10) Where will the funds come from?
- (11) What aspect of the environment will the Queensland exhibition be focusing on?
- (12) What is the exact East Coomera site being looked at to locate this Expo?
- (13) Who presently owns this site?

Mr Davidson (3/1/97): (1) to (13) This is a responsibility of the Premier's Department and any questions should be directed to the Premier.

1453. Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation

Mrs BIRD asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry (4/12/96)—

With reference to his changes to the structure of the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation—

- (1) Which units have been abolished and why?
- (2) How many staff and at what classifications are involved?

(3) Is it his intention to absorb these redundant staff into other sections of the QTTC or will they have to apply for "new" positions in QTTC or seek positions in other Government departments?

(4) How many new positions within QTTC will be advertised as a result of these changes?

Mr Davidson (3/1/97):

(1) The existing Domestic Marketing and Regional Tourism Departments will merge to become the Destination Development Department which will coordinate the marketing of all Queensland's regions. The existing Research Department will be upgraded to become a new Strategic Services Department. The existing Media and Promotions Department will become the Marketing Services Department. The Corporation's Film Unit and Resource Centre will wind down and be replaced with a

Film and Slide Library. The existing Online Services Department will be upgraded and moved from Corporate Services to the Marketing Division in line with the QTTC's commitment to the online marketing of Queensland tourist product. Savings in administrative and casual positions will defray the cost of the QTTC's organisational realignment.

(2) Twelve full and part-time staff are involved in these changes. Their classifications range from JG2 (AO2) to JG6 (AO6) for Award staff, plus two managerial positions. Some casual and temporary staff will also be involved.

(3) No staff are being made redundant although some positions are. All QTTC staff affected by the changes have been encouraged to apply for the new positions. Wherever possible, the QTTC will employ the talents and experience of existing staff in these positions.

(4) A total of 16 new positions will be advertised. All new positions were advertised internally. This includes the positions of Destination Development Manager, five Destination Managers, five Destination Marketing Coordinators, Strategic Services Manager and a number of support and administrative positions. Seven positions were advertised externally, comprising the positions of Destination Development Manager, five Destination Managers and Strategic Services Manager.

1454. Fishing in Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

Mr NUNN asked the Minister for Environment (4/12/96)—

With reference to plans to allow fishing on a number of pristine reefs in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park as part of a research project—

Does he support this project; if so, what benefits does he believe will flow from this study towards the conservation of reef fish subject to commercial fishing pressure?

Mr Littleproud (23/12/96): The Commonwealth Government believes the research project is in the interests of long term conservation and sustainable use of the Great Barrier Reef.

The proposal involves amendment to the present zoning for sixteen reefs between the southern border of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and the Lizard Island area. Eight of these reefs are currently national park zones which are closed to fishing. The zoning amendments will open these to supervised fishing to allow the impacts to be assessed. The remaining eight reefs are currently open to fishing and will be closed for a period of five years to monitor how heavily fished reefs recover when fishing pressure is removed. After the initial pulse of fishing pressure, lasting for about one year, all sixteen reefs will be protected and closed to fishing.

The Commonwealth Government believes the research will provide a better understanding of the effects of fishing and will be of value to management agencies.

1455. Roadside and Flea Market Plant Vendors

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Environment (4/12/96)—

With reference to budget cutbacks to the Department of Environment for 1996-97—

- (1) What monitoring is occurring of the activities of roadside and flea market plant vendors to ensure all provisions of the Nature Conservation Act are being complied with?
- (2) How many such inspections of these activities have occurred in the department's southern region in 1996 and what number of prosecutions and warning letters have resulted from these checks?
- (3) What monitoring is occurring of the activities of "flower and foliage cutters" in Queensland to ensure that all provisions of the Nature Conservation Act are being complied with?
- (4) How many such inspections of these activities have occurred in the department's southern region so far in 1996, particularly at Brisbane Airport from where much of the material is exported from Queensland?
- (5) What funding has been set aside for each region in the 1996-97 Budget for both these important areas of departmental law enforcement?
- (6) Is he aware of the outrage this is causing among members of the nursery industry who have invested considerable funds to comply with the requirements of the Nature Conservation Act and now find their operations being severely undercut by unscrupulous roadside operators and a Government that apparently couldn't care less?

Mr Littleproud (2/1/97): Wildlife officers of the Department of Environment and the Police Wildlife Task Force monitor the activities of roadside and flea market operators as required during the course of regular compliance enforcement activities.

Precise figures on the number of inspections undertaken are not available. Inspections of flea markets during 1996 in the Southeastern Region

have resulted in no prosecutions. The Department does not use a warning letter system. If the person is not prosecuted, the person is given a verbal warning by the investigating officer and the details of the matter are recorded.

Officers of the Department undertake random checks of the premises of dealers in cut wild flowers and foliage. As the taking of wild flowers and foliage occurs mainly in State Forests, monitoring of cutters is a matter for the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry. To assist with this monitoring, officers of the Department of Natural Resources are being appointed as Conservation Officers under the Nature Conservation Act 1992.

Several inspections have been undertaken of premises in the Brisbane area in relation to the use of wild taken flowers and foliage. No prosecutions have resulted following these inspections. There have been no inspections by the Department of Environment at Brisbane Airport, as Australian Customs Service officers located at the airport are required to monitor wildlife exports under the Commonwealth Wildlife Protection (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act 1982.

A special funding allocation of \$140,000 for Southeastern Region and \$70,000 for Far Northern Region was made in 1996/97 for the supervision of legislation in relation to protected plants. In other regions these activities are being handled as part of routine work involving wildlife law enforcement.

I am aware of the problems that can be caused to genuine operators in any field as a result of the activities of illicit operators. One of the most significant areas of concern for genuine operators in the nursery industry is illicit trade in plants. Evidence of this is the illegal trade in foxtail palm seeds of which the Opposition is aware. I also know the Department of Environment is aware of the concern of the commercial nursery industry in Queensland regarding the management of protected plants in trade. To date the Department has used an educational approach to compliance in this area and in future will be directing increased attention to enforcement of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 relating to protected plants in trade.

1456. Industrial Minerals Strategy

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry (4/12/96)—

- (1) What progress has been made towards the development of an industrial minerals strategy for Queensland?
- (2) What are the key minerals being targeted by the strategy?
- (3) What contribution has the Department of Mines and Energy made to the development of the strategy?
- (4) When will the strategy be completed?

Mr Davidson (3/1/97):

- (1) An industrial minerals strategy initiative is being undertaken by my Department as part of developing

opportunities in the mineral industry in processing and associated manufacturing. Initial planning studies were undertaken from 1994-95 to determine the scope of the work, and progress in documenting the strategy initiative is well advanced. As part of the formulation, key business opportunities have been identified which will impact on the strategy direction. These include mining, processing, and associated manufacturing, as well as in research and development, education and training, and in further identifying opportunities for investment, import substitution and export growth.

(2) All industrial minerals and industrial mineral groups are being considered. No particular minerals are being targeted by the strategy, but there is an emphasis on industry sectors which could maximise opportunities for value adding through mineral processing and manufacturing. Emphasis has also been placed on developing strategies to enhance the linkages between market opportunities and Queensland's generously endowed mineral resource base. Some of these market opportunities are in the ceramic industry, such as the Queensland Metals Corporation's manufacture of refractory products from the Kunwarara magnesite, advanced high tech ceramics of SEPR Australia at Pinkenba for the mining, glass and agricultural industries, using Consolidated Rutile's North Stradbroke Island zircon and alumina refined from Comalco's Weipa bauxite. Many such industry opportunities in Queensland were revealed to a world market in the publication of a paper on Queensland's industrial minerals in the April 1996 edition of the international magazine, 'Industrial Minerals'.

(3) During the progress of the strategy development, information on Queensland's industrial mineral commodities was provided by officers of the Department of Mines and Energy. As well, there was cooperation in joint facilitation of mineral development opportunities. Further assistance has been afforded through an exchange of officers to develop the strategy and implement recommendations. These include dissemination of information on opportunities in Queensland in mining, processing and associated manufacturing through publication of information, Departmental representation in trade exhibitions at appropriate mineral, mineral processing and manufacturing industry conferences, and facilitation of industrial minerals sector opportunities.

(4) Documentation of the strategy initiative is well advanced for consideration as a new initiative by the Department at the beginning of 1997. However, the thrust of the strategy is to address an ongoing process for the development of opportunities in industrial minerals, their processing and manufacturing based on derived or processed products.

1458. Nelly Bay, Magnetic Island

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Economic Development and Trade and Minister Assisting the Premier (4/12/96)—

With reference to the proposed development of Nelly Bay, Magnetic Island—

- (1) Does the Government intend to excise any section of World Heritage Marine Park in order to sell the area to private developers?
- (2) What is the legal precedent for the removal of a public beach from a World Heritage State Marine Park for private residential development?
- (3) When will the final EIS be made public?
- (4) Will the Government require a new public review process if the proposal is altered significantly through the EIS process?
- (5) Will the Picnic Bay jetty be closed to make way for the Nelly Bay Harbour project?
- (6) What does he understand to be the result of the Bright Point boundary dispute?
- (7) How much has the Queensland Government spent to date on project promotion, the EIS process, various applications affecting the marine park, Court proceedings and other costs?
- (8) What infrastructure and ongoing maintenance costs will the State incur in servicing the project if it goes ahead?

Mr Slack (24/12/96): No part of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park or the World Heritage Area is proposed to be excised to enable the proposed Nelly Bay Harbour project to proceed.

The part of the development site identified in the Expression of Interest documents for the development of the Magnetic Quay site which lies between high and low water mark forms the State Marine Park. The State Marine Park does not form part of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

Development of the site as proposed by the Nelly Bay Harbour project will however reclaim land below high water mark, part of which formed a beach prior to the construction of the Magnetic Quay project. Reclamation of land below high water mark effectively removes the area from the State Marine Park. The State Marine Parks Act provides for such reclamation, and contemplates that following reclamation, the area of land will necessarily be above high water mark and therefore not in the Marine Park.

A supplement to the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is anticipated to be completed in early 1997. The supplement will address issues raised by the public submissions in response to the draft EIS..

The Commonwealth Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act does not require an additional period of public consultation in response to the preparation of a supplement to an EIS. My Department has indicated, however, that should substantial changes be made to the development proposal, the supplement will be made available for a further period of public consultation.

No new EIS process will be required unless the development proposal be significantly altered. The EIS process is a shaping tool in the development of

a project and it is expected that modifications to the project will occur during this process.

However, additional impact assessment may be required should the design of the development proposal be significantly modified. In addition, a further period of public consultation and review has been foreshadowed by my Department in such circumstances.

The Picnic Bay jetty is currently vested in the Townsville Port Authority. However, responsibility for the maintenance of the jetty lies with the Department of Transport. I understand that the Picnic Bay jetty is in need of costly repair work. While there are no immediate plans to close the jetty it is highly likely that the ferry service will relocate to the safe harbour provided in the Nelly Bay Harbour development.

The proposed development of a safe harbour as part of the Nelly Bay Harbour project is considered a major benefit of the project to the Magnetic Island community.

I understand that the dispute, in relation to the determination of the high water boundary in common between the Bright Point of Nelly Bay Harbour site, has largely been resolved through a mediation between both developers and the State Government.

The terms of agreement reached at the mediation are yet to be finalised.

As a result of a decision by the former government, my Department has responsibility for the facilitation of the Nelly Bay project including the commissioning of consultants to prepare the EIS. The cost of the EIS (up to \$200 000) will be recouped from the developers upon the freeholding of the land.

The principal cost to government in facilitating the project relates to staff costs. No money has been expended by the State in project promotion. The Department of Natural Resources made the application to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority for the joint Marine Parks permit which involved a statutory application fee of \$48 000.

The Nelly Bay Harbour project will, like most other private developments necessitate the provision of additional infrastructure and services associated with servicing a growing community. Potential service provision by State and Local Government is addressed in the draft EIS. No major infrastructure items or maintenance costs are envisaged to be provided by State Government. Further consideration and assessment of these issues will be undertaken when the development concept is finalised.

1459. Heritage Properties, Lytton Electorate

Mr LUCAS asked the Minister for Environment (4/12/96)—

With reference to heritage properties within the Lytton Electorate—

- (1) What properties in the Lytton Electorate are currently listed on the Queensland Heritage Register?

- (2) Which properties are currently nominated and awaiting assessment?
- (3) Which other properties does the department and/or he know of in the Lytton Electorate which have sufficient heritage significance to warrant inclusion on the Queensland Heritage Register?

Mr Littleproud (23/12/96):

- (1) There are 5 places in the Lytton Electorate that are currently entered in the Queensland Heritage Register. The places are:

Hemmant Community Church, 69 Hemmant and Tingalpa Road, Hemmant.

Anning Monument—Boer War Memorial, 254 Hemmant and Tingalpa Road, Hemmant.

Lota House—Edwin Marsden Tooth Memorial Home, 162 Oceana Terrace, Lota.

Richard Russell Park, 184 Carlton Tce, Manly.

Fort Lytton, Ampol Refinery Site Lytton.

- (2) There are 6 places in the Lytton Electorate that are nominated to the Heritage Register and currently awaiting assessment. The places are:

Mt Carmel Convent, Wynnum

Waterloo Bay Hotel, Wynnum

Wynnum Ambulance Station, Wynnum

Nazareth House, Wynnum

Christ Church and Cemetery Tingalpa

Lytton Hill (former Signal Hill) Lytton

- (3) The Lytton Electorate has a rich and varied history. However in the absence of a comprehensive heritage survey of the area, it is not possible to establish how many places may be eligible for entry in the Queensland Heritage Register. Perhaps the local Member might like to take some responsibility in this regard.

1460. Environmental Protection Policies

Mr FOURAS asked the Minister for Environment (4/12/96)—

With reference to the Environmental Protection Policies for air, water and noise—

- (1) What is the status of the preparation of these policies and why have they not been issued despite his assurances that they could be operating by July?
- (2) How does this delay fit with his statement that he has expedited the completion of the EPPs?
- (3) What processes of consultation have been held on each of the EPPs?

Mr Littleproud (24/12/96):

- (1) & (2) When the Government took office it gave a commitment that it would establish the Environment Protection Council of Queensland to review

conservation, heritage and environmental policy and legislation. In this regard the Environment Protection Council has recommended that the Water EPP should be introduced by the Government. It is likely that the Water EPP will take effect early in the New Year.

The Noise and Air EPPs have required some extensive reworking. The Council is reviewing aspects of these EPPs and until these are resolved I am unable to confirm a time for their commencement.

The draft Water EPP was presented to me for consideration in July 1996. However, I decided that it should be forwarded to relevant State Government departments and key stakeholder groups for additional comment, because there had been significant changes to the drafting, since the previous round of public consultation. I believe that the end product will be more effective as a result of the additional time taken.

(3) Two rounds of public consultation were carried out to develop the Policies, as required by the Environmental Protection Act and additional consultation was undertaken with relevant State Government departments and key stakeholder groups.

The public consultation processes included public meetings across Queensland, mail-out of information packs to some 5 000 stakeholders on each EPP, maintaining a 008 telephone inquiry service and providing representation at meetings, seminars and workshops convened by industry groups and other stakeholders.

1461. Freight Rail Line, Sunnybank Electorate to Port of Brisbane

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (4/12/96)—

With reference to media reports that a number of Liberal Party councillors and candidates for the 1997 Brisbane City Council elections have announced their opposition to the proposed rail freight line through suburbs in the Sunnybank electorate as contained in the Draft IRTP—

- (1) Has he received any correspondence from Liberal Party councillors on the Brisbane City Council or Liberal candidates for the 1997 council elections in relation to the proposed freight rail line; if so, when was such correspondence received and from whom?
- (2) If such opposition has arisen from his Coalition partners, will he now abide by the commitment of former National Party Premier, Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen, that a freight rail line will not be built through suburbs in the Sunnybank Electorate to the Port of Brisbane?

Mr Johnson (2/1/97):

(1) Information supplied to me by Queensland Transport shows correspondence from Brisbane Liberal Councillors and Candidates objecting to the Southern Brisbane Rail Freight Bypass proposal has been as follows:

Name	Type of Correspondence	Date
Cr Michael Caltabiano	Submission of IRTP	1 November
Cr Graham Quirk	Submission of IRTP	3 October
Cr Graham Quirk	Letter to Minister	2 October
Mr Mike Gordon (candidate)	Submission to IRTP7	November

(2) This government will not be bound on this issue by a statement made by Sir Joh Bjelke Petersen in 1986.

I would emphasise that no decision has been made to proceed with the development of such a bypass. Subject to Cabinet's decision on the IRTP in 1997, and the priority it gives to improving the freight rail system, it is proposed that a separate study will be undertaken to identify the available options in relation to rail freight.

The study would take into account a wide range of options and their potential impacts. Important issues such as community impacts would be fully investigated. There would be significant opportunities for community input at all stages of any such study.

1462. Gladstone Power Station; Swanbank Power Station

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (4/12/96)—

With reference to Gladstone and Swanbank Power Stations—

- (1) What air emission filtration system operates at the Gladstone Power Station?
- (2) Have the filtration mechanisms recently been altered to fit bag filters?
- (3) How effective are bag filters in filtering ultrafine particles?
- (4) What monitoring has been carried out on the effectiveness of airbag filters with respect to ultrafine particles?
- (5) Is Swanbank Power Station to be run at high load factors?
- (6) Will this mean a 300 per cent increase in air pollutants emitted from the power station?
- (7) What are the sulphur dioxide emission levels from Swanbank?
- (8) What filtration systems are in place at Swanbank?
- (9) Are any embellishments of this system contemplated?
- (10) How will the fitting of bag filters affect the level of SO₂ emissions?

Mr Gilmore (23/12/96):

- (1) Gladstone Power Station is owned by private interests.
- (2) Gladstone Power Station is owned by private interests.

(3) Mr Hollis should refer his questions to the station owners.

(4) Mr Hollis should refer his questions to the station owners.

(5) With the load growth in the South East Queensland (SEQ) corner running at around 100-200 MW per year and the Central Queensland/Southern Queensland Interconnector already running at high levels for extended periods, AUSTA Electric expects the utilisation of Swanbank Power station to be increased significantly until either the augmentation of transmission facilities to SEQ or the installation of additional generating capacity in SEQ occurs.

(6) The projected increase in generation will not result in a 300% increase in the emission of air pollutants. Completion of the works program to install fabric filters at Swanbank Power Station will result in a significant decrease in projected particulate emissions.

Increasing electricity demand in Queensland will necessarily result in an increase in coal consumption and hence an increase in the emission of the gaseous air pollutants from Swanbank Power Station.

(7) Sulphur Dioxide emissions result from Sulphur levels in the fuel source.

Emission of Sulphur Dioxide will not exceed 4.3 kg/MWh (on a 'sent out' basis) from Swanbank Power Station.

(8) Before February 1995 Electrostatic Precipitators were used to reduce particulate levels.

Fabric Filtration technology has been progressively implemented on operational units since February 1995. Installation of fabric filters on all units will be completed by the end of 1998.

(9) The program of fitting fabric filters to generating units at Swanbank Power Station will be completed by the end of 1998.

The fabric filter refit project is being completed under an Environmental Management Program, under the Environmental Protection Act, 1994 which has been approved by the Department of Environment.

On completion of this project, particulate emission levels at Swanbank Power Station will comply with international best practice for this type of facility.

(10) No significant effect on sulphur dioxide emissions is expected from fitting fabric filters.

Sulphur Dioxide emissions are controlled through a contractual limitation on the Sulphur content of the fuel supplied to Swanbank Power Station.

1463. Regional Office System; District School Support Offices

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Education (4/12/96)—

Has he taken action to reverse his proposal to remove the regional office system, operating so successfully in Queensland, together with the excellent, highly successful district school support

offices, which provide responsive local services for the benefit of students, which could not be provided from a centralised system?

Mr Quinn (24/12/96): The Government has not made any decision to alter the regional office system, or the role of school support centres within the Department of Education.

1464. Director-General, Environment Department

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Environment (4/12/96)—

With reference to a number of early directions from his new Director-General—

- (1) Is the Director-General seeking a 20 per cent increase in departmental output?
- (2) Does the Director-General see this output increase occurring across the board within the department, or are there particular areas that he is targeting?
- (3) How does the Director-General intend to measure this output increase?
- (4) As departmental staff numbers have fallen considerably since the change of Government, does he believe it is fair to expect more of less staff?
- (5) Is this productivity increase a factor in further enterprise bargaining negotiations with departmental staff?
- (6) Is the Director-General also seeking a higher dress standard from departmental staff?
- (7) Which particular current dress practices are offensive to the Director-General?
- (8) If it is the National Parks and Wildlife Service uniform, does the Director-General intend to alter the uniform or make its wearing compulsory for a wider range of departmental staff?

Mr Littleproud (24/12/96): The Director-General has my full confidence and support. His duties include the effective and efficient operation of the Department of Environment. Seeking enhanced realistic outputs from the Department and improved service delivery to clients is to be commended. Such outcomes can be achieved by ensuring all efforts are focussed on attaining the endorsed Departmental goals and objectives. The Departmental outputs are measured by approved performance indicators.

With regard to enterprise bargaining, the Enterprise Bargaining 1 Agreement reached finality in October 1996 and negotiations with staff and unions at the Departmental level for EB II have not been finalised.

Finally the Department respects the right to individual dress but this must be balanced with the need to present a professional image. While on duty the attire of officers is to be clean, tidy and inoffensive to others. Where a uniform is provided to be worn for reasons of public identification, the complete uniform must be worn and it must be in good order.

1465. Development and the Environment

Mr MILLINER asked the Minister for Economic Development and Trade and Minister Assisting the Premier (4/12/96)—

With reference to his speech given recently to the University of Southern Queensland's Internationalising Communities Conference—

- (1) As a former Shadow Environment Minister who often proclaimed the Coalition's new found environmental credentials, what did he mean in his speech when he said that Australia could learn from Asian markets how to mix development with environmental concerns, and I quote, "ideologically driven anti-development" views were able to masquerade as "environmental caring" in Australia and "that is terribly old fashioned thinking"?
- (2) Why didn't he present these philosophies to the environmental movement while in Opposition?

Mr Slack (20/12/96): I thank the Member for his interest in my speech 'Riding the Tiger: Queensland in Asia 2000', presented to the Internationalising Communities Conference, University of Southern Queensland on the 30th November this year.

I provide the Member with a copy of the speech which fully explains those matters raised in his questions.

I have always held and expressed the view that extreme elements in the environmental movement can damage their own credibility and that of Australia by pursuing anti-development as the solution to environmental issues.

The economic development of Asian countries provides Australia with opportunities to contribute to that development through the utilisation of environmental management expertise and technology which Australia is becoming world renown.

1466. Land Suitable for Nature Reserve, Murarrie

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Environment (4/12/96)—

Will he acquire land at Murarrie presently owned by Angliss Pty Ltd that is presently for sale, as this land is ideally suited for a nature reserve with migratory birds from all over the world using it for nesting, is in its natural state, is situated at Lytton Road, abounded by the Cannon Hill Meatworks, the Brisbane River and the Gateway Bridge and is a valuable piece of land that should be kept and, in consultation with the local community, made a show piece for migratory birds throughout the world?

Mr Littleproud (24/12/96): No. The Brisbane City Council conduct an urban open-space acquisition program that may provide a more suitable solution.

1467. Public Housing, Maryborough

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (5/12/96)—

With reference to his decision to acquire 300 houses as part of a new \$34m priority spot purchase program in areas where long waiting lists exist for public housing—

- (1) How many of those houses will be purchased in Maryborough?
- (2) When will these purchases take place?

Mr Connor (6/1/97):

(1) and (2) The allocation of houses will be determined in accordance with my policy of directing public housing to locations throughout Queensland where there is most need.

1468. Sandalwood Industry

Mr NUNN asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (5/12/96)—

With reference to the sandalwood industry, which employs approximately 30 people in Richmond—

- (1) Is he aware that this industry is under threat from 'poaching' and inappropriate methods of harvesting this timber?
- (2) Is he also aware that this industry has only recently returned to Queensland following a 25 year regrowth period caused by inappropriate harvesting methods at that time?
- (3) What action has he taken to protect this industry from poaching and other inappropriate harvesting procedures?
- (4) Will he act swiftly to ensure the sustainability of this industry and thus secure the abovementioned jobs for the future?

Mr Perrett (2/1/97): I am very much aware of the current issues and problems facing the Queensland Sandalwood Industry. The Executive Director, Forestry has kept me informed and up to date with recent developments with this Industry. In addition on the 27 November 1996 I, with representatives of my Ministerial colleagues the Honourable Mr Howard Hobbs and the Honourable Mr Brian Littleproud, met with a delegation of Richmond people involved in the Sandalwood Industry. I outlined to this delegation the options that I am having explored to help overcome current issues such as the unauthorised harvesting of sandalwood on State owned land, the excessive harvesting of sandalwood on freehold land, the mixed quality of the exported sandalwood products, the presently depressed state of principal sandalwood market which is Taiwan, the current low prices for exported sandalwood, the mounting stockpiles of unexported sandalwood, reduced rate of authorised sandalwood harvesting on State owned land, and the laying off of staff by some companies involved in the Queensland Sandalwood Industry.

It is correct that the Queensland Sandalwood Industry is a recently returned industry to Queensland, however the reasons for its re-emergence are not those suggested in the question.

The repeal of the Queensland Sandalwood Act 1934 in 1982 by a previous National-Liberal Government saw the rebirth of this historic industry in Queensland. In the early days of Queensland's development, sandalwood harvesting and exporting supplied much needed employment opportunities and capital to rural Queensland.

However the Sandalwood Act of 1934 effectively gave the Australian Sandalwood Company Ltd exclusive rights to the export of sandalwood sourced from Queensland. This Perth-based Company, for various reasons, confined its activities to the export of Western Australian Sandalwood and for many years in the lead up to the repeal of the Queensland Sandalwood Act showed no interest in Queensland Sandalwood.

In regard to the so-called poaching, or more correctly, the unauthorised harvesting of Queensland Sandalwood on State owned lands, officers of the Department of Natural Resources under the authority of the Forestry Act 1959, with assistance from officers of my Department, have for the last two (2) years or so been conducting ongoing investigations into these matters. A number of charges have to date been laid and these matters are currently being dealt with in the Courts.

As the Commonwealth Minister for Primary Industries and Energy is responsible for licensing the export of sandalwood under the Export Control (Unprocessed Wood) Regulations of the Export Control Act 1982, my colleague the Honourable Mr Howard Hobbs and myself have jointly written to him seeking some further controls over the export of Queensland Sandalwood. The concerns we expressed to the Commonwealth relate to the current unsustainable rate of harvesting of sandalwood on freehold land, the quality of the harvested and exported product, and the effects of these on the current prices for exported Queensland Sandalwood.

In addition I have requested that officers of my Department explore the possibility of a number of other options to address the previously mentioned issues and problems currently facing the Queensland Sandalwood Industry. These investigations of possible options are being undertaken with the assistance of the Departments of Natural Resources and Environment.

I am confident that workable solutions to the current issues and problems can be found in the short period to ensure the viability of the small but important Queensland Sandalwood Industry.

My answers to date indicate that I am acting and acting quickly to help the Queensland Sandalwood Industry.

The Industry is possibly worth between \$4 and \$7 million to Australia's annual economy. It however is an important industry to some inland rural communities, particularly Richmond and I, along with my colleagues in Government, are determined to see the current problems addressed and the Industry revitalised with a long term profitable future.

1469. Sandalwood Industry

Mr LIVINGSTONE asked the Minister for Economic Development and Trade and Minister Assisting the Premier (5/12/96)—

- (1) Is he aware that inappropriate harvesting is threatening the sustainability of Queensland's sandalwood export industry?
- (2) Is he also aware that inferior sandalwood products arriving on the Chinese market are damaging Queensland's good name as an exporter of quality products?
- (3) What steps is he taking to address these issues?

Mr Slack (24/12/96): It has come to my attention, and that of my Ministerial colleagues, Ministers Hobbs and Perrett, that some inappropriate harvesting of sandalwood may have occurred, or may be currently occurring on freehold land in Queensland.

Yes, I am also aware of suggestions by some sections of industry, that product which may not meet market requirements may have been shipped to those markets.

These issues raised by these questions relate broadly to quality control procedures. These quality control mechanisms usually fall within the boundaries of commercial business operations. However, if the operation of that industry impacts upon the environment or our natural resources, then a responsible Government should investigate appropriate measures to deal with these issues.

In this regard, I am aware that my Ministerial colleagues Ministers Hobbs and Perrett are now looking at a range of options to address issues related to harvesting, as well as having begun negotiations with the Commonwealth Department of Primary Industries and Energy, which has responsibility for issuing export licences for sandalwood, as a possible means of ensuring the sustainability of the resource for the longer term.

1470. Industry and Enterprise Development, Grant/Subsidy Programs

Mr BEATTIE asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry (5/12/96)—

- (1) What grant or subsidy programs for industry and enterprise development were administered by his department in 1995-96, what was the original budget for each program and how much was expended on each program during the course of that year?
- (2) What grants and subsidy programs for industry and enterprise development will be administered by his department in 1996-97 and what is the budgeted expenditure for each program?
- (3) What amount has been expended so far in 1996-97 on each grant or subsidy program for industry and enterprise development administered by his department?

Mr Davidson (6/1/97):

(1) The following grant/subsidy programs for industry and enterprise development were administered by my Department during 1995-96:

QLD Food Projects
 Major Projects Incentive Scheme
 Grants for Regional Economic Development
 Grants for Information Technology and Telecommunications
 Cooperative Research Centres
 QLD Grants for Industrial Research and Development Scheme
 Management Skills Development Scheme
 AusIndustry's National Industry Extension Scheme
 Wine Industry Grant.

The original budgetary allocation for each program together with expenditure for the 1995/96 financial year is as follows:

	Budget Expended \$'000s	Amount \$'000s
QLD Food Projects	602	101
Major Projects Incentive Scheme	2000	9129
Grants for Regional Economic Development	1304	1053
Grants for Information Technology and Telecommunications	805	176
Cooperative Research Centres	1625	873
QLD Grants for Industrial Research and Development Scheme	2684	779
Management Skills Development Scheme	82	13
AusIndustry's National Industry Extension Scheme	7802	5006
Wine Industry Grant	-----	10

(2) During 1996/97, my Department will continue to administer a broad range of grant/subsidy programs for industry and enterprise development.

The budgetary allocation for each of the programs for the 1996/97 financial year is as follows:

	Budget 96/97 \$'000s
QLD Food Projects	252
Major Projects Incentive Scheme (Currently, the scheme provides for existing commitments and is drawn down as needed)	
Grants for Regional Economic Development	816
Grants for Information Technology and Telecommunications	235
Cooperative Research Centres	447
QLD Grants for Industrial Research and Development Scheme	1250
Innovation—QLD	440
Grants for High Performance Computing	300
Management Skills Development Scheme	116
AusIndustry's National Industry Extension Scheme	7095

(3) Details of the expenditure outlayed on each of the schemes as at 30 November 1996 is as follows:

	Expenditure as at 30/11/96 \$'000s
QLD Food Projects	18
Major Projects Incentive Scheme	1997
Grants for Regional Economic Development	241
Grants for Information Technology and Telecommunications	69
Cooperative Research Centres	256
QLD Grants for Industrial Research and Development Scheme	176
Innovation—QLD	----
Grants for High Performance Computing	----
Management Skills Development Scheme	13
Aus Industry's national Industry Extension Scheme	2345

As a result of the Government undertaking a program of greater coordination within Government in the consideration of these programs, it is anticipated that greater economies of scale will result which should lead to faster start up rates and consequential multiplier effects in terms of job creation and capital investment.

Like all State and Federal Governments, it has been necessary to rationalise budgetary allocations in these grant/subsidy programs in order to facilitate a more strategic approach to expenditure which recognises the overall operating environment of reduced budgetary allocations.

It should also be recognised that these programs for industry and enterprise development are complementary to the expenditure undertaken by the private sector in relation to its industry and enterprise development. All leading economists and industry experts recognise that expenditure of this nature should be self generated within the industry sector itself rather than the heavy reliance currently placed on Government programs.

1471. State Grants (Primary and Secondary Education Assistance) Bill

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education (5/12/96)—

With reference to the recent passage through the Commonwealth Parliament of the State Grants (Primary and Secondary Education Assistance) Bill, which will cost Queensland \$1,700 for each student who shifts from Government to non-Government schools—

- (1) Does the Queensland Government support this attack on funding to the States for Government schools?
- (2) Will he advise the dates on which he either contacted or met with his Federal ministerial counterpart to express Queensland's concerns about this legislation?
- (3) What was the outcome of these negotiations?
- (4) What are his department's projections of the full cost to Queensland of this new legislation for each financial year from 1996-97 to 2004-5?
- (5) What contingency plans or funding arrangements will he put in place to cover the shortfall in funding from the Commonwealth and guarantee resources are not reduced for Queensland's State education system?

Mr Quinn (24/12/96):

- (1) The Queensland Government has significant concerns with regard to the introduction of the Enrolment Benchmark Adjustment.
- (2) Several representations to the Commonwealth Government have been with respect to this matter. In particular, officers of the Department of Education and Treasury put submissions to the Senate Committee which reviewed the Commonwealth legislation.

This issue may also have been discussed between senior representatives of the Premier and the Prime Minister.

(3) The Senate Committee endorsed the passage of the legislation. The committee also recommended that the States be consulted in the implementation of the Enrolment Benchmark Adjustment.

(4) Accurate projections of the full cost to Queensland of this legislation are not yet available as the Commonwealth has not finalised the details of the Enrolment Benchmark Adjustment.

(5) It is intended that officers from the Department of Education will continue discussing this matter with Treasury in the context of future budget formulations. The Department will continue also to consider this matter in cooperation with the QCEC and AISQ.

1472. Police Vehicles

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (5/12/96)—

Will he take action to provide sufficient police cars to enable police in the southern suburbs of Brisbane to fairly respond to all calls received or will he consider other means of transport such as taxis and bicycles as suggested by some residents, to overcome the shortage of police cars?

Mr Cooper (20/12/96): I am advised that the Metropolitan South Police Region has sufficient vehicles for the provision of an effective policing service and that, as such, no further action is currently required.

1473. Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Amendment Regulation (No. 5)

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Environment (5/12/96)—

With reference to Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Amendment Regulation (No. 5) in which schedule 4 (Resources Reserves) 5.(1) is amended—

- (1) Does the 683 hectares listed represent an enlargement or reduction in the size of the original resources reserve?
- (2) If the former, how much has it been enlarged by and why?
- (3) If the latter, what is the extent of the reduction and has the excised area been added to the adjacent national park; if not, why not?
- (4) When will assessment of the ore body in this resource reserve be completed and when can the people of Rockhampton anticipate completion of this long standing national park proposal for the area?

Mr Littleproud (23/12/96):

- (1) (2) and (3) The Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Amendment Regulation (No. 5) did not alter the size of the Mt Archer Resources Reserve. The Amendment Regulation merely added the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Mines and

Energy as a joint trustee together with the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Environment. This is standard procedure for Resources Reserves over areas of potential mineralisation.

(4) I am advised that it is not possible to predict when sufficient exploration activity will have been undertaken to enable sufficient data to be available for assessing the extent of mineralisation in this area. Therefore, it is not possible to advise a time when the Resources Reserve may be available for addition to the Mt Archer National Park.

1474. Mackay District Health Service; Mackay Base Hospital

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Health (5/12/96)—

With reference to Mackay District Health Service—

- (1) What is the budget for Mackay District Health Service for 1996-97?
- (2) When was this finalised?
- (3) What is the budget for Mackay Base Hospital for 1996-97?
- (4) Is this an increase or decrease in budget compared to 1995-96?
- (5) How many extra nurses will be employed at the Mackay Base Hospital as part of his election promise to increase the number of trained nurses in Queensland Health?
- (6) How many people are on category 1 waiting list, category 2 waiting list and category 3 waiting list at Mackay Base Hospital?
- (7) Did Mackay Base Hospital receive additional funding to tackle surgery waiting lists; if not, why not?
- (9) If so, how many extra operations were carried out to address surgical waiting lists?

Mr Horan (2/1/97): I am disappointed that you have asked a question with so many parts, which breaches the spirit of the Standing Orders and which creates an unnecessary burden on the staff of Queensland Health. What is more, parts (5) to (9) of the question stand in direct breach of Standing Order 68 (a). However, for the benefit of the patients and staff of the Mackay District, I provide the following information.

As I have advised in answers to previous Questions on Notice, there are a significant number of variations to District Health Service budgets which will occur during the normal course of the budget process right through to 30 June 1997. As District budgets will not actually be finalised until 30 June 1997, meaningful comparable information on 1996-97 budgets is not available until 1996-97 budget processes have been substantially completed.

Throughout the year, Districts submit to Corporate Office claims on funds temporarily held by Corporate Office in respect of various programs or funds to be obtained from Queensland Treasury. Monthly claims are also made by Districts to access Hospital Access Bonus Pool (HABP) funds based on actual patient activity additional to base workloads.

In relation to waiting lists, as at 6 December 1996, there were 33 category 1 patients waiting for elective surgery of which 2 patients (6.1%) had waited longer than the recommended maximum 30 days; 167 Category 2 patients of which 50 patients (29.9%) had waited longer than the recommended maximum 90 days; and 694 Category 3 patients of which 170 (24.5%) had waited longer than 12 months.

In the 1996-97 budget, the Mackay Base Hospital has been allocated special funding of \$900,000 from the Waiting List Backlog Program for increased surgical procedures. In addition, \$200,286 has been allocated from the Day Only Procedures Program to encourage and reward demonstrated shifts to same day admission and discharge in targeted surgical procedures.

Further, the Mackay Base Hospital has agreed to perform an additional 989 surgical procedures with the additional Waiting List Backlog Program funds. The Day Only Procedures Program funds are to be used to decrease the length of stay for herniorrhaphies (10% increase in total adult inguinal hernia repairs done as day only cases), increase throughput for endoscopic procedures (200 additional endoscopic procedures), and to establish the phacoemulsification and aspiration of cataract procedure (100% increase in cataract surgery with phacoemulsification procedure).

The District reports significant progress towards achieving the additional procedures at the base hospital, with additional throughput of 827 separations for the period 1 July to 30 November 1996. On this basis the District expects to access the HABP for this period.

1475. Diamantina Lakes National Park; Astrebla National Park

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (5/12/96)—

With reference to the day to day management of Diamantina Lakes National Park in Queensland's south west—

- (1) What operational funding has been set aside in his 1996-97 Budget for Diamantina Lakes National Park?
- (2) What operational funding has been set aside for Astrebla National Park?

Mr Littleproud (23/12/96):

1. Diamantina Lakes National Park is one of 8 national parks administered by the Longreach District Office of the Southwestern Region, Department of Environment.

The 1996/97 recurrent, non-labour component of the Longreach District's operational budget is \$97,000. This appropriation is made up of \$87,000 derived from Treasury sources and \$10,000 from 'user pays' funding.

In addition to this, the District's budget is supplemented with funding for specific line items such as Q Fleet vehicle leases, fringe benefits tax, radio licence fees, park brochure productions and staff training. These components of the Longreach

District's recurring expenditures are centrally administered by my Department's South Western Regional office.

In the current financial year, the \$97,000 component of the Longreach District's operational budget is also being centrally administered by the District Office. That is to say, no budgets have been specifically allocated to individual national parks in that District.

In view of these arrangements, it is not possible to give a precise figure on the 1996/97 recurrent, non-labour operational funding for Diamantina National Park. However, I am advised that the approximate expenditure at this park for the current year from both Regional and District sources will be \$40,000.

2. The principal operational focus on Astrebla Downs National Park is the conduct of research into the endangered Greater Bilby and the implementation of the Bilby Recovery Plan. The non-labour funding component for this work in the current financial year is derived from a \$40,000 Commonwealth Government Research Grant. As this National Park has very little if any public visitation, there are no immediate requirements for the development and maintenance of any visitor facilities. Accordingly, there is no current requirement for additional operational funding allocations for this Protected Area.

1476. Drought Policy Review Task Force

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Natural Resources (5/12/96)—

With reference to the Federal Government's draft report of the Drought Policy Review Task Force which states "drought must be seen as a normal element of risk in agricultural business. It must be managed like any other business risk. Accordingly there is no strong argument for Government relief assistance to farming business in times of drought"—

Does he accept this statement and intend to implement drought policies in line with this philosophy?

Mr Hobbs (23/12/96): The Drought Policy Review Task Force does not fall within the responsibilities of my Department. I would suggest that this Question on Notice be directed to the Minister for Primary Industries.

1477. Fish Stocks

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (5/12/96)—

With reference to a submission from the Queensland Charter Vessel Association (QCVA) to the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority in which it is alleged that improved fishing methods and new technology are accelerating the decline in commercial fish stocks—

- (1) Could the improved catch efficiency resulting from the use of new technology give the appearance that fish stocks are being maintained when precisely the opposite may be the case; if not, why not?

- (2) Does he support the QCVA assertion that many of our commercial fish stocks are in serious decline when they say in the report that "this is a recipe for disaster if not checked"; if not, why not?

- (3) Does he support the QCVA call for management initiatives to reduce fishing pressure on the reef to be applied equally to recreational, charter and commercial line fishers; if not, why not?

- (4) Does he support the QCVA call for increases in minimum captive length for popular species of reef fish such as Coral Trout, Red Emperor, Spangled Emperor, Barramundi Cod and Maori Wrasse; if not, why not?

- (5) Does he support the QCVA call for the current recreational bag limit of 30 fish per person per day be reduced to 15, and that the daily catch allowed each fisher should be cumulative on licensed charter boats; if not, why not?

Mr Perrett (2/1/97): (1 to 5) The submission by the Queensland Charter Vessel Association (QCVA) was lodged in response to a call by the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority for public submissions on the management of tropical reef fish, which mainly occur on the Great Barrier Reef, the Authority having released a comprehensive discussion paper on the topic.

That discussion paper had been prepared by an expert reef fish management advisory committee (Reefmac) and raised for public comment an extensive range of issues about reef fish stocks including matters of improved technology, declining stocks, fishing effort reduction across sectors, as well as the appropriateness of minimum size and bag limits now in force.

QCVA's submission is one of almost 500 public responses to the discussion paper including submissions from a significant numbers of individual charter vessel operators. Those responses are now being analysed thoroughly by Reefmac. When this is completed, a draft statutory fisheries management plan for tropical coral reef fish will again be circulated for public comment. The draft plan will include a coordinated set of measures designed to ensure sustainable use, fair access and optimum community, economic and other benefits from those fish stocks.

QCVA will have a further opportunity to amend and refine its views and make further submission on the specific management strategies proposed for use in the draft plan.

The questions which the Member has asked in relation to specific management measures for the reef-line fishery are noted and I can assure him that they will all receive careful attention as part of the present fishery management planning process. The final Fisheries Management Plan for this fishery is expected to be completed during 1997.

1478. Police Procedures, Redcliffe

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (5/12/96)—

With reference to the police document, "procedures for taking criminal complaints by telephone" and to complaints by Redcliffe media and business persons, that they were informed by a senior police officer in June that burglaries under \$25,000 are not considered important—

Are similar procedures as reported for the Gold Coast and Logan in use at Redcliffe; if so, will he instruct the officer in charge to withdraw these procedures?

Mr Cooper (20/12/96): No instructions have been issued from the Redcliffe District Office or the Redcliffe Station relating to the procedures adopted by the Gold Coast and Logan Districts for the reporting of crime.

Police from Redcliffe Police Division attend all reported crimes. There are occasions when police negotiate with complainants as to a suitable time for police to attend and obtain the particulars of the crime being reported.

The District Officer, Redcliffe, has advised that the suggestion that burglaries under \$25,000 are not serious is not true. Police in the Redcliffe District regard all burglaries as serious and every effort is made to identify the perpetrators and recover any stolen property.

1479. Police Attendance at Incident in Pioneer Park, Thuringowa

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (5/12/96)—

With reference to an incident which occurred at Pioneer Park, Thuringowa on 30 November, during which over one hundred intoxicated people attempted to gate-crash a birthday party and, in so doing, caused fear and anxiety among peaceful and law-abiding citizens, including children—

- (1) Will any person or persons be charged over the incident?
- (2) Why did police leave the scene at the conclusion of their shift at midnight while the dangerous situation still existed?

Mr Cooper (20/12/96):

(1) No persons have been charged at this stage as a result of the disturbance, but a complaint of wilful damage is being investigated.

(2) Four police units, including Police Liaison Officers, attended this disturbance on 29 November 1996 and remained in the vicinity until approximately 11.48pm. The disturbance was over and all was quiet at the time of their departure.

While in attendance, police received a further call concerning elderly people requiring assistance in relation to the same incident. The person who made the call had departed the scene of the disturbance 45 minutes earlier and was unaware that police were in attendance.

At 2.00am on 1 December 1996, a further call was received in relation to another disturbance at the

same location. Police attended, but all was quiet and no action was required.

1480. State High Schools, Fitzroy Electorate

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Education (5/12/96)—

As he has circulated documentation that suggests State High Schools with a student population of less than 300 are being considered for closure, what is the current status of Mt Morgan, Capella and Middlemount High Schools with regard to the future of these three schools in the Fitzroy Electorate?

Mr Quinn (24/12/96): There are no plans for the closure of Mt Morgan, Capella and Middlemount State High Schools and there has been no documentation circulated on this matter.

1481. St Bees Island

Mrs BIRD asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry (5/12/96)—

With reference to plans by the Queensland Government to acquire current leases on St Bees Island in order to allow the construction of an airstrip to service the approved resort on the nearby Keswick Island—

- (1) Who will build and own the airstrip on St Bees Island?
- (2) What will be (a) the length of the airstrip, (b) its cost, (c) its surfacing and (d) the largest aircraft it will be able to handle?
- (3) Where will it be located on the island?
- (4) What other development plans does the Government have in mind for St Bees Island?
- (5) What impacts will the airstrip have on the St Bees Island renowned koala colony?

Mr Davidson (6/1/97): (1) to (5) This matter is not the responsibility of my portfolio and the question should be directed to the Minister for Natural Resources.

1482. Economic Growth Forecast

Mr HAMILL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (5/12/96)—

With reference to the economic growth forecast on which her Budget strategy was framed, the fact that this GDP growth forecast for Australia would be 3.5 per cent in 1996-97 and that growth in Queensland's GSP would be 4 per cent this year, and in view of the decline in retail sales in Queensland, rising unemployment, the subdued level of business activity and the fact that the Commonwealth has revised its GDP Growth figure downwards to 3.25 per cent—

Will she be similarly revising downwards her economic growth forecast for Queensland?

Mrs Sheldon (6/1/97): No.

1483. School Cleaning Service, Bulimba Electorate

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Education (5/12/96)—

Given that the Department of Education is secretly pursuing an agenda of privatising school cleaning—

- (1) What is the reduction in hours allocated for school cleaning in the Bulimba Electorate, compared with school cleaning hours at the beginning of the 1996 school year?
- (2) How many school cleaning positions have been lost from schools in the Bulimba Electorate?

Mr Quinn (24/12/96): The premise on which this question is based is untrue. The Department of Education is not "secretly pursuing an agenda of privatising school cleaning".

1484. Graffiti Offences

Mr LUCAS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (5/12/96)—

With reference to graffiti—

- (1) How many persons (including juveniles) have been convicted of graffiti type offences in Queensland (i.e. wilful damage offences that would fall within the proposed definition of graffiti) since June 1995?
- (2) How many adults and how many juveniles have had prison or custodial sentences imposed?
- (3) Of those prison or custodial sentences, what was the range of the sentences imposed?
- (4) Of those prison or custodial sentences, what is the median and what is the average sentence imposed?
- (5) Given that the Government's current proposals contain no mechanism to provide for increased detection of graffiti offences, what other initiatives, does he or the Government propose to actually increase the detection rate of graffiti offenders as distinct from his window dressing increase of penalties which courts will never impose?

Mr Cooper (20/12/96):

- (1) The Queensland Police Service does not at present maintain statistics on conviction rates.

Statistics are, however, generated on the number of offenders by clearance type (arrest, summons, caution, etc.) by age by sex. These statistics are not a unique offender count rather they illustrate the number of offenders associated with each offence cleared per offence category.

In total, there were 1712 persons dealt with for graffiti type offences during the period 1 July 1995 to 13 December, 1996, both dates inclusive. Of this number, 984 were juveniles, i.e. persons under the age of 17 years. The juvenile data includes 248 young people who were arrested; 101 who were summonsed; 271 who received notices to attend; and 364 who were cautioned. Of the adults, 599 were arrested and 129 were summonsed.

(2-4) The Queensland Police Service does not maintain statistics in relation to results of cases.

To answer questions (2) to (4), it would be necessary to identify the individual offenders subject of the statistics and research each unit record and extract the required data from each criminal history. This would be extremely time consuming and impracticable as some 1348 individual records would need to be researched. This is the figure of total persons dealt with during the period less the number of juveniles who were cautioned.

(5) The Police Service is now developing enhanced intelligence systems to support the identification of graffiti offenders. The technology has been put in place which allows graffiti to be photographed with a digital camera and for the images to be down loaded onto a computer database.

At the present time the Ipswich City Council and Queensland Rail are photographing instances of graffiti and plans are currently being developed to extend this capability to other major stakeholders.

It is also proposed that the images captured by the digital cameras will be stored on a database held on the Police Service computer network. This would ultimately allow any police officer in the state who is investigating a graffiti offence, to access the database and to identify other instances of graffiti which are the responsibility of the same offender.

Graffiti also continues to be addressed at the local level within the bounds of available resources. Ultimately, Assistant Commissioners in charge of regions have the responsibility for providing a policing service within their area of responsibility. Each Assistant Commissioner must therefore allocate scarce resources as best meets the need of local areas. Those types of decisions must find a balance between what are often competing interests.

A good example of an anti-graffiti initiative can be found in Operation Swipe, presently being conducted by officers at the Railway Squad.

This operation commenced on 15 July 1996, at which time two officers were assigned full time to address the problem of graffiti. The operation brings together a number of anti-graffiti elements such as surveillance, intelligence and directed patrolling.

In the first six months of the operation 39 persons were charged with a total of 435 offences. Restitution of over \$61,000 has been applied for in Courts.

One of the members assigned to the operation has since been transferred, however it is proposed that the operation will continue as an operational function within the Railway Squad.

(No questions 1485-1494)

1495. Incident in Warrigal Road, Runcorn Involving Police Officer

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (5/12/96)—

With reference to media reports of an incident in Warrigal Road, Runcorn on the night of 2 November in which a young female Asian student was subjected to abuse and racist remarks, threatened with imprisonment, and had the rear door of her car kicked in by a police officer who pulled her over because her car had faulty headlights and then, reportedly, abandoned the young woman, who was terrified, on the side of the road, late at night—

- (1) What action has been taken to investigate this incident?
- (2) Does he agree that a police officer who conducts himself in this totally unacceptable racist manner has excluded himself from the right to be a continuing member of the Queensland Police Service?

Mr Cooper (20/12/96):

- (1) This matter is currently under investigation.
- (2) It would be inappropriate to comment prior to the finalisation of this investigation.

1496. Boondall and Clayfield Police Divisions, Operational Shift Allowance

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (5/12/96)—

With reference to the Boondall and Clayfield Police Divisions, for each division respectively—

- (1) How many operational police officers received the operational shift allowance in the weeks ending 5 July 1996 and 6 December 1996?
- (2) How many operational police officers are expected to be receiving this allowance in the week ending 31 January 1997?
- (3) Is he aware that directives are currently being issued to police divisions throughout the State to reduce the number of officers receiving this allowance and that such directives will reduce the number of operational police on duty on weekends and after hours?
- (4) Is he aware of the detrimental effect this decision will have on the Police Service's ability to respond to after hours and weekend crime reports and the ability of community liaison officers to fulfil their functions, such as attendance at neighbourhood watch meetings?

Mr Cooper (20/12/96):

- (1) The number of operational police who received the Operational Shift Allowance (OSA) on the weeks ending 5 July 1996 and 6 December 1996 were 78 at Boondall and 90 at Clayfield on both dates.
- (2) The number of operational police who will be eligible to receive the OSA for the week ending 31 January 1997 is not expected to change from those figures cited in (1) above.
- (3) A directive was issued for the Regions and Commands to conduct a review of the payment of the OSA. This was to examine the effectiveness and productivity value of the rostering arrangements at locations receiving the OSA, and to identify

locations where the Service's needs could be better met by different rosters.

The Service is consulting with the Police Union about each location regarding the outcomes of the review and possible changes to rosters.

There will be no reduction in the number of operational police available for shift work as a result of the review. The working arrangements of locations currently working a 3 shift 7 day continuous shift roster are not being reviewed.

- (4) There will be no detrimental impact on the Police Service's ability to respond to after hours and weekend crime reports. Officers not in receipt of the OSA who are required to work at night and at week ends will continue to be paid the Award penalty rates for that night and weekend work, as is presently the case.

1497. Multicultural Sexual Health Calendar

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Premier (5/12/96)—

With reference to the Multicultural Sexual Health Calendar 1997, which was a major project of the Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland to target people at risk, and as this is the type of publication that has kept Australia and Queensland ahead of the rest of the world in reducing the incidence of sexually transmitted diseases and, in particular, helped to fight the spread of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in this State—

- (1) Has he examined the calendar objectively; if so, will he inform the House of the suitability or otherwise of the calendar?
- (2) Will he give an undertaking to ensure that in future, Ministers consult more widely before making arbitrary decisions on the suitability of materials for distribution which is clearly in the public interest?

Mr Borbidge (2/1/97):

- (1) My Minister for Health did not find the calendar suitable and therefore would not encourage or facilitate its distribution through Queensland Health. I support his decision.

The Minister for Health's stance in relation to the calendar was based on a clear policy that Queensland Health is about preventing the illness, preventing people getting HIV/AIDS, not spending taxpayers' money on the promotion of a lifestyle or recruitment to a particular lifestyle.

- (2) Under the Coalition Government, Ministers are expected to be accountable for their portfolio operations, and as Premier I support any Minister who has acted within the parameters of that accountability.

1498. QE II Hospital

Ms SPENCE asked the Minister for Health (5/12/96)—

With reference to his claim in June that the QE II Hospital would have frontline community status with 161 beds in use in two months and also to an article

in the Southern Star on 4 December where he claimed there were 90 beds operational at the hospital and his reply to a Question on Notice to me in November where he claimed there were 65 beds currently available—

Will he detail how many beds are currently available and for what purpose?

Mr Horan (2/1/97): There are currently 90 beds open at the QE II Hospital:

Medical Ward—15

Surgical Ward—50

Rehabilitation Ward—25

NB The actual ratio of medical, surgical and rehabilitation beds changes slightly with demand.

In addition, the Princess Alexandra Hospital is using 25 beds at the QE II Hospital campus.

The QE II will reach full operational status by May 1997, with a full complement of 161 beds, following:

completion of recruitment of specialists, senior and Junior Medical staff, Nursing staff and support staff.

completion of a comprehensive planning process

acquisition of specialist equipment from overseas

finalisation of construction work.

This will mean that the Coalition will have delivered on its promises to return the QE II to a community general hospital after the Labor Government reduced it to almost an empty shell, with at one stage only 9 beds occupied.

1499. Speed Limits during Christmas/New Year Period on Pacific Highway, Brisbane-Gold Coast

Mr GIBBS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (5/12/96)—

- (1) What enforcement arrangements are in place for reduced speed limits associated with road works on the Pacific Highway between Brisbane and the Gold Coast?
- (2) Are there any special enforcement measures to ensure adherence to reduced speed limits during the peak Christmas/New Year period?

Mr Cooper (20/12/96):

(1) Traffic enforcement has been and will continue to be focused on the Pacific Highway where roadworks are being performed.

Consultation is carried out between John Holland Constructions and Senior Sergeant Brough, Officer in Charge of the Logan District Traffic Branch, on a regular basis.

Advice is forwarded to the Logan District Traffic Branch as to changes of traffic flow on either the north or south bound lanes.

Radar, unmarked police vehicles, marked police vehicles and a police motor cycle are tasked on a day to day basis to target the roadworks with the

view of intercepting offenders who disobey the speed limit. High visibility stationary observation is also carried out to monitor the driving behaviour of motorists.

(2) Operation Coast Roads and the Christmas Traffic Campaign of the Logan Police District have specifically nominated locations and enforcement matters that will directly affect drivers travelling through the roadworks on the Pacific Highway, Loganholme.

Operation Coast Roads and the Christmas Traffic Campaign will occur between Friday 20 December, 1996 and 3 January, 1997. Speeding has been identified as one of the target offences that will receive considerable attention.

1500. Roadworks on Pacific Highway, Brisbane-Gold Coast; Accidents, South East Freeway/Pacific Highway

Mr ELDER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (5/12/96)—

- (1) What special arrangements are currently in place to minimise accidents and traffic flow disruptions associated with road works on the Pacific Highway between Brisbane and the Gold Coast?
- (2) Will he provide details of numbers and locations of accidents, fatalities and injuries on the South East Freeway/Pacific Highway and associated roads between Brisbane and the Gold Coast during 1996?

Mr Johnson (2/1/97):

(1) Metropolitan District

The widening works on the Pacific Highway by John Hollands at Loganholme and the extension of the Gateway Motorway across the South East Freeway at Eight Mile Plains both have specific contractual obligations with respect to traffic which were observed during the 1995 Christmas period and which will again be observed during the 1996 Christmas period, namely:

two lanes open in both directions during the day, one at night after 7.00pm; and

no works on or adjacent to the main carriageways which would affect the flow of traffic between 21/12/96 and 02/02/97 inclusive.

Therefore, unless there are emergency maintenance repair works, there should be no holdups as a result of roadworks during the Christmas/New Year period.

On the South East Freeway/Pacific Highway during this period, the only other work proposed is an asphalt overlay outbound between the Gateway Motorway and Rochedale Roads, scheduled to be carried out at night in January 1997.

South Coast-Hinterland District

The only Pacific Highway project under construction in the South Coast-Hinterland District is the Reedy Creek to Currumbin duplication project.

This section is currently subject to a 60 kilometre per hour speed zone, which will be retained for the duration of the works. The traffic will be diverted to

the new concrete carriageway before 20 December 1996 to allow works to proceed on the other carriageway. There will be no further traffic switches prior to the end of the January school holiday period.

The temporary closures of ramps will be finalised prior to 20 December 1996.

(2) In regard to the statistics on traffic accidents for the Pacific Highway, the following information was provided by the Data Analysis Unit. The data is from 1 January 1996 to 30 November 1996. The detailed information requested will be supplied to you separately. The summary information is as follows:

Table 1 Road Crashes South East Freeway, Pacific Highway and Associated Roads (Ramps and Connection Roads) 1 January to 30 November 1996.

Fatal Crashes—6
Hospitalisation Crashes—68
Medical Treatment Crashes—143
Minor Injury Crashes—72
Property Damage Crashes—271
Total Crashes—560

Table 2 Casualties in Crashes South East Freeway, Pacific Highway and Associated Roads (Ramps and Connection Roads) 1 January 1996 to 30 November 1996

Fatalities—6
Hospitalised—82
Medical Treatment—186
Minor Injuries—99
Total Casualties—373

(2) The following information refers to road crashes on the South East Freeway and Pacific Highway from Herschel Street Brisbane to the intersection of the Pacific Highway and Gold Coast Highway at Coolangatta for the period January 1996 to November 1996 and includes crashes on the associated connecting roads and ramps.

There were a total of 560 crashes during that period, involving 6 fatalities and 367 injuries. In terms of crash locations, the following information is provided for sections of the South East Freeway and Pacific Highway and also includes crashes on the associated roads:

Highway section	Total crashes	Fatalities	Injuries
Brisbane-Springwood	214.00	1.00	127.00
Springwood-Logan River	109.00	2.00	69.00
Logan River-Gold Coast Highway	237.00	3.00	171.00
Total Brisbane-Gold Coast	560.00	6.00	367.00

More detailed location information for each of the crashes is attached.

1501. Small Businesses, Sunshine Coast

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry (5/12/96)—

(1) Will he detail assistance available to Sunshine Coast business operators from locally based officers of his department?

- (2) How many staff deliver these services and where exactly are those staff based?
- (3) Approximately how many small businesses are operating on the Sunshine Coast?

Mr Davidson (6/1/97):

(1) The Sunshine Coast office of my Department of Tourism, Small Business and Industry has responsibility for delivering the full range of Departmental Business Support Programs. The office also acts as a contact point for other programs delivered by the Department.

The business support programs for small business include:

Your First Step Seminar Program specifically for small business operators or intenders.

Access to specialist small business adviser.

Access to the AusIndustry Program to support the development of established small businesses.

Advice on access to land on the Department's industrial estates.

Regional Economic Development Grants.

Access to the Department's other programs including: GOBIS, QINDIS, QBLIC, Retail Shop Lease information, Investment Opportunities and Tourism Support programs.

Full range of liquor licensing inquiries from establishing a business, to transfer and renewal of licences.

Regular training sessions for license holders on the Responsible Service of Alcohol.

Support for enforcement and investigation of complaints under the Liquor Licensing Act.

(2) The office has nine (9) staff operating from 108 Brisbane Road, Mooloolaba. Whilst staff are located at Mooloolaba, training programs are delivered throughout the office's area of responsibility which includes Caboolture and Kilcoy.

(3) The March 1994 Australian Bureau of Statistics figures show 7882 firms on the Sunshine Coast (Maroochy Shire, Noosa Shire and Caloundra City Council) with less than 20 employees.

1502. Social and Community Services Award

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (5/12/96)—

With reference to the requirement that community groups are required to employ staff under the SACS Award—

Will he give an undertaking that funding will be increased accordingly to ensure that at least the current level of service is maintained?

Mr Lingard (19/12/96): I acknowledge the important role played by community-based organisations in providing support and assistance to families, children and individuals in need in Queensland. Community organisations are ideally placed to deliver services because they are closer to the people and more responsive to local needs.

I am also aware of the anxiety being felt by community-based organisations as they attempt to deal with the increased costs arising from the Social and Community Services (SACS) Award.

My Department is keen to work with organisations in the development of new funding arrangements which will include the provision of additional funding to meet increased costs associated with the award. I have recently written to all organisations funded by my Department to inform them about these new arrangements.

My Department has been working with the community sector for some time to develop ways to measure the performance of services against agreed outcomes. The new funding arrangements will build on this work to ensure that our service agreements emphasise the outcomes for which funding is provided.

I have also informed community services that my Department will provide assistance to cover the period from 26 July 1996 when the SACS Award took effect.

Officers of my Department will be meeting with community-based organisations in early 1997 to provide them with information about this additional assistance and the implementation of the new funding arrangements.

I am confident that these new arrangements will guarantee the ongoing viability of community organisations, and ensure that the funding provided for community services is utilised in a manner which ensures the best possible outcomes for families, individuals and communities in Queensland.

1503. Danpork

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Natural Resources (5/12/96)—

With reference to the Danpork piggery project—

- (1) What are the terms of reference for the environmental impact statement for this proposal?
- (2) What consultation is being conducted in finalising the terms of reference?
- (3) What waste emissions will the project create?
- (4) What are the respective treatment and disposal methods proposed to deal with these various waste streams?
- (5) What Government licensing requirements has the project been required to meet?
- (6) What discharge and emission levels have been set for air and water?
- (7) What monitoring process is proposed to ensure the effectiveness of emission controls?

Mr Hobbs (23/12/96): This is a matter for the Minister for the Environment and I would suggest that this Question on Notice be directed to him.

1504. Stanwell Power Station Nature Refuge; Relocation of Koalas

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Environment (5/12/96)—

With reference to the Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Amendment Regulation (No. 5) and, in particular, to the proposal to make the newly declared Stanwell Power Station Nature Refuge the site for relocation of koalas from the catchment area for the Fitzroy and Dawson Rivers—

- (1) Do koalas presently exist in this nature refuge?
- (2) As the nature refuge is only 634 hectares in size, how many koalas does it presently support and who has verified this?
- (3) How many extra koalas does he believe the refuge can support?
- (4) How many koalas are to be found in the Dawson and Fitzroy catchments and how many of these does he intend to relocate to the Stanwell Nature Refuge?
- (5) Does he believe there is room for all these koalas at Stanwell?
- (6) How does he see this relocation occurring?
- (7) Will it happen prior to inundation of the catchments or during inundation?
- (8) Is he concerned at the mixing of different gene pools as a result of this relocation?
- (9) Has he received scientific advice on the wisdom of this relocation; if so, from whom, and what did it say?
- (10) Does he believe a power station constitutes an ideal koala habitat?
- (11) How does he intend to restrain the koalas to the nature refuge?
- (12) Isn't it more likely that disorientated koalas newly relocated to the area will move considerable distances in an attempt to regain their former haunts?
- (13) Are the vegetation types at Stanwell similar to those the koalas presently enjoy in the Fitzroy and Dawson catchments?
- (14) Isn't it departmental policy to always try to return sick, injured or disorientated koalas to their original point of discovery upon release?
- (15) Based on the Coalition's fear campaign waged against the Eastlink proposal based on electro magnetic fields produced by high voltage power lines, isn't this move somewhat hypocritical or doesn't he believe koalas are susceptible to such forces?

Mr Littleproud (23/12/96): No koalas presently exist on the site.

This was verified by Dr Alistair Melzer, Centre for Land and Water Resources, Faculty of Applied Science, Central Queensland University. Dr Melzer is highly regarded ecologist with extensive experience researching koalas in central Queensland.

Dr Melzer estimates that the area can support 0.05—0.08 koalas/ha or 30—50 koalas in the 634 ha of the nature refuge.

There are no accurate figures available for the total population of koalas in the Dawson and Fitzroy catchments. It is not intended to relocate undisturbed koalas in the catchment to the Stanwell

site. Such relocations that do occur will form part of a research project, with small numbers relocated initially and monitored as a pilot project.

It is not intended to relocate all the koalas in the catchment to the Stanwell site.

The major source of koalas in central Queensland would be animals rehabilitated after injury and those from land cleared for a range of purposes, although, in most cases koalas displaced by clearing relocate themselves if there is suitable habitat nearby. Koalas released on the site will be radio collared and monitored by radio-tracking for at least 12 months.

The relocation of koalas at Stanwell is not connected with proposed water resource developments in the Dawson and Fitzroy catchment.

The intention is to relocate animals only from within the natural geographic boundaries formed by the Dawson/Fitzroy drainage system. This will be done to reduce the possibility of mixing different gene pools.

I am guided in decisions relating to this matter by the outcomes of a workshop which considered the relocation of koalas to Stanwell Power Station. The delegates to the workshop included in addition to Dr Melzer, eminent koala researcher Dr Frank Carrick (University of Queensland), representatives from the Wildlife Preservation Society, Central Queensland University and staff from the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Environment.

The site is considered suitable koala habitat based on the current understanding of the habitat and dietary requirements of koalas in central Queensland. However, more research needs to be done and this project is seen as important in improving our understanding of the subject and for the long term conservation of the species.

There will be an initial acclimatisation period on site, but once released there will be no attempt made to restrain koalas on the site. There is suitable habitat on adjacent privately owned land and monitoring would require the consent of neighbouring landowners as koalas may move off the nature refuge at times.

Refer to the answer to question 11.

The vegetation on the Stanwell site is similar to many other places in central Queensland. Dr Melzer and Dr Carrick are both satisfied as to the suitability of the site for koalas.

It is usual Departmental practice to return sick, injured or disorientated animals where possible to their original point of discovery after they have been rehabilitated. However if the habitat has been cleared and no suitable locally adjoining habitat exists, or the original point of discovery presents high risk to the koala, alternative strategies have to be considered.

The Department is not aware of any research based on the susceptibility of koalas to electromagnetic fields.

1505. National Park Fees

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Environment (5/12/96)—

With reference to the call for tenders for an advertising contract for the "Parkpass" National Park entry fee—

- (1) As tenders have now been closed for some time and there is a desire on his part to have these passes in place by Christmas to capitalise on the gift market, has the contract been awarded; if so, to whom and what is the value of the contract?
- (2) Was the successful tenderer the cheapest; if not, why was it accepted in preference to lower tenders?
- (3) What timeframe has been set for the contract and what other conditions pertain to it?
- (4) If the contract has not been awarded, does this failure reflect the Government's indecision on the worth of the "Parkpass" proposal?

Mr Littleproud (23/12/96): (1) to (4) After careful consideration the Government has decided not to implement the ParkPass system. The need to consider such a scheme, of course, arose out of the legacy of neglect with regard to National Parks inherited from Labor by the Coalition Government.

1506. Workers' Compensation

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (5/12/96)—

- (1) Recognising that the choice of words reflect our inner thoughts and feelings, will he admit that by discarding any reference to "Workers' Compensation" from the title of the Bill he guided through the Parliament on 4 December, he has shown his long-held dislike and disdain of Queensland workers?
- (2) Will he now confess that he places compensation for injured workers a long way behind protection for employers' interests and company profits, and how can he face Queensland workers with any sense of integrity when he has betrayed their interests?

Mr Santoro (23/12/96):

(1) I reject the assertion that I have a dislike or disdain for Queensland workers. But conceding that the choice of words can reflect our inner thoughts and feelings, I feel that the choice of the name "WorkCover Queensland" reflects the fact that this Government is not tied to old solutions for old problems. The new WorkCover Queensland Act 1996 is not only about monetary compensation for injured workers. It is concerned with providing adequate cover for workers within a framework that promotes safer workplaces. It is concerned with workplace rehabilitation and a recognition of the rights and responsibilities of workers and employers. Far from showing dislike and disdain for Queensland workers, it typifies my and this Government's desire to save the Fund from collapse as a result of Labor's mismanagement.

(2) I and this Government accepted the view put forward by Commissioner Kennedy that the pain to be suffered as a result of six years of Labor government, which saw a healthy Fund brought to its

knees, had to be shared by all stakeholders – not just employers.

The honourable member would do well to realise that bitter medicine is not necessarily bad medicine and my attempts to save the Fund were yet another example of my high regard for the best interests of Queensland's workers, both present and future.

1507. Western Suburbs CYSS

Mr FOURAS asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (5/12/96)—

With reference to his involvement as a Member of the Committee of the SkillShare program, Western Suburbs CYSS Inc—

- (1) Why did he approve the new constitution which allows payments for Committee members, excludes new members and gives incumbents veto over any increase in membership?
- (2) Was he not concerned that \$37,000 in payments were approved to Committee members without a properly constituted meeting and that the Treasurer has charged \$100 per hour and the Vice-President for staff recruitment?
- (3) Was he not concerned that Western Suburbs CYSS membership of less than 7 breaches the Association Act and further, that there has been breaches of the Income Tax Assessment Act, the Sales Tax Act and the Bank Accounts Debits Act?
- (4) Why did he allow the Manager, who blew the whistle on these illegal activities, to be sacked after he advised the Minister of irregularities?

Mr Beanland (23/12/96):

- (1) This question does not relate to public affairs with which I am officially connected.
- (2) See (1)
- (3) The Office of Consumer Affairs is monitoring the situation in regard to Western Suburbs CYSS in terms of the Associations Incorporation Act. The other legislation does not fall within my ministerial responsibilities.
- (4) See (1).

1508. Protected Status of Koalas

Mr D'ARCY asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (5/12/96)—

With reference to her commitment given in August, while Acting Premier, to honour a Coalition election commitment and change the koalas protected status from "common" to "vulnerable"—

- (1) Is she aware that the Environment Minister has indicated he refuses to do this and instead, he intends to create a new classification at some future time called "potentially vulnerable" and place the koalas in there?
- (2) Does she believe this move by the Environment Minister is consistent with Coalition policy and the pre-election commitment given to groups such as the Australian Koala Foundation?

- (3) Is this yet another example of her ongoing conflict with the Environment Minister and yet another example of the disunity between the Liberal and Nationals that so characterises the Government?
- (4) Does she intend to exert her authority as the then Acting Premier and instruct the Environment Minister to list the koalas as "vulnerable"?

Mrs Sheldon (6/1/97): The Environment Minister has not refused to change the protected status of the Koala. The Honourable Member should check his facts and raise his concerns with the appropriate Minister.

I am advised that under the direction of the Minister, the Department of Environment is assessing the classification status of the Koala with regard to new classification guidelines issued by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature to accommodate the protective needs of the species.

This is in marked contrast to the Labor Government that was content to categorise Koalas as "common", while endorsing development strategies likely to cause serious damage to the Koala habitat (eg: the Gold Coast toll road).

1509. MLC Centre, Declaration as Security Zone

Mr FOLEY asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (5/12/96)—

With reference to the Government's declaration of the whole of the MLC Centre (including the Criterion Tavern and coffee shop) under the Law Courts and State Buildings Protective Security Act in order to create "Connolly's Castle" for the Commission of Inquiry into the CJC—

- (1) Did he obtain the consent of the building owners and tenants before declaring this security zone?
- (2) What specific steps did he take to consult with building owners and tenants before declaring this security zone?
- (3) What security reasons justify the inclusion of the Criterion Tavern in the security zone?
- (4) What specific steps did he take to consult with the owners of the Criterion Tavern before including it in the security zone?
- (5) What compensation, if any, is to be paid to the owners and tenants of the MLC Centre in respect of the building's declaration under the Act?
- (6) What assurance can he give that other private premises will not be declared under the Act, thereby subjecting persons using those premises to the powers of senior protective security officers to search, demand name and address, prevent entry or eject such persons?

Mr Connor (6/1/97): Acted on clients request—details would prejudice security.